Apply for Education Benefits

This guide will help you apply for VA Education Benefits, which include POST 9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill and other education assistance programs.

A checklist to help you apply for VA Education Benefits:

1. PREPARATION
   □ Collect the following information
     → Discharge Papers (DD-214 or equivalent)
     → Bank Account information

2. APPLICATION
   □ Apply by submitting all documents in one of these ways:
     → Submit your application online using eBenefits or va.gov/education
     → Complete an application in person at a VA Regional Office
     → Official Certificate of Eligibility will be mailed 30 days after submission.

3. SUBMIT FINAL DOCUMENTS TO COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO
   All Documents must go to the Admissions & Records Office—BLDG 10, 3rd Floor
   □ DD-214  □ Student Education Plan (SEP)
   □ Certificate of Eligibility □ CSM Statement of Responsibility
   □ All Transcripts (Previous Colleges) □ CSM Certification Request Form

4. MOVING FORWARD... EVERY SEMESTER YOU MUST
   → Update your SEP with a counselor to receive Veterans Priority Registration
   → Submit a CSM Veterans Certification Request Form
   → Notify the Certifying Official is of ANY changes to your schedule ie: add/drops
   → Follow up with your benefits’ status with the V.A.—(888)442-4551

FOR ANY ASSISTANCE
Luis Padilla—Coordinator for Veteran Services padillal@smccd.edu
Karen Erickson—Certifying Official, Admissions & Records ericksonk@smccd.edu
→ Follow up with your benefits’ status with the V.A.
Information you’ll need to know to maximize your education benefit at CSM:

**AM I ELIGIBLE FOR VA EDUCATION BENEFITS?**

Your eligibility depends on a number of factors including length and era of service, type of discharge, and time since separation. It’s difficult to summarize eligibility because requirements are different for each type of GI Bill. Refer to the table below and visit [va.gov/education](http://www.va.gov/education) to learn more about eligibility and details regarding the GI Bill.

**WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF EDUCATION BENEFITS?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFIT TYPE</th>
<th>BASIC ELIGIBILITY</th>
<th>WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POST 9/11</td>
<td>Qualifying active service on or after 9/11/01</td>
<td>Payment for 50% - 100% of tuition, stipend for housing and books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY GI BILL—ACTIVE DUTY</td>
<td>Qualifying active services, high school, diploma or GED</td>
<td>Monthly stipend for tuition and fees (refer to rates table online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY GI BILL—SELECTED RESERVE</td>
<td>Six-year commitment to Selected Reserve (usable only while serving)</td>
<td>Monthly stipend for tuition and fees (refer to rates table online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURVIVOR’S AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE</td>
<td>Spouse or dependent of qualifying veteran</td>
<td>Monthly stipend for tuition and fees (refer to rates table online)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHAT OTHER BENEFITS AM I ENTITLED TO?**

You can use the GI Bill for more than just academic programs. You can also use it for advanced programs, trainings, certifications and national exams.

- VA Work Study
- License and Certifications
- On-the-Job Training
- National Tests (e.g.: SAT, GRE etc)
- Flight Training
- Entrepreneurship Training

→ For additional information, please visit: [https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/licensing_certification.asp](http://www.va.gov/gibill/licensing_certification.asp)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

San Mateo County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)
550 Quarry Road
San Carlos, CA 94070  I  (650) 802-6598
Monday—Thursday: 8am—5pm

Palo Alto VA Hospital
3801 Miranda Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94304  I  Main: (650) 493-5000

**OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE**

**ARE SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS?**

Dependents or survivors of a Veteran may be eligible for education assistance through a GI Bill program if one of the following applies to the Veteran:

- Died while on active duty, or
- Was a former prisoner of war, or
- Died or is permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, or

Visit [va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for more information on education benefits for survivors and dependents.

**HOW DOES MY DISABILITY RATING AFFECT MY BENEFIT?**

Additional benefits including personalized job training and academic counseling, may be available for Veterans with disability ratings of at least 10%.

These programs are separate from the GI Bill and must be applied for separately. VISIT [va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Chapter 31
VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefit