



Veterans Affairs

WBU VA Certifying Official:

Tracy Henderson, Registrar
thenderson@williamsbu.edu

870-759-4130
Swaim Administration Building

Williams Baptist University is a proud participant in the Veterans Educational Benefits programs through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

WBU is prohibited from providing commission, bonuses, or other incentive payments to Admissions Counselors for securing enrollment of students, including service members or those who are eligible to receive VA Educational Benefits. In addition, it is our policy to refrain from high pressure tactics or using unsolicited contacts while recruiting any student, including service members or those who are eligible to receive VA Education Benefits.

How to Apply for VA Educational Benefits:

- Complete an online application at <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>. For questions related to the application, please visit “Contact Us” at the top of the application page.
- When the application receives approval, the family will receive a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) letter, which provides information about the benefit the student will receive, the payment amount, and the length of time to use the benefit.
- The student must provide a copy of the letter for the VA Certifying Official.
- The student will register for classes. (VA only pays for courses applying to the student's major.)
- The campus VA Certifying Official will send an enrollment certification to VA when the above steps are complete.

Benefit Opportunities:

- Montgomery GI Bill ®
 - Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill ® Active Duty (MGIB-AD)
 - Paid directly to student
 - Chapter 1606: Montgomery GI Bill ® Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)
 - Paid directly to student
- Post 9/11 GI Bill ®
 - Chapter 33
 - Tuition paid directly to school
 - Housing stipend paid monthly to student
 - Books/Supplies paid at start of term to student
- Dependant Education Benefits
 - Chapter 35
 - Paid directly to student
- Military Tuition Assistance (TA)
 - Eligible Service members who decide to use TA *must* seek approval from an Educational Services Officer (ESO) or counselor within the Military Service prior to enrolling. Military TA must be requested and approved prior to the start date of the course. For more information visit:
<https://www.dantes.doded.mil/FinancialAid/MilitaryTuitionAssistance.html>

WBU receives no notification on when your housing, book stipend, kickers, etc. are paid out since those funds are forwarded directly to the student.

Students who are receiving VA Educational Benefits are required to complete the “VA Enrollment Certification Request” form each semester in order for the VA Certifying Official to certify your hours.

If a student receives Tuition Assistance (TA) funds through the Department of Veterans Affairs, the student must meet all general eligibility requirements. Students must attend at least to the 60% portion of the period for which the funds were provided to receive 100% of the TA funds. For students who did not attend until the 60% portion, the TA funds will be prorated on a proportional basis. For students who fail to enroll, 0% of the TA funds will be disbursed to the student’s account.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679(c), this educational institution adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post-9/11 G.I Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from VA. This educational institution will not:

- Prevent the student’s enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student;
- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA Certification of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class;
- Provide a written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies.

Williams Baptist University Policies:

Certification Policy

Only courses that satisfy requirements outlined by a student’s degree plan can be certified for VA benefits. If a student takes courses that do not fulfill graduation requirements, those courses will not be certified for VA benefits.

Students who are receiving VA Educational Benefits are responsible for contacting the Williams Baptist University VA Certifying Official anytime there is a change in their status, including schedule changes (adding and dropping courses). All changes are reported to the VA, and changes that are not promptly reported may result in a VA overpayment to the student, and the VA may request some or all of that money be sent back to them.

Progress Policy

According to Title 38 US Code § 21.4277, educational assistance benefits to Veterans and other eligible persons will be discontinued when the student ceases to make satisfactory progress toward completion of his or her training objective. Students who are placed on “Academic Suspension” will not be eligible to receive VA benefits.

See “Academic Probation and Suspension” under Academics in the catalog for specific guidelines on GPA benchmarks.

Classes that are successfully completed may not be certified again for VA purposes if they are repeated. If a student fails a class (“F”) or if a higher grade is required for program or graduation purposes, the course can be certified if repeated.

Readmission Policy for Military Service Members

Williams Baptist University understands that students may be temporarily unable to attend classes or be required to suspend their studies in order to perform military service. Such students are encouraged to resume their education once a military service obligation has ended, and WBU has adopted a policy to ensure the timely readmission of these students.

In accordance with federal regulations, 34 C.F.R. § 668.18 and the Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), WBU will promptly readmit service members who seek readmission to a program that was interrupted due to a uniformed service obligation in the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserve, active duty, active duty for training or full-time National Guard (under federal authority).

The student must provide written notice of a uniformed service obligation to the students’ Academic Advisor and the schools VA Certifying Official, as far in advance as possible, unless precluded by military necessity. Such notice does not need to indicate when the student will return to the college.

A returning student will be permitted to reenroll in class(es) during the next scheduled term in the same academic program unless the student requests a later date of reenrollment or agrees to a different program. A returning student will be readmitted into the same academic program the student was enrolled in prior to the military service obligation. If the exact program no longer exists, the student can be admitted to the program that is most similar, unless the student requests or agrees to admission to a different program. Returning students will be reenrolled with the same enrollment status, number of completed credit hours, and academic standing as the last academic year of attendance.

Return of Unused Military Tuition Assistance

Military Tuition Assistance (TA) is awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. When a student withdraws, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of TA funds originally awarded. To comply with the Department of Defense (DOD) policy, Williams Baptist University will return any unearned TA funds on a prorated basis through at least the 60% portion of the period for which the funds were provided. TA funds are earned proportionally during an enrollment period, with unearned funds returned based upon when a student stops attending.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.