

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will my Veteran Education Benefits go directly to the college?

A: Only Post 9/11 tuition and fee payments go directly to the college all other VA education benefits are paid directly to the student on a monthly basis. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that tuition bills are paid.

Q: Am I still eligible to receive financial aid even though I receive Veteran Education benefits?

A: The receipt of VA benefits does not make you ineligible to receive financial aid. The best way to find out if you are eligible to receive financial aid is to apply. For further information you can go to the Financial Aid Office located in SS-111 or call (607) 778-5028.

Q: I found out that I am not eligible for financial aid and my tuition bill is due. I won't be receiving benefits until the end of the month, but I don't want to be dropped from my classes. Is there anything I can do?

A: If you plan on paying your tuition with your VA education benefit a SUNY BCC Promissory Note can be used. The promissory note may defer your tuition. Student Accounts Office will put you on a payment plan according to the amount of money you will be receiving. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT IF THE AMOUNT OF TUITION EXCEEDS YOUR BENEFIT FOR THE SEMESTER, THE DIFFERENCE WILL BE DUE IMMEDIATELY. SUNY BCC Promissory Notes can be picked up at the Veterans & Military Services Office, SS-102

Q: When should I submit my schedule for certification?

A: You should submit a schedule every semester or whenever you make a change to a current schedule. The earlier you turn in your schedule the better. Remember the VA is currently taking 10-12 weeks to process certifications.

Q: I didn't submit my schedule to the Veterans and Military Affairs Office until the second month of the semester, does this mean that I will not get paid for the first month?

A: Your benefits will be retroactive. When the VA processes your certification, you will receive a lump sum payment that includes all days you have attended in the current semester.

Q: I receive Chapter 30, 1606, or 1607 benefits. I tried to certify my attendance using the WAVE system, but it said that I have no record on file, why can't I certify?

A: Most likely your certification has not been processed by the regional office. Remember the VA is currently taking 10-12 weeks to process certifications. If you turned in your schedule the first week of the semester, you will not be able to certify the first month. If you believe that you turned your schedule in earlier than 10 to 12 weeks prior to the end of the first month of the semester, stop in the Veterans and Military Affairs Office and the matter will be looked into.

Q: Is changing my address with the school sufficient for the Veterans and Military Affairs Office?

A: No. The Veterans and Military Affairs Office uses a different data-base than the school. Also, when you change your address the Regional Office also needs to be notified via VA form 572. Therefore, if you change your address you will need to come to our office and fill out VA form 572. We will then forward it to the VA.

Q: How many semester hours do I need to be considered full time?

A: In order to be considered full time by the VA you will need to be enrolled in 12 semester hours for the entire semester. If you are taking 11 semester hours that run the entire semester and 1 semester hour that runs only half of the semester, you will only be paid as full time for half of the semester.

Q: How many semester hours do I need to be considered full time during the summer semesters?

A: To determine entitlement for a summer semester you would use the following formula:

$((\text{Number of semester hours}) \times (18)) / (\text{the number of weeks in the semester})$

Example 1: 6 semester hours for an eight week summer term
 $(6 \times 18) / 8 = 13.5$ (full time entitlement)

Example 2: 3 semester hours for an eight week summer term
 $(3 \times 18) / 8 = 6.75$ (half time entitlement)