<https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>

Word Count: 605

Meta: Find out how to apply for the GI Bill and other VA education benefits as a Veteran, service member, or qualified family member. You can apply online, by mail, in person, or with the help of a trained professional.

# H1: How to apply for the GI Bill and related benefits

Find out how to apply for the GI Bill and other VA education benefits as a Veteran, service member, or qualified family member.

## H2: How do I prepare before starting my application?

* [Find out if you’re eligible for VA education benefits](https://www.va.gov/education/eligibility/)
* Gather the documents and information listed on this page that you’ll need to apply for education benefits.
* Learn about what benefits you’ll get at the school you want to attend.  
  [Use the GI Bill Comparison Tool](https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/) (in English)

**Note:** To apply for Veteran Readiness and Employment (Chapter 31) or educational and career counseling through Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (Chapter 36), you’ll need to use a different application.

[Find out how to apply for Veteran Readiness and Employment (Chapter 31)](https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/how-to-apply) (in English)

[Find out how to apply for educational and career counseling (Chapter 36)](https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/education-and-career-counseling) (in English)

## H2: What documents and information do I need to apply?

* Social Security number
* Bank account direct deposit information
* Education and military history
* Basic information about the school or training facility you want to attend or are attending now

## H2: How do I apply?

You can apply online right now. You’ll need to answer a few questions in English first to learn what education benefits form is right for you.

**Note:** Our online education benefits forms are in English.

[Find your education benefits form by answering a few questions](https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/) (in English)

### H3: You can also apply:

#### H4: By mail

To request that we send the application to you, call us at [888-442-4551](tel:+18884424551) (TTY: 711). We’re here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET. Fill out the application and mail it to the VA regional claims processing office that’s in the same location as your school.  
[Get a list of regional claims processing offices](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/regional_processing.asp) (in English)

#### H4: In person

Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee help you.

[Find a VA regional office near you](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/?facilityType=benefits) (in English)

Work with your school’s certifying official. This person is usually in the Registrar or Financial Aid office at the school.

#### H4: With the help of a trained professional

You can work with a trained professional called an accredited representative to get help applying for education benefits.

[Get help filing your claim](https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/) (in English)

## H2: What happens after I apply?

[Find out what happens after you apply](https://www.va.gov/education/after-you-apply/)

You can’t make changes to your application, but if you have questions about VA education benefits, call [888-442-4551](tel:+18884424551) (TTY: 711). We’re here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET.

If we’ve asked you for documents, you can upload them using QuickSubmit on AccessVA.

[Upload supporting documents using QuickSubmit on AccessVA](https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspSelectFor=quicksubmit) (in English)

## H2: How long does it take VA to make a decision?

**30 days**

Average time to process education claims

## H2: Other VA benefits you may want to explore

### [Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)](https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation) (in English)

If you have a service-connected disability that limits your ability to work or prevents you from working, find out if you can get VR&E benefits and services—like help exploring employment options and getting more education or training if required.

### [Educational and career counseling](https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/education-and-career-counseling) (in English)

Find out how to get free educational and career counseling if you are leaving active service soon, have been discharged within the past year, or are a Veteran or dependent who is eligible for VA education benefits.

### [Register your Veteran-Owned Small Business](https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/veteran-owned-business-support) (in English)

If you have—or want to start—your own business, we can help. Register to do business with VA and get support for your Veteran-Owned Small Business.

### [Explore resources for military and Veteran family members](https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/family-resources) (in English)

Find out how the Veterans Employment Center can help spouses and other family members access valuable career resources.