**https://www.va.gov/education/after-you-apply/**

**Word Count: 352**

**Meta:** Learn what to expect after you apply for your Certificate of Eligibility for VA education benefits. Review career and education opportunities that can help you make the most of your transition from the military.

# H1: After you apply for education benefits

Find out if you can get a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for VA education benefits. Getting a degree, certificate, or other professional license can help you make a successful transition from military to civilian life. Learn about types of VA education benefits, including the GI Bill, and review what happens after you apply for a COE.

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

**30 days**

Average time to process education claims

## H2: What should I do while I wait?

The transition from military to civilian life can be challenging. We offer tools and counseling programs to help you make the most of your educational options.

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

## H2: What happens after I apply?

We’ll send you a decision letter in the mail. If we’ve approved your application, you’ll need to show the letter to the VA certifying official at your school to start using education benefits.

If you applied for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits on VA.gov, you may be able to download your decision letter online.

[Download your education decision letter](https://www.va.gov/education/download-letters) (in English)

You can also start looking at future careers and job opportunities.

[Learn about career-development resources](https://www.va.gov/careers-employment) (in English)

If you disagree with a decision on your education benefits claim, you can request a decision review. You can also manage any review requests or appeals you already filed.

[Request a decision review or manage a legacy appeal](https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews) (in English)

## 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. These benefits and services could help you explore employment options and get more training if required.