

## **VA Educational Benefits at Heritage Christian University**

Students in approved programs at HCU may use VA educational benefits toward the cost of their program. Students should check with their respective program to verify its eligibility to participate in VA program benefits.

VA Educational Benefits include, but are not limited to:

- The Post 9-11 GI Bill®/Yellow Ribbon Program (Chapter 33)
- The Montgomery GI Bill®-Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- The Montgomery GI Bill®-Reserves (Chapter 1606)
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) (Chapter 1607)

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>.

To determine which VA educational benefit is best for you and to determine your eligibility for educational programs through the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans and active duty military members should contact the GI Bill® hotline at 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551) to speak with a VA counselor and visit the VA website at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>

All veterans seeking veterans' educational benefits must first apply for those benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Eligibility for education benefits is determined solely by the VA. Students must complete the

- 22-1990 form (application for VA educational benefits)
- or the 22-1995 form (request for change of program or place of training for VA educational benefits) through the VA at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-forbenefits/application/> listing Heritage Christian University as their place of study. Contact information: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/contact/> call the VA Education Hotline/Call Center at 1(888) GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to inquire about education benefits.

### **Receive a Certificate of Eligibility** from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Once the student is approved for educational benefits, the Department of Veterans Affairs will send the student a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) outlining the student's benefits and eligibility period. The student must be admitted to a degree or approved certificate program at Heritage Christian University.

### **Submit Certificate of Eligibility** to the Office of Financial Aid

When the student receives a COE he/she should forward it to the Office of Financial Aid either by mail, fax, email, or in person.

### **Post 9-11 GI Bill® VA Benefits-Tuition and Mandatory Fees Information**

For all students who are eligible for the post 9-11 GI Bill® VA Benefits on or after August 1, 2019, the maximum Post 9-11 GI Bill® benefit amount awarded (tuition and fees) is based on:

- Private School per annual cap is up to \$24,476.79 per student for tuition and fees August 1, 2019-July 31, 2020.
- The student's percentage of eligibility as reported on the Certificate of Eligibility issued by VA
- The student's receipt of non-federal financial aid (see below)
- The student's rate of pursuit (full vs. part-time)
- Whether the student is taking courses on campus or online

### **Receiving Payment for VA Educational Benefits**

Payment for the Montgomery GI Bill®-Active Duty (Ch. 30), Montgomery GI Bill®-Reserves (Ch. 1606), and REAP (Ch. 1607) are made directly to the Veteran from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans using these chapters should contact U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at 1-888-442-4551 for information on how payments will be issued.

### **Payment for the Post 9-11 GI Bill® (Ch. 33) is issued in the following ways:**

Once certification has been submitted to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs by Heritage Christian University for a student's enrollment, payment will be issued after U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs processes the student's enrollment certification. HCU is not provided with a timeline for payment by VA. For information on when payments will be issued, Veterans must contact the GI Bill® hotline at 888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

- Living stipends will be issued directly to the Veteran by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on a monthly basis. Living stipends are not available for students on active duty or students who are enrolled less than half-time
- Book and supply stipends will be issued directly to the Veteran by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs each academic term (semester, trimester, quarter, etc.)
- Tuition and Fees payments will be issued directly to Heritage Christian University by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and will be credited to the student account. The amount of tuition and fees that will be paid is determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and may not cover the full cost of tuition and fees.
  - HCU will note an "anticipated credit" on your student account for the tuition and fees that you will be receiving from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs until tuition and fee payments are received. This means that Veterans will not be required to front the money expected from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and will not be issued late fees on their student account for the amount expected by VA.
  - If the actual payment received by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is less than what the student owes, s/he will be responsible for paying the difference out of pocket or through the use of financial aid.

- Yellow Ribbon payments from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (if the student is eligible) will be issued directly to HCU and will be credited to the student account.
- The Yellow Ribbon match provided by HCU (if the student is eligible) will be credited to the student account at the same time the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Yellow Ribbon payment is credited.

Veterans using the Post 9-11 GI Bill® who do not see a payment by VA on their student account during a period of enrollment should notify the Office of Financial Aid via email at [mthompson@hcu.edu](mailto:mthompson@hcu.edu) or call 800-367-3565, ext. 303.

### **VA Educational Benefits and Financial Aid**

Veterans may apply for financial aid in addition to their VA benefits. Receipt of **Federal Title IV aid will not reduce a Veteran's eligibility** for VA educational benefits. However, please note that effective August 1, 2011, all aid not considered federal (Title IV) aid will reduce the Veteran's Post 9-11 GI Bill® payment for tuition and fees.

#### **Federal Title IV aid includes:**

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Direct (Stafford) loan (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work-Study (FWS)

#### **Federal Title IV aid DOES NOT include:**

- Grants and Scholarship awarded by an institution
- Outside scholarship assistance obtained through private organizations meant specifically for tuition and fees
- Tuition reimbursement provided by employers or other sources
- Tuition rebates/reductions provided by Heritage Christian University to employees, their spouses or their children

Conversely, VA benefits will not reduce a student's eligibility for federal aid though it is recommended that Veterans consider the amount of funding they receive from the VA when accepting or declining their federal loan assistance. Veterans may contact the Office of Financial Aid at 800-367-3565 x303 if they need assistance in determining the amount of loan funding they should accept or decline.