

FVCC GI Bill® Benefits INFORMATION SHEET

The VA recommends that you apply for educational benefits on-line at <https://www.va.gov/>.

If you have previously used your VA education benefits and you are changing institutions or program of study, please complete form 22-1995 (Chapter 33, TOE, 30 or 1606) or 22-5495 (Chapter 35 or Fry scholarship) and submit it to the School Certifying Official. Do not mail to the VA unless you are updating your banking information.

The following is a check-list to help you through the process:

- ___ Apply for VA educational benefits on-line at <https://www.va.gov/>.
If you have a scanner, you can attach a copy of your DD-214 (member 4) or NOBE (Notice of Basic Eligibility) for reservists or National Guard Members, to your application which may expedite the process.
- ___ Application for Admission to FVCC at <https://www.fvcc.edu/student-admissions/apply-for-admission/>.
You must be working towards a degree or certificate at FVCC; **MUST** be the same degree you told the VA you are pursuing.
- ___ Apply for Financial Aid, if desired, on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ___ Request official copies of all previous college transcripts from all institutions attended since high school, including your AARTS/SMARTS transcript, Joint Service Transcript (or DD 214 member 4 copy) to be sent to FVCC Admission's office.
 - **It is recommended that you register an original member 4 copy of your DD-214 at Flathead County Clerk & Recorder's office on Main Street. Currently they do not charge veterans for this service and will give you several "certified" copies.**

Direct questions for the VA to:

1-888-442-4551 – Education Hotline
1-877-823-2378 – Monthly Verification
1-877-838-2778 -- Direct Deposit

CHAPTER 33 (POST- 9/11 GI® BILL)

You are making an irrevocable decision when you apply for Post-9/11 GI BILL® benefits. Please do your research so that you do not apply for chapter 33 until you are sure that it is the best decision for you! If you are eligible for Ch. 30 and Ch. 33 (Post 9/11) and you use all 36 months of entitlement, under Ch. 30 you MAY be able to apply for Ch. 33 and receive an additional 12 months of entitlement.

If all of your classes are considered distance learning (on-line), and you are enrolled in 7 credits or more, you will be eligible for 50% of the national average of the MAH (effective 10/1/11). Classes with section numbers in the 80s are considered distance learning.

The MAH for 2022 while attending FVCC is \$1482 per month if enrolled in at least 12 credits that run the entire semester and are eligible at the 100% maximum benefit level, and \$1254 while attending LCC. Not everyone is eligible at the 100% rate.

YELLOW RIBBON

FVCC is participating in the “Yellow Ribbon” program for those veterans using Ch. 33, eligible at the 100% rate and are being charged out of state tuition. We are accepting 50 students on a first come first serve basis.

FOREVER GI Bill® (COLMERY ACT)

Eliminates time limitation for using GI Bill® education benefits for service members and dependents discharged on or after January 1, 2013.

RESIDENCY

As of August 1, 2021, section 1005 of the Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 allows veterans and dependents who are using transferred veterans’ education benefits or the Fry Scholarship to have in-state tuition, eliminating the previous 3 year time limit of the Choice Act. Qualified individuals will be granted in state tuition upon submission of a DD 214 validating character and date of separation and completing a residency application.

Beginning on August 1, 2022, The Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act requires public colleges and universities that receive GI Bill® benefits to provide in-state tuition rates for students using DEA (Chapter 35) benefits.

Please see Sherry, School Certifying Official, or Sharon Nau in the Registrar’s Office for more information.

VETERAN READINESS & EMPLOYMENT (VR&E)—CHAPTER 31

As of March 1, 2019, students using VA Chapter 31 benefits will be charged at the resident rate.

GRADES AND CREDITS

If you receive a “W” (withdrawal), a “WI” (withdrawal by instructor), an “AU” (audit), your benefits will be reduced accordingly, which will cause an overpayment with the VA. You may not receive VA educational benefits for a “course challenge” or an “unsatisfactory” grade. **The VA will pay for an “F” grade, only if you attended class the entire semester and take the final.** You cannot be paid for any “repeat” course unless the course is listed in the FVCC catalog as being repeatable for credit, or unless the veteran has previously received an “F”, “W” or “WI” for the course.

Remedial courses may be taken with written approval of your advisor and as long as your placement scores indicate the need, and they are not an online course.

Courses that do not run the entire length of the semester MAY NOT count toward your total credit load for your GI Bill® benefits. You will only be paid benefits for the dates that your courses are actually in session. Please see School Certifying Official for details.

TRANSCRIPTS

Students who have attended previous colleges must request “official” grade transcripts be sent to the FVCC Admissions Office. Your benefits will be delayed, until all official transcripts arrive and have been evaluated by either the Admission’s office or your advisor if you are pursuing an occupational program.

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SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

It is your responsibility to maintain satisfactory progress. If your cumulative grade point average falls below a 2.00 (C average), you will be placed on probation. A student on probation will be required to meet with a retention advisor before starting the next semester to discuss academic goals and barriers and ways to achieve the goals. A review of the academic assistance available at FVCC and the development of a plan to assist the individual in achieving his/her academic goals will also take place.

If a student fails to improve his/her GPA each term while on probation, he/she will have two options: 1) to choose academic suspension for a period of no less than one year or 2) agree to a plan of extensive remediation developed by the college. If remediation is unsuccessful or if the student fails to comply with the prescribed plan, he/she will be suspended immediately for no less than one year. A student reinstated after being on academic suspension will be required to meet with a retention advisor prior to registering each semester.

Once a student's cumulative GPA improves to a 2.0 or better, he/she will be removed from academic probation or suspension status and will no longer be required to meet with a retention advisor.

If you have attended FVCC previously and have not made satisfactory progress, you will be on probation when you start receiving your veterans' educational benefits.

GRADUATION

Any student receiving VA benefits who has earned a degree, 60 semester credits or the required number of credits for an AAS degree or Certificate (whether or not you apply for graduation), is no longer eligible to receive VA benefits while attending FVCC, until you file a change of program and Sherry receives a "required course list" from your advisor.

TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE

You may be eligible for tutorial assistance if you have a deficiency in a particular course. See Sherry for details.

VA CERTIFICATION

Due to the VA's extensive regulations, it is necessary for you to meet with Sherry, the VA School Certifying Official, during the registration process to complete the VA Certification form each semester. She will discuss the regulations regarding your specific GI Bill® and answer any questions you may have.

ROUNDING OUT

As long as you have at least one class that is required for graduation, you may take additional classes that are required for your program of study during your final graduating semester only.

CHANGE OF STATUS/WITHDRAWAL

It is your responsibility to notify School Certifying Official and the Veterans Administration (VA) immediately of any change or decrease in the number of credits, withdrawal from school or if you quit attending classes, as this may result in an overpayment resulting in a debt with the VA (usually back to the beginning of the semester). To protect your grade point average it is always best to **officially withdraw**.

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ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION

Chapter 33, Chapter 30, Chapter 1606, and Chapter 1607 recipients will be required to “verify” their enrollment each month by phoning 1-877-823-2378 or on-line at www.gibill.va.gov and click on WAVE to verify. Verification needs to be done NO EARLIER than the last day of the month for which you are verifying.

ADVANCE PAY

(1 per school year) must be requested **75-120** days before classes begin. You may apply for advance pay if attending at least half time (6 credits that run the full length of the semester). The payment will be for the initial partial month (or initial full month) of school, plus the following full month. Subsequent payments will be made in the month following the month for which payment is due. With the exception of Advance Pay, the VA pays retroactive (November’s benefits will be paid in early December).

***For veterans utilizing Ch. 33 (Post 9/11 GI BILL®), advance pay is not an option. **CAUTION:** Students should be aware that if they receive advance payment for August (the initial partial month) and September (the following full month) at the beginning of Fall Semester, they will not receive any further benefits until November (October’s benefit). It may be difficult to budget for three months without a check. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS CAREFULLY.

SECTION 103 OF VA TRANSITION ACT

VA Benefits & Transition ACT of 2018 Compliance: FVCC abides by Section 103 of the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018. Our educational policy ensures that no penalty will be imposed including: 1) the assessment of late fees; 2) the denial of access to classes; 3) libraries or other institutional facilities and /or 4) the requirements that a Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 recipient borrow additional funds to cover the individual’s inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to a delayed disbursement of payment by the U.S.

Please note that the VA pays retroactive and you may not receive any money for up to 12 weeks in to the semester.

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