

# 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:

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### PREPARATION

- Collect the following information
  - Discharge Papers (DD-214 or equivalent)
  - Bank Account information

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### APPLICATION

- Apply by submitting all documents in one of these ways:
  - Submit your application **online** using eBenefits or [va.gov/education](http://va.gov/education)
  - Complete an application **in person** at a VA Regional Office
  - **Official Certificate of Eligibility** will be mailed 30 days after submission.

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### SUBMIT FINAL DOCUMENTS TO COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO

**All Documents must go to the Admissions & Records Office—BLDG 10, 3rd Floor**

- |                                                              |                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DD-214                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Education Plan (SEP)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Eligibility          | <input type="checkbox"/> CSM Statement of Responsibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Transcripts (Previous Colleges) | <input type="checkbox"/> CSM Certification Request Form  |

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### 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 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

**Karen Erickson**—Certifying Official, Admissions & Records

→ Follow up with your benefits' status with the V.A.

[padillal@smccd.edu](mailto:padillal@smccd.edu)

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### HOW SOON SHOULD I APPLY?

Apply for VA Education benefits **TWO** months before attending CSM.

### WHEN TO SUBMIT FORMS?

We recommend you submit **ALL** forms 1 month before the start of the semester to avoid delays.

# 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](https://va.gov/education) to learn more about eligibility and details regarding the GI Bill.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF EDUCATION BENEFITS?

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

## 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](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/licensing_certification.asp)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

### San Mateo County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)

550 Quarry Road  
San Carlos, CA 94070 | (650) 802-6598  
Monday—Thursday: 8am—5pm

### Palo Alto VA Hospital

3801 Miranda Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94304 | 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](https://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](https://va.gov)**

### Chapter 31

VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefit