

# GPC VA Financial Aid FAQ's

•How can I contact the Georgia Perimeter College Veterans Affairs Office?

Please call (404) 631-6585 or email us at [gpcva@gpc.edu](mailto:gpcva@gpc.edu). You may also visit the Office of Student Financial Services and Veterans Affairs located on each of GPC's campuses.

• Am I considered a veteran?

In order to be considered a veteran, you must have served in the active military and discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

• How do I know if I am eligible for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) educational assistance?

You may be eligible for VA educational assistance if:

- A) You are on, or were on active duty for at least two years, and received any honorably characterized discharge;
- B) You have a six-year obligation in the Selected Reserves and remain in good standing with your reserve unit; or
- C) You are a spouse or child of a veteran who died or was totally disabled while in military service.

• How can I contact the Department of Veterans Affairs?

You may visit the VA website at [gibill.va.gov](http://gibill.va.gov), or call 1-888-442-4551 for assistance.

Atlanta Regional Office  
1700 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA 30033

• How do I start my VA educational assistance benefits at the college and where can I obtain an application for VA benefits?

If you are using your VA benefits for the first time, applications (VA Form 22-1990 Veteran/Reservist, or VA Form 22-5490 for Survivors and Dependents) may be completed online at [gibill.va.gov](http://gibill.va.gov). Applicants must also complete a GPC Enrollment Certification Request that can be obtained online at <http://depts.gpc.edu/~finaid/veterans.html>, or search VA forms at [gpc.edu](http://gpc.edu). All students, regardless of what benefits they think they may be eligible for, should also complete the Federal form Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available online at <http://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

• Will my veterans' education benefits be included in the calculation of my Pell Grant award?

No. If otherwise eligible, this will allow you to receive an award higher than you would receive if the benefits were included in the calculation. In addition to the appropriate VA forms, you will need to complete a FAFSA form to determine qualification, found at <http://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

• I am a transfer student, what must I do to re-start my GI Bill at GPC?

You must complete VA Form 22-1995 along with the GPC Enrollment Certification Request and submit it to the Financial Aid Office on any campus. If you are a dependent or spouse and transferring schools, you must complete VA Form 22-5495. These forms may also be completed online at [gibill.va.gov](http://gibill.va.gov).

• Where can I submit my VA documents?

VA documents can be submitted to the Financial Aid Office on any GPC campus; faxed to 678-891-3614; or emailed to [gpcva@gpc.edu](mailto:gpcva@gpc.edu).

• What are the enrollment requirements and minimum number of credit hours I must enroll in each semester to receive VA benefits?

VA payment rates for Chapters 30, 35, 1606, and 1607 can be found at <http://gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits-resources/rates-tables.html>. Post 9/11 (Chapter33) benefit recipients must be enrolled greater than half-time, which is a minimum of 7 credit hours during standard full-length terms to receive housing (BAH) payments, with at least one course on campus. However, Post 9/11 recipients must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours during standard terms to be paid at the full-time rate, otherwise payments are prorated based on your rate of pursuit (i.e., if you enroll in 9 credits and 12 is considered full-time, your rate of pursuit is .75, which qualifies you for only 80% of your BAH rate).

• Will my Post 9/11 benefits cover out-of-state tuition?

No, Post 9/11 benefits will only cover the maximum in-state tuition and fee charges.

• What is the Yellow-Ribbon Program?

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 which allows institutions of higher learning in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the annual maximum cap for private institutions or the resident tuition and fees for a public institution. The institution can contribute up to 50% of those expenses and VA will match the same amount as the institution. (Please see your campus VA Certifying Official regarding participation and eligibility.)

• How do I use my Post 9/11 book allowance?

Post 9/11 book payments are **REIMBURSED** to you directly from the VA at a rate of \$41.67 per credit hour up to your maximum eligibility; therefore you must be prepared to purchase your books out-of-pocket each semester or register for classes during early registration to avoid processing and payment delays.

• Will the VA be paying my tuition directly to the school?

The VA will send tuition payments to GPC for Chapters 33 (Post 9/11) and 31 (Voc Rehab,) which can take a minimum of 30 days to receive after your enrollment information has been sent. If you do not qualify for Post 9/11 benefits at the 100% tier you must be prepared to pay the difference at the time of registration.

• Will my classes be protected if I am waiting for VA benefits?

**Yes, if** you are receiving Post 9/11 benefits you must submit a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility from the Department of Veteran Affairs or DD214, in addition to the GPC Enrollment Certification Request, to receive a temporary purge protection. Please keep in mind that you are ultimately responsible for the payment of tuition and fees to GPC. **Yes, if** you are receiving Voc Rehab benefits and your VA Case Manager has submitted VA Form 28-1905 to the VA Certifying Official at GPC, as well as to Robert Stuart of Student Accounts in Decatur ([robert.stuart@gpc.edu](mailto:robert.stuart@gpc.edu)), and E-Follett for book allowances ([mgr@fhg.follett.com](mailto:mgr@fhg.follett.com)).

**No, for all other VA chapters.** Tuition payments will be due for all other VA Chapters each Friday during registration or you will be dropped for non-payment. Please check the academic calendar at [gpc.edu](http://gpc.edu) to check purge dates.

# VA Financial Aid FAQ's

# Military Outreach Center



Two Years That Will Change Your Life



• What will the VA not pay for?

- 1. Courses from which you have withdrawn.
- 2. Repeating a course that you have earned a grade of “D” or better, unless the department policy requires a grade of “C” or better.
- 3. Courses that are not required for your major at GPC.
- 4. Audits.
- 5. Any course for which you have equivalent transfer credit.
- 6. PHED 1101 and PHED activity courses if you are Chapter 30, 31, or 33 and some Reservists if you have served more than 180 days of active duty. GPC will give you credit for these courses after submitting a copy of your DD214 to the Enrollment and Registration office.

• How do I transfer my GI Bill from GPC to another school?

You must complete VA Form 22-1995 if you are a veteran or VA Form 22-5495 if you are a dependent/spouse and submit it to the VA Certifying Official at your new school.

• What is VA Work-Study and who is eligible?

The VA work-study program is an excellent opportunity for veteran students to supplement their income while attending school. Generally, students are placed in the VA Office at the college or university they attend. Interested students should contact the VA Representative at the college or university they attend for position availability. Also, check the Atlanta Regional Processing Office and VA Medical Center.

• How do I find out if a particular program is approved for VA benefits?

All degree granting programs at GPC are approved for VA funding.

• Can I change my program of study?

Yes, but you must complete VA Form 22-1995 or 22-5495 and submit it to our Financial Aid Department. In addition, you must change your major with the Enrollment and Registration Department.

• What happens if I drop a course during the semester?

If you drop a course and the adjustment changes your training time, you must notify the GPC Certifying Official so they can inform the VA of a change in training time. This must be done even if you have already notified the VA in the WAVE system. A change in training time will affect your rate of payment, and failure to notify the GPC Certifying Official in a timely manner could result in an overpayment.

• What happens if I am called to active duty during the semester?

Students who are called to active military duty during a term may withdraw from all courses with a 100% refund. Students in this situation must submit a copy of their orders indicating military activation along with the Withdrawal request in the Student Information System (SIS). These students may return to the college with no penalty.

• How long am I eligible for benefits?

Benefits end 10 years from the date of your last discharge or release from active duty, 15 years under Post 9/11, or 12 years under VRAP. Post 9/11 Veterans are eligible for 36 months of full-time education benefits and dependents/spouses are eligible for 45 months of full-time benefits. If you need further assistance please contact VA Regional at 1-888-442-4551.

• Can I receive Tutorial assistance?

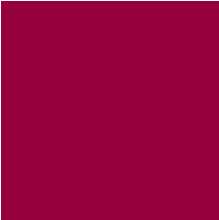
To qualify, you must have a deficiency in a subject. Please visit .gibill.va.gov and complete an Application and Enrollment Certification for Individual Tutorial Assistance and submit it to the Department of Veteran Affairs or contact the VA at 1-888-442 -4551.

• Am I eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation?

You may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation if you have a service connected disability or any disability rated by VA at 10% or more. For more information contact the Department of VA Vocational Rehabilitation Department at 1-800-824-1000.

• What should I do if I do not receive a payment?

If you have not received your monthly payment by the **fifth** of the month and it has been at least 30 days since you were notified by GPC that your enrollment certification has been submitted to the Department of Veteran Affairs for processing, immediately call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). You are ultimately responsible for the payment of your tuition, so please follow-up frequently with the Department of Veteran Affairs regarding your payments to avoid being purged for non-payment. If you are hearing impaired please call 1-800-829-4833.



• Can I receive an Advance Payment?

You may receive advance payment of VA funds to offset upfront education expenses. Advance payment is not available for a test, license, or certification. The Advance Payment Request form must be received at least 30 days, but no more than 120 days, before the beginning of the enrollment period. The GPC Advance Payment Request form may be obtained online at <http://gpc.edu/~finaid/veterans.html> or search at .gpc.edu. Advance payment is not available for Chapter 31 or 33 recipients.

• Are VA educational benefits taxable?

No, veteran's benefits paid under any law and administered by the VA do not require reporting as income to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

• Can I get a copy of my discharge papers (DD214)?

Yes. We recommend that you contact the Military Personnel Records Center at <http://archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/> to request your DD214.

• How can I check the status of my file or find out how much money I will be receiving after my enrollment has been certified?

You may call 1-888-442-4551 or visit .gibill.va.gov and register with e-benefits.

• Do I have to certify my enrollment each month to receive a payment from the VA?

To avoid payment delays, the following VA chapters are required to verify monthly attendance via the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE), <https://gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>, or by calling 1-877-823-2378. Chapter 30 (MGIB Active Duty) Chapter 1606 (Selective Reserve) Chapter 1607 (REAP)

• How can I update my address or financial institution information for direct deposit?

If you are currently receiving benefits, or have received benefits in the last year, you can use the WAVE system to update your address or your financial institution information. Visit the GI Bill WAVE page, <https://gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>, and follow the instructions to log-on to WAVE. Follow the links to change your address and your direct deposit information on the “Main Menu” page of WAVE

