

Chapter 33 – Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® at FSU

The Post 9/11 GI Bill® provides educational benefits to veterans and veterans' dependents. Tuition and fees for these students, including graduate, medical school and law school students, are covered by this Veterans Affairs (VA) benefit, up to the percentage a veteran is eligible for, which is based on their length of active-duty service since September 11, 2001.

Tuition and fees for students using the Post 9/11 benefit are **paid directly to FSU**. Prior to billing the VA for a student's tuition, the FSU Student Veterans Center deducts any tuition waivers, scholarships, military assistance, etc. that are solely for tuition and have already been applied to the student's account.

Financial aid like Florida Prepaid or Bright Futures (or other aid that is not designated solely for tuition) does not preclude the VA from paying for an eligible student's tuition.

"Tuition and fees" includes only the administrative costs associated with courses, not things like housing, meal plans, books, supplies, etc. However, students may receive additional funds to cover those expenses through the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill®, including the cost of the mandatory health insurance FSU requires, provided the insurance is purchased through FSU.

- Funds for books and supplies are **paid to the student** by the VA at a set rate per credit hour, up to 24 credit hours per academic year. For VA purposes, an academic year runs from August 1 to July 31.
- If a student drops a course after the drop/add period and after their certification has been submitted to the VA, FSU is required to return the tuition and fees for that course to the VA, and the student is then responsible for paying back FSU. Note that after each semester's drop/add deadline, students are fee liable for those courses on their schedule.
- The VA's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is **paid directly to the student** and may be used in any way the student deems necessary. For on-campus housing, payment arrangements must be made directly with University Housing, although payment deferments (postponed payments) can be submitted through the Student Veterans Center. Note that the VA revises the BAH each January and those revisions take effect the following August.
- The monthly housing allowance may vary by semester since it is determined by the zip code where a majority of a student's learning takes place, whether that is on the main FSU campus (32306), in Innovation Park (32310), the Panama City, Florida, campus (32405), one of the university's satellite campuses, or an international (study abroad) site, etc.
- ROTC scholarship awards are deducted prior to the VA being billed for an ROTC student's tuition, unless that student is using the room/board option.
- Students whose financial aid and VA educational benefits have resulted in an over-payment may request a refund through FSU Office of Student Finance.
- Out-of-state tuition waivers:** State and federal law extends out-of-state tuition waivers to students who are honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, The United States Reserve Forces, the National Guard, or eligible veteran dependents **using VA educational benefits**, regardless of these students' state of residency, as long as they physically reside in Florida during their time in school. **The waiver program also includes Active duty members of the Armed Forces of the U.S. residing or stationed outside of Florida.** Those members stationed in or living in Florida should qualify for residency under the Office of Admissions
- As a participant in the VA Yellow Ribbon Program, FSU waives 50% of the out-of-state tuition (and the VA pays the remaining 50%) for qualified students who do not reside in Florida and are eligible for 100% of Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® benefits. Note that the Yellow Ribbon Program, (1) holds participating students responsible for any balances not paid by the VA, and (2) FSU's participation is reviewed each year.

Student veterans and active-duty personnel must complete the certification process with the FSU Student Veterans Center once they have been accepted to the university and registered for classes. Students using VA educational benefits who have not registered with the VA for those benefits should do so through the VA's Education and Training Website.

Student veterans and active-duty personnel must complete the forms below to complete the certification process. After these forms have been submitted, an email will be sent by the VA to the student's email address to notify them of what the VA received. The VA will then provide the student with a Certificate of Eligibility/Award Letter at a later date.

- VA Form 22-1990 (application for VA education Benefits), if using benefits for the first time.
<https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
- FSU Request for Benefits Form— This form must be submitted each semester – after the student's course registration has been completed.

Dependents of veterans using VA educational benefits must complete the certification process with the FSU Student Veterans Center once the dependent has been accepted to the university and registered for classes. To begin the process of having their VA educational benefits transferred to their dependent(s), veterans should follow the steps for Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) that are posted to the VA's website.

Dependents of veterans must complete the forms below to complete the certification process. After these forms have been submitted, an email will be sent by the VA to the student's email address to notify them of what the VA received. The VA will then provide the student with a Certificate of Eligibility/Award Letter at a later date. While this certificate/letter can be provided to the FSU Student Veterans Center, it is not required for the certification process.

- VA Form 22-1990 (application for VA education Benefits), if using benefits for the first time.
<https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
- FSU Request for Benefits Form— This form must be submitted each semester – after the student's course registration has been completed.

Tuition deferments (postponing payments)

Postponing a tuition payment with a veteran deferment temporarily removes the student's tuition liability. Students who have been granted a deferment will, for a short period of time, not have their account placed on "hold" for unpaid tuition. If a deferment is granted on a student's account and, for some reason, the anticipated aid does not arrive, it is the student's responsibility to pay all accounts in full.

Students using VA benefits will automatically receive a deferment once their Request for Benefits form has been processed by the FSU Student Veterans Center.

Note that a deferment is not considered to be a payment and, all tuition that remains unpaid after the tuition-payment deadline, will incur a \$100 late fee. Students are encouraged to check their myFSU Account Statement often in order to avoid any unexpected consequences that may result from a deferment.

Beginning with terms starting after December 17, 2021, students using their Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits will be required to verify their enrollment at the end of each month. **Failure to verify for two consecutive months will interrupt their Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments.**

After December 17, 2021, all impacted students with a US mobile phone number on file will receive an opt-in text as their next enrollment period approaches. Note: Students who do not have a US mobile phone number on file with VA will not be able to use text verification. They will be automatically enrolled into email verification.