

APPLYING FOR VETERANS BENEFITS

The VA can help students cover the cost of furthering their education and skills through benefits to pay for tuition, housing, training, and other education related expenses. More information and the online application is available at <http://explore.va.gov/education-training>.

GI Bill® Resident Rate Requirements

Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of ("Choice Act"), requires VA to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill® and Montgomery GI Bill®-Active Duty at public institutions of higher learning (IHLs) if the school charges qualifying Veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students for terms beginning after July 1, 2015.

To remain approved for VA's GI Bill® programs, schools must charge in-state tuition and fee amounts to "covered individuals." A covered individual is defined in the Choice Act as:

- A Veteran who lives in the state in which the IHL is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- A spouse or child using transferred benefits who lives in the state in which the IHL is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls within three years of the transferor's discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in the state in which the IHL is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the Servicemember's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

An individual described above will retain covered individual status as long as he/she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between terms) at the public IHL.

Public IHLs must offer in-state tuition and fees to all covered individuals with Post-9/11 GI Bill® and Montgomery GI Bill®-Active Duty (MGIB – AD) benefits in order for programs to remain approved for GI Bill® benefits for terms beginning after July 1, 2015. VA will not issue payments for any students eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill® or the MGIB-AD until the school becomes fully compliant.

*Veteran must provide a copy of their DD-214 to the Admissions Office.

TSI Exemptions

(a) The following students shall be exempt from the requirements of this title, whereby exempt students shall not be required to provide any additional demonstration of college readiness and shall be allowed to enroll in any entry-level freshman course as defined in §4.53(12) of this title (relating to Definitions):

8. A student who is serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, the Texas National Guard, or as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and has been serving for at least three years preceding enrollment.

9. A student who on or after August 1, 1990, was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard or service as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States.

While this may result in placement of some students in classes for which they are not academically prepared, student are encouraged to take the test for accurate placement in courses.

Veteran must provide a copy of their DD-214 to the Admissions Office.

Tuition Assistance

Military Tuition Assistance is a benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to 100% for the tuition expenses of its members. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application process' and restrictions. You can access any branch of service by visiting www.military.com/education.

*Additional information may be required. For assistance please contact the Business Office.

College Credit for Heroes

College of the Mainland was awarded the College Credit for Heroes Grant/Phase VI by the Texas Workforce Commission. COM has established four new accelerated curriculum pathways leading to: Networking Certificate; Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Health Information Management; an AAS in Welding Technologies; and Nursing-Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) certificate.

COM will provide counseling and advising to veterans and service members, and award college credit for their military experience and training through Prior Learning Experiences (PLAs) comprehensive exams and course substitutions.

Eligibility Requirements: An individual eligible for services under this grant must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be a U. S. citizen or non-citizen authorized to work in the United States
- If male, meet U. S. Military Selective Service Registration requirements
- Be a Texas resident or be willing to relocate to Texas; and
- Be a veteran who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable as specified at 38 U.S.C., Section 101(2); (active services include full-time duty in the National Guard or a Reserve Component other than full-time for training purposes); or
- Be an active duty service member: a member of the uniformed services, as that term is defined in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(5).

For additional information and an application please contact the Office for Veteran Success at 409/933-8455 or email us at comvets@com.edu.