

FVCC'S VETERANS-RESERVISTS-NATIONAL GUARD-DEPENDENTS INFORMATION SHEET for using GI Bill® Benefits

The VA recommends that you apply for educational benefits on-line at <https://www.vets.gov/education/apply-for-education-benefits/> if you are a veteran. If you are a dependent applying for benefits, go to www.vets.gov and click on the education link and look for VONAPP. It is also a good idea to sign up for eBenefits at this time, if you have not already done so. *** **See notes about the new Post 9/11 GI Bill® on last page.**

Make sure that you print a copy of your application after you have submitted it to the VA, so that it shows your confirmation number and, if possible, bring a copy of your VA application to the Veterans' Affairs office. If you do not have access to a printer, write down the confirmation number and the date that you submit your application.

If you are changing institutions, look for form 22-1995 or 22-5495 (if you are receiving survivors' and dependent's educational assistance- Chapter 35 or a dependent eligible for the Post 9/11, chapter 33) Complete and turn it in to Sherry. Do not mail to the VA. **Please note that the VA pays retroactive and you may not receive any money for up to 12 weeks in to the semester.**

The following is a check-list to help you through the process:

- ___ Apply for VA educational benefits on-line at <https://www.vets.gov/education/apply-for-education-benefits/> or www.gibill.va.gov. **If you have a scanner, you can attach a copy of your DD-214 (member 4) or NOBE (Notice of Basic Eligibility) for reservists or National Guard Members, to your application which may expedite the process.**

- ___ Application for Admission to FVCC-**You must be working towards a degree or certificate at FVCC; needs to be the same degree you told the VA you are pursuing.**

- ___ Apply for Financial Aid on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. **The arrival of your VA educational benefits can take up to 12 weeks.** If you have financial aid in place, you may be able to charge your books against your financial aid.

- ___ Request official copies of all previous college transcripts from all institutions attended since high school, including your AARTS/SMARTS transcript (or DD 214 member 4 copy) to be sent to FVCC Admission's office.
 - **It is recommended that you register an original member 4 copy of your DD-214 at Flathead County Clerk & Recorder's office on Main Street. Currently they do not charge veterans for this service and will give you several "certified" copies.**

Advance Pay – (1 per school year) must be requested **75-120** days before classes begin. You may apply for advance pay if attending at least half time (6 credits that run the full length of the semester). The payment will be for the initial partial month (or initial full month) of school, plus the following full month. Subsequent payments will be made in the month following the month for which payment is due. With the exception of Advance Pay, the VA pays retroactive (November's benefits will be paid in early December). *****For veterans utilizing Ch. 33 (Post 9/11 GI BILL®), advance pay is not an option. CAUTION: Student should be**

aware that if they receive advance payment for August (the initial partial month) and September (the following full month) at the beginning of Fall Semester, they will not receive any further benefits until November (October's benefit). It may be difficult to budget for three months without a check. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS CAREFULLY.

If you register for classes during general registration or new student orientation, you will be required to set up a payment plan unless you have submitted a "certificate of eligibility" (COE) for chapter 33 (Post 9/11) indicating you are eligible at the 100% rate and/or have signed a Ch. 33 signature page. If you pre-register, a tuition payment is generally due several weeks before classes start and you will have the same payment options. **This is where allowing enough time to request advanced pay can be very beneficial to you. If you have financial aid in place that will cover your tuition, you may want to show the Business Office a copy of your award letter.**

Chapter 30, Chapter 1606, and Chapter 1607 recipients will be required to "verify" their enrollment each month by phoning 1-877-823-2378 or on-line at www.gibill.va.gov and click on WAVE to verify. Either way, it needs to be done NO EARLIER than the last day of the month for which you are verifying. If you have any questions about your eligibility or feel your check is overdue, call:

1-888-442-4551 – St. Louis, MO
Or
1-877-823-2378 – Monthly Verification
Or
1-877-838-2778 for Direct Deposit

Due to the VA's extensive regulations, it is necessary for you to meet with Sherry, the VA School Certifying Official, during the registration process to complete the VA Certification form each semester. She will discuss the regulations regarding your specific GI Bill® and answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact Sherry at 756-3982.

The VA will **not** pay for any **repeat** courses, unless you received an unacceptable grade (defined by our catalog) and it is a required course for your degree or certificate. **(Even if a repeated course is required for your degree or certificate, the VA will not pay for it more than two times.) Remedial courses** may be taken with written approval of your advisor and as long as your placement scores indicate the need, and they are not an online course.

Courses that do not run the entire length of the semester MAY NOT count toward your total credit load for your GI Bill® benefits. You will only be paid benefits for the dates that your courses are actually in session. PLEASE SEE Sherry FOR DETAILS.

CHANGE OF STATUS:

It is your responsibility to notify Sherry and the Veterans Administration (VA) immediately of any decrease in the number of credits, withdrawal from school or if you quit attending classes.

FOREVER GI Bill® (COLMERY GI Bill®)

Eliminates time limitation for using GI Bill® education benefits for service members and dependents discharged on or after January 1, 2013.

"GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>."

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS:

It is your responsibility to maintain satisfactory progress. If you drop below the number of credits for which you are being paid you may be charged an overpayment of benefits by the VA.

If your cumulative grade point average falls below a 2.00 (C average), you will be placed on probation. A student on probation will be required to meet with a retention advisor before starting the next semester to discuss academic goals and barriers and ways to achieve the goals. A review of the academic assistance available at FVCC and the development of a plan to assist the individual in achieving his/her academic goals will also take place.

If a student fails to improve his/her GPA each term while on probation, he/she will have two options: 1) to choose academic suspension for a period of no less than one year or 2) agree to a plan of extensive remediation developed by the college. If remediation is unsuccessful or if the student fails to comply with the prescribed plan, he/she will be suspended immediately for no less than one year. A student reinstated after being on academic suspension will be required to meet with a retention advisor prior to registering each semester.

Once a student's cumulative GPA improves to a 2.0 or better, he/she will be removed from academic probation or suspension status and will no longer be required to meet with a retention advisor.

If you have attended FVCC previously and have not made satisfactory progress, you will be on probation when you start receiving your veterans' educational benefits.

GRADES AND CREDITS:

If you receive a "W" (withdrawal), a "WI" (withdrawal by instructor), an "N" (audit), your benefits will be reduced accordingly, which will cause an overpayment with the VA. You may not receive VA educational benefits for a "course challenge" or an "unsatisfactory" grade. **The VA will pay for an "F" grade, only if you attended class the entire semester and take the final.** You cannot be paid for any "repeat" course unless the course is listed in the FVCC catalog as being repeatable for credit, or unless the veteran has previously received an "F", "W" or "WI" for the course. **See Sherry for details on repeat courses.**

TRANSCRIPTS:

Students who have attended previous colleges must request "official" grade transcripts be sent to the FVCC Admissions Office. Your benefits will be delayed, until all official transcripts arrive and have been evaluated by either the Admission's office or your advisor if you are pursuing an occupational program.

TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE:

You may be eligible for tutorial assistance if you have a deficiency in a particular course. See Sherry for details.

GRADUATION:

Any student receiving VA benefits who has earned a degree, 60 semester credits or the required number of credits for an AAS degree or Certificate (whether or not you apply for graduation), is no longer eligible to receive VA benefits while attending FVCC, until you file a change of program and Sherry receives a "required course list" from your advisor.

WITHDRAWAL:

If you officially withdraw from a course and it changes your credit load for the semester, an overpayment will be charged, usually back to the beginning of the semester.

If you withdraw from all classes whether officially or not, the VA will charge you an overpayment, usually back to the beginning of the semester. To protect your grade point average it is always best to **officially withdraw**.

CHAPTER 33 (POST- 9/11 GI® BILL)

You are making your irrevocable decision when you apply for the new Post-9/11 GI BILL®.

If all of your classes are considered distance learning (on-line), and you are enrolled in 7 credits or more, you will be eligible for 50% of the national average of the MAH (effective 10/1/11). Classes with section numbers in the 80s are considered distance learning.

The MAH for 2020 while attending FVCC is \$1479 per month if enrolled in at least 12 credits that run the entire semester and are eligible at the 100% maximum benefit level, and \$1308 for students attending on the LCC campus. Not everyone is eligible at the 100% rate.

If you are eligible for Ch. 30 and Ch. 33 (Post 9/11) and you use all 36 months of entitlement, under Ch. 30 you MAY be able to apply for Ch. 33 and receive an additional 12 months of entitlement.

Please visit the GI BILL® website at: www.gibill.va.gov for the most current information and changes to all GI BILL®s.

Please do your research so that you do not apply for chapter 33 until you are sure that it is the best decision for you!

FVCC is participating in the “Yellow Ribbon” program for those veterans using Ch. 33, eligible at the 100% rate and are being charged out of state tuition. We are accepting 50 students on a first come first serve basis. See Sherry for details.

SECTION 702 OF THE CHOICE ACT

As of July 1, 2015, qualified veterans who have separated within the past 3 years with a minimum 90 days of active duty service and their qualified dependents using Ch. 30 or Ch. 33 will be granted in state tuition upon submission of a DD 214 validating character and date of separation. Dependents using the Fry Scholarship also are granted in state tuition within 3 years of the service member’s death in the line of duty. Please see Sherry in the Veterans’ Center or Sharon Nau in the Registrar’s Office for more information.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION—CHAPTER 31

As of March 1, 2019, students using VA Vocational Rehabilitation benefits will be charged at the resident rate.

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