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Veterans-For-Change

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SURVIVOR & DEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Benefit Description

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

Eligibility

You must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:

- A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces.
- A veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence.
- A service member missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.
- A service member forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.

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Period of Eligibility

[Dependents](#) | [Active Duty Service Members](#) | [Spouses](#) | [Surviving Spouses](#)

Dependents: As a son or daughter, as long as you have entitlement left, you may generally receive benefits under this program from age 18 to 26 (8 years).

However, in certain instances, you may begin before age 18 and continue after age 26. In some instances, you may choose among possible beginning dates.

If you're enrolled in training when your eligibility ends, in most cases we can extend your eligibility to the end of the semester or quarter, or to the end of twelve weeks if the course isn't operated on a semester or quarter basis.

As a son or daughter, marriage doesn't affect your period of eligibility.

Active Duty Service Members: If you are in the Armed Forces, you may not receive this benefit while on active duty. To pursue training after military service, your discharge must not be under dishonorable conditions. VA can extend your period of eligibility by the number of months and days equal to the time spent on active duty. This extension cannot go beyond your 31st birthday.

If you were called to active duty on or after September 11, 2001, in most cases we can extend your eligibility period by the number of months and days you spent on active duty plus four months. This extension may go beyond your 31st birthday, depending on the facts in your claim.

Spouses: If you're a spouse and you're eligible because the veteran has a permanent and total service-connected disability, benefits generally end 10 years from one of the following dates:

- Effective date of the veteran's permanent and total disability evaluation
- Date VA notifies the veteran of the permanent and total disability evaluation
- Beginning date you choose, between the date you become eligible and the date
- VA notifies the veteran of the permanent and total disability evaluation

You may not receive benefits while on active duty in the Armed Forces. To receive benefits after military service, your discharge must not be under dishonorable conditions.

If you were called to active duty on or after September 11, 2001, in most cases we can extend your eligibility period by the number of months and days you spent on active duty plus four months.

We can extend your 10-year eligibility period by the amount of time you were prevented from training during that period because of a disability.

If you're enrolled in training when your eligibility ends, in most cases we can extend your eligibility to the end of the semester or quarter, or to the end of twelve weeks if the course isn't operated on a semester or quarter basis.

If marriage to the veteran ends in divorce, your eligibility for DEA benefits ends on that date. But if you're in training, and the divorce occurs through no fault of yours, we can extend your eligibility as explained in the preceding paragraph.

If you're a spouse and you're eligible because the veteran or service member is being held or is missing, as

- A prisoner of war
- Missing in action, or
- Forcibly held by a foreign government or power, your 10-year period of eligibility begins on the 91st day after the date the service member was listed as a captive or missing.

If the veteran or service member is released from captivity, or is determined to be alive and no longer missing, your period of eligibility ends on that date. If you're enrolled in training on that date, your eligibility may be extended to the end of the term or course.

Surviving Spouses: If you're an eligible surviving spouse and the veteran died of a service-connected disability, you may choose the beginning date for your 10-year period of eligibility. That date must be between the date of death and the date we determine that the death was due to service-connected disability.

If you're an eligible surviving spouse and the veteran had a permanent and total service-connected disability at time of death, the beginning date of your 10-year period is the date of death.

We can extend your 10-year period by the amount of time you were prevented from training during that period because of disability.

If you're enrolled in training when your eligibility ends, in most cases we can extend your eligibility to the end of the semester or quarter, or to the end of twelve weeks if the course isn't operated on a semester or quarter basis.

If you remarry, your eligibility ends on the date of remarriage. However, if you remarried after Nov. 30, 1999, and your remarriage ends, we may reinstate your eligibility to DEA. The remarriage must be ended by death, divorce, or because you stopped living with your spouse and stopped holding yourself out to the public as the person's spouse. If you remarried after Oct. 31, 1990, but before Nov. 30, 1999, we can't reinstate your eligibility, even if your remarriage ends.

How to Apply

[If you've decided on the program](#) | [If you haven't decided](#) | [How to get the application](#)

How you apply for benefits depends on whether or not you've decided on what program you want to take.

If You've Decided on the Program

If you've decided on a program, follow these steps:

FIRST, find out whether the program you want to take is approved for VA benefits — check with the school's Financial Aid Office or training facility employment office, or contact us (see [How Do You Contact VA?](#)).

If the facility hasn't requested approval before, ask an official to contact VA to request approval. We'll refer the official to the SAA. (Most programs are approved for VA benefits by SAAs. VA approves some programs.)

If the program has been approved for VA benefits, check in with the school or training facility official who certifies enrollments for VA benefits.

At a school, this official may be in one of the following offices: Financial Aid, Veterans Affairs, Registrar, Admissions, Counseling, or other office. At an OJT or an apprenticeship, the official may be in the Training, Finance, Human Resources, or other office. *Note: The certifying official is not a VA employee.*

SECOND, complete the application (VA Form 22-5490, Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance) and submit it to the appropriate VA regional office.

THIRD, ask the school or training official to certify your enrollment to VA.

If You Haven't Decided on the Program

If you haven't decided on a program, or simply want a determination of your eligibility for DEA, just submit the application.

If you're eligible, you'll receive a Certificate of Eligibility showing how long you're eligible and how many months of benefits you can receive.

How do you get the application for benefits?

You can get the application in several ways:

- Fill out the form online at [VONAPP](#).
- Download forms from the [VA Web site](#).
- Call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) and request the form. (You may have difficulty getting through quickly at the toll-free number, especially when school enrollments are heavy. You may have more success by going to the Internet site.)
- Contact the nearest [VA regional office](#).
- You may also be able to pick up the application from your school or training facility.

Receiving Benefits

School (College/Vocational/Tech) | Cooperative | Apprenticeship/On-the-Job | Farm Cooperative | Correspondence

Below are the current rates for DEA benefits, effective October 1, 2002. You can always find the current rates at www.gibill.va.gov.

School (College or Vocational/Technical School)

Monthly Rate/Training Time

\$680 — Full

\$511 — Three-Quarter

\$340 — One-Half

If you're training at less than one-half time, you'll receive whichever is less:

- The monthly rate based on the tuition and fees for your course(s); or
- \$340 per month for less than one-half time or per month for one-quarter time.

Cooperative Training

\$680 (Full-time only)

Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training

Monthly Rate/Period of Training

\$495 — First 6 Months

\$370 — Second 6 Months

\$246 — Third 6 Months

\$124 — Remainder of Program

Farm Cooperative Training

Monthly Rate/Training Time

\$549 — Full

\$412 — Three-quarter

\$275 — One-Half

Correspondence Training

55% of the approved charges for a correspondence course.

Only spouses and surviving spouses are eligible for correspondence training.

More Information

For more information on the GI Bill, go to the **[Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program - Pamphlet](#)** or contact your local VA Regional Office for additional assistance: 1-888-442-4551.

For information on other sources of assistance, check with the Financial Aid office at your school.

Also, check with the state office that handles Veterans Affairs for the state where your training facility is located. Your state may offer other education benefits based on military service or being a dependent of a veteran. To locate the State office, **[click here](#)**.

Here are some other useful Web sites:

- **[Department of Defense site for Defense Activities Non-Traditional Education Support \(DANTES\)](#)**
- **[Department of Education](#)**
- **[Coalition of America's Colleges and Universities Work-Study Assistance Program](#)**