VETERAN EDUCATION BENEFITS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What types of Veteran Education Benefits are mostly used at WAU?

Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill
Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation)
Chapter 33/Post 9/11
Chapter 33 Transfer of eligibility to Children or Spouse
Chapter 35 (Survivors and Dependent Ed Assistance Program)

How do I know if I am eligible for Veterans Education Benefits?

Veterans, spouses or children of a Veteran may be eligible for Veteran Education Benefits. The VA determines eligibility. You can apply for Veterans Education Benefits online via VONAPP or contact the VA at 1-888-442-4551 to have a form sent to you.

Does WAU participate in Yellow Ribbon? How do I know if I am eligible?

Yes, WAU does participate in the Yellow Ribbon program. In order to be eligible to participate in Yellow Ribbon, you must be Post-9/11 GI Bill 100% eligible.

What does the school need to certify my enrollment? When will I be certified?

We will need a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and you must be registered for the upcoming semester. We will begin initial certifications 1-2 weeks prior to the upcoming semester.

What is a COE and why do you need it?

A Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is the letter you receive after applying for educational benefits. THE COE outlines which benefits you are eligible to receive. We need to be able to identify what Chapter under the GI Bill you are eligible to receive benefits from. Also, it is a requirement the COE remains in your file just in case there are any future questions concerning eligibility.

I have already used my benefits at another institution. Is there anything I should do so I can use them at WAU?

You will need to submit a VA Form 22-1995 to the St. Louis Regional Processing Office. If you are receiving benefits under the Dependents Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35) you will need to submit a VA Form 22-5495. Both forms can be submitted online.

How many months of benefits do I have remaining?

WAU does not have the ability to check the availability of federal benefits. You may call the VA at 1-888-442-4551 or Sign up for an eBenefits account to check remaining benefits.
When does WAU certify benefits for an upcoming semester?

The **School Certifying Official** will certify VA Education Benefits twice at the beginning of the term. The first certification process will entail enrollment information only. This will happen 1-2 weeks prior to the start of the term. This will allow for an applicable BAH/book stipend to process. After the designated Drop/Add period found on the University's Academic Calendar ends, certifications are resubmitted to the VA. The second certification process includes both enrollment and financial (net tuition and fees) information.

**How long does it take for my payment to be received once it has been submitted to the VA?**

Payment can vary depending on processing times at the VA Regional Processing Office in St. Louis. It can take **30 to 45 days**. To find out your current payment status, please call **1-888-442-4551**.

**I made a change to my schedule after my benefits have been certified. What should I do?**

Please contact the **School Certifying Official (SCO)** as soon as you make a change to your schedule. The SCO is required to notify the VA of schedule changes since these changes could adversely affect your status with the VA. If you are unsure of how your benefits may be affected, please contact your SCO before you make any adjustments to your schedule. Failure to notify the SCO of schedule changes may result in inaccurate or incomplete information provided to the VA.

**My status with the VA has changed. What should I do?**

If the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs alters or cancels previously designated eligibility which could result in a decreased rate of payment, or issues an update concerning exhausted benefits, you are responsible for full payment of tuition and fee charges due to WAU. You may contact the School Certifying Official to inquire about other financial aid options available to you.

**How much will I receive with my benefits and how much Yellow Ribbon am I eligible to receive?**

The VA determines eligibility and payment amounts. However, the WAU Financial Aid Department determines Yellow Ribbon amounts using specific formulas. For more information, you may contact the School Certifying Official at **301-891-4233**.

**My Student Account indicates I still owe tuition and fees. Why haven't my benefits been applied yet?**

Since tuition and fees are posted prior to the time when your benefits are submitted to the VA for processing, there will more than likely be a balance on your account. If you have been identified as receiving VA educational benefits, the Student Accounts will not place a hold on your account. If there is uncertainty as to whether you have been identified as receiving VA Educational
Benefits, please contact the School Certifying Official at **301-891-4233** or by email at altaylor@wau.edu

**Can I qualify for financial aid even though I receive Veteran Education Benefits?**

Yes. It is suggested that students apply for financial aid through fafsa.ed.gov to determine eligibility for PELL Grant. If you only qualify for loans, you have the option to decline them.