

Chapter 35 & Fry Scholarship Information

More Information:

Office of Veterans Services (MC 0548)
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Blacksburg, VA 24061
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Welcome Military-Connected Students

We are pleased you selected Virginia Tech to continue your education and welcome you to the Hokie nation. Virginia Tech is proud of its long military history and has a strong commitment to supporting the success of our Military-connected students which includes dependents. This information will guide you through the process so you can utilize your Veterans Education benefits

Step 1: Apply for Benefits

The dependent must apply to use the benefits. This is accomplished by filling out the **VA Form 22-5490 "Dependents Application for VA Education Benefits"** at

(<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vonapp>)

The VA will process your request in about 30-45 days.

Step 2: Submit (COE) Certificate of Eligibility

The dependent will receive in the mail a **Certificate of Eligibility (COE)**. The **COE** will be given after the application (VONAPP) is processed online.

Once you receive your COE, please send a **copy** of this letter to the Office of Veterans Services by mail, fax, or email.

Step 3: Register for Classes

Most new freshman and transfer students will register for classes during summer orientation. Be sure to register only for classes that are required for your degree. The VA will not pay for classes that are not required!

Step 4: Complete VA Enrollment Certification Form

This online Virginia Tech form can be found in Hokie Spa. This must be completed every semester a student wants to utilize benefits. **Benefits will not be certified if the form is not completed.** We urge students to complete this form at least 45 days prior to a semester bill due date!

Important Reminders

- *Apply for benefits early!*
- *We recommend you set up an E-benefits account with the VA*
- *Students transferring must complete the VA Form 22-1995 "Change of Place or Program or Training"*
- *Make sure the veteran you are applying under has completed a DOD transferability form using the DEERS system.*



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Chapter 35 and Fry Scholarship Information

There are two main GI Bill programs offering education assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans:

- The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is available for children and spouses of Servicemembers who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.
- The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program (Chapter 35) offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans. The Veteran must be permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition in order for the dependent to qualify

You may be eligible for more than one of these programs. In most situations, you will be required to make **an irrevocable election between the DEA program and Fry Scholarship when you apply**. If you are a Virginia resident, please review your eligibility for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP) prior to making your decision.

Chapter 35

- Chapter 35 benefits provide a monthly amount paid directly to the student. The current monthly payment for full time (12 credit hours for UG/9 hours for GR) is \$1021.
- Since this program provides a monthly amount paid to the student directly, students will be required to pay all tuition, fees, housing, and meals charges (if living on campus) by the bill due date. If charges are not paid by the bill due date, the student will be subject to late fees and holds. There is a payment plan available through the Bursar's office called the Budget Tuition Plan.

Fry Scholarship

- The Fry scholarship provides in-state tuition costs and provides a monthly housing allowances (BAH) and a books and supplies stipend. Please review information on the Post 9/11 GI Bill- Chapter 33 for details.

Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Program (VMSDEP) provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service in an armed conflict.

The purpose of VMSDEP is to provide undergraduate or other postsecondary education to eligible participants by providing a waiver of tuition and all required fees at any public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution that grants a degree, diploma, or certificate in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Benefits are available for up to 35 months.

There are very specific requirements to be eligible for this program. You must apply directly with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Please visit <http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/virginia-military-survivors-and-dependents-education-program/> for more details and contact information.