

INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Veterans Affairs Education Information

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Indian Hills Community College

VA Education Benefit Programs

VA education benefits are authorized to veterans and qualified dependents under specific chapters of Title 38, U.S. Code. Each chapter has specific eligibility requirements. The Indian Hills Community College Veterans Affairs Office cannot determine your eligibility for VA education benefits. Your eligibility can only be determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

You may receive benefits under only one VA education chapter at a time - even though you may have eligibility under more than one chapter.

Chapter 30 - The Montgomery GI Bill

The Montgomery GI Bill has four different categories of eligibility requirements based on your active service. The benefits available under each category may vary depending on your particular date of discharge and length of active duty. You need only meet one set of eligibility requirements to obtain Chapter 30 benefits.

Category 1 Requirements

Generally, to be eligible under Category 1 of Chapter 30, you must have:

- become a member of the armed forces after June 30, 1985,
- contributed \$100 per month for the first 12 months of service,
- served a minimum of two years continuous active duty,
- received an honorable discharge for your first enlistment period,
- received a high school diploma, or completed 12 semester hours leading to a college degree prior to completing your initial obligated period of active duty, and
- fully completed your first initial obligated period of active duty.

If you were separated from active duty due to either a service-related disability or hardship, you may be eligible for Chapter 30 benefits without meeting the length of service requirement. In these cases, you would be entitled to one month of benefits for each month of military service.

Category 2 Requirements

To be eligible under Category 2 of Chapter 30, you must have:

- basic Chapter 34 (service prior to 1977) eligibility and served on active duty after July 1, 1985,
- been eligible for Chapter 34 benefits on December 31, 1989, and have remaining Chapter 34 entitlement,
- had active duty sometime during the period beginning on October 19, 1984, and ending on July 1, 1985, and continued on active duty without a break,

- have served continuously on active duty from July 1, 1985, for three years or served two year of continuous active duty followed by two years on the Selected Reserve,
- received an honorable discharge, and
- received a high school diploma or GED certificate prior to December 31, 1989.

Category 3 Requirements

To be eligible under Category 3 of Chapter 30, you must have:

- been on active duty on September 30, 1990,
- received an honorable discharge due to involuntary separation, have completed the requirements for a secondary school diploma, GED, or earned 12 credit hours leading to a standard college degree,
- if eligible under Chapter 32, elected to receive benefits under Chapter 30 (you can receive a refund of your Chapter 32 contributions), and
- had your pay reduced by \$1,200 while on active duty.

Category 4 Requirements

To be eligible under Category 4 of Chapter 30, you must have participated in Chapter 32 (VEAP) and meet either of the following conditions:

- were on active duty on October 9, 1996,
- had money in your VEAP account, and
- elected Chapter 30 by October 9, 1997, and paid \$1,200. (If the full \$1,200 wasn't collected in service, the VA can collect the remainder)

OR

- were a VEAP participant on or before October 9, 1996, even if you have no money in your VEAP account,
- served on active duty from October 9, 1996, through April 1, 2000,
- elected Chapter 30 benefits by October 31, 2001, and
- contributed \$2,700 to the Chapter 30 fund. (If the full \$2,700 wasn't collected in service, the VA can collect the remainder. You have 18 months from the date you elect Chapter 30 benefits to make the \$2,700 contribution.)

In most cases, eligibility under Chapter 30 expires 10 years after your last discharge date or release from active duty.

Chapter 31 - VA Vocational Rehabilitation

To be eligible under Chapter 31, you must receive or be eligible to receive compensation for a service-connected disability at a rating of 15% or greater. You must have been discharged or released from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. The need and nature of vocational rehabilitation necessary

to overcome your disabilities are determined by the VA. Generally, you are eligible for Chapter 31 for a period of 12 years following the date you were notified of your eligibility for VA disability compensation. An extension is available under certain circumstances with further extensions granted by the VA when it has been determined that the extension is necessary due to the nature of your disability and your need for vocational rehabilitation. Benefits include payment of tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation, and a monthly subsistence allowance.

For more information, contact [Gary Beckman, VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor](mailto:gary.beckman@vba.va.gov) (gary.beckman@vba.va.gov).

Chapter 32 - Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP)

VEAP was established for persons who entered active duty after December 31, 1976, and before July 1, 1985. To be eligible, you must have:

- contributed money to VEAP while on active duty and enrolled in the VEAP program prior to April 1, 1987,
- served on active duty for a continuous period of 181 days or more, and
- been discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

You may be eligible if you were discharged for a service-connected disability before serving 181 days of active duty.

If you enlisted for the first time after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty as an officer or enlistee after October 16, 1981, you must have completed 24 months of continuous active duty. Under certain conditions, the 24-month active duty requirement may be waived. Waivers may be obtained from the VA.

Eligibility for education benefits under Chapter 32 end 10 years after your date of release from active duty or basic termination date, whichever is earlier.

Under certain circumstances, you may have your benefits under VEAP converted to Chapter 30 (Category 4). This conversion process should have been explained to you at the time you were discharged from military service. If you converted your VEAP benefits to Chapter 30, you should have received DD Form 2366, Election to Receive Chapter 30 Benefits.

If you have eligibility under Chapter 32, you will be entitled to a maximum number of monthly benefits payments for full-time training equal to the number of months you made contributions. However, the number of monthly benefit payments cannot exceed 36 even though you may have contributed for more than 36 months.

Chapter 33 – Post 9/11 GI Bill

To be eligible for the Chapter 33 benefits, you must have served at least 90 days on active duty after September 10, 2001 (30 days on active duty, if you discharged due to active duty disability). Chapter 33 benefits are the same for all levels of military service – regular military, National Guard or Reserves.

In order to receive 100% of the established benefits, you must have served an aggregate of at least 36 months of active duty service after September 10, 2001. Payment levels for aggregate service of less than 36 months will vary from between 40% to 90% (see table). Chapter 33 benefits are not payable for any education prior to August 1, 2009

If you served an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001 of at least	Your percentage of the maximum benefit will be:
36 months	100%
30 days or more and were discharged with a service-connected disability	100%
30 months , but less than 36 months	90%
24 months, but less than 30 months	80%
18 months, but less than 24months	70%
12 months, but less than 18 months	60%
6 months, but less than 12 months	50%
90 days, but less than 6 months	40%

Chapter 33 payments include payments of tuition and fees, a housing allowance, a stipend for books and supplies and your National Guard/Reserve “kicker” (if eligible)

- Tuition and fee payments are made directly to Indian Hills and are based on your benefit percentage and the tuition and fees as shown on your IHCC bill from Student Accounts
- The housing allowance will be paid directly to you and is based on your benefit percentage, the IHCC zip code (52501) and the current DoD housing allowance rate for an E-5 with dependents. Current DoD housing rates can be found at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiem/bah.html>. **If you are taking 4 semester hours or less or if ALL of your courses are online course, you will not receive the housing allowance**
- The stipend for books and supplies is up to \$1,000 per year and is based on your percentage and number of credit hours taken each term and will be paid with your first housing allowance check. At the 100% rate, you would receive \$41.67 for each semester hour taken at IHCC.
- If you are eligible for a National Guard/Reserve “kicker”, you will receive payment in a lump-sum for each term with your first housing allowance payment for that term.

To read about all the provisions and restrictions for Chapter 33, go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Eligibility for Chapter 33 benefits expire 15 years from your last discharge date from active duty service.

Chapter 34 - Vietnam Era GI Bill

Generally, payments of education benefits under Chapter 34 ended December 31, 1989. Chapter 34 benefits were provided to those who entered active duty between January 31, 1955, and December 31, 1976.

Under certain conditions, benefits formerly payable under Chapter 34 are now payable under Chapter 30 (Category 2).

Eligibility for any benefits from Chapter 34 ends on the 10th anniversary of the date of your release from active duty or your basic termination date, whichever is earlier.

Chapter 35 - Survivor's and Dependent's Education Assistance

Spouses and dependent children (aged 18 to 26 years) of veterans who died as a direct result of military service of 100% disabled veterans may be eligible for VA education assistance.

Also, spouses and children of service persons who have been listed for more than 90 days and who remain in one of the following three categories may be eligible for education benefits:

- Missing in action
- Captured in the line of duty
- Forcibly detained or interred in the line of duty by a foreign power

If you are an eligible child under the age of 18 and have either graduated from high school or are above the age of compulsory school attendance, the VA may begin your education benefits. In some cases, you may be able to begin receiving benefits for special or restorative courses as early as age 14 if you are physically disadvantaged.

If you are the child of a veteran, your period of eligibility for education assistance ends on your 26th birthday. However, the VA may extend your eligibility under certain conditions. If you are the spouse of a veteran, the period of eligibility is 10 years from the date you became eligible for Chapter 35 benefits.

If you are a surviving spouse, your remarriage will generally terminate your entitlement unless the remarriage is later terminated by death or divorce, at which time you can apply for reinstatement of VA benefits. An exception allows surviving spouses who remarry after their 57th birthday and on or after January 1, 2004, to retain their eligibility for Chapter 35 benefits.

If you qualify under Chapter 35, you are entitled to 45 months of training, provided that the training is completed by your delimiting date.

See also the sections of REPS and CHAMPVA listed later in this document.

Chapter 1606 - Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserves)

To be eligible under Chapter 1606, you must have enlisted, re-enlisted, or extended an enlistment in the Selected Reserves or National Guard after July 1, 1985, so that you had an obligation to serve for a period of not less than 6 years following your enlistment. In addition, you must have completed the requirements for a high school diploma or GED certificate prior to the enlistment establishing Chapter 1606 benefits. You must also complete your Initial Active Duty Training (IADT) and be satisfactorily participating in required training in your Reserve/Guard unit.

Your benefits will generally end 14 years from the date eligibility began or your date of separation from the Selected Reserve/Guard, whichever is earlier.

If you were separated as a result of a disability, you remain eligible for a period of 10 years from the date entitlement was established.

Under Chapter 1606, you are entitled to a maximum of 36 months of full-time training.

Chapter 1607 - Reserved Education Assistance Program (REAP)

Chapter 1607 provides enhanced benefits to those otherwise eligible for Chapter 1606 benefits who have been federally activated for a period of at least 90 days since September 1, 2001. The bill provides for increased monthly payments based upon the length of activation as follows:

- Activation period of at least 90 days but less than 1 year - benefit equal to 40% of current Chapter 30 rate

- Activation period of at least 1 year but less than 2 years - benefit equal to 60% of current Chapter 30 rate
- Activation period of at least 2 years - benefit equal to 80% of current Chapter 30 rate

Members of the National Guard and Reservists who have served at least 90 days of active duty since September 1, 2001 may be eligible for Chapter 1607 benefits. To remain eligible for Chapter 1607, you must maintain your active drilling status with the National Guard or Reserves. If you qualify for benefits under Chapter 1607, you may be able to elect to substitute benefits under Chapter 33.

How to Apply for VA Education Benefit Programs

To obtain your GI Bill benefits, you must make application to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Complete the required application and attach all supporting documents. Send the application and supporting documents to the Indian Hills Community College Veterans Affairs Office. The staff will review the application and send it to the VA. Applications may be obtained either from any VA office or the Indian Hills Community College Veterans Affairs Office.

For faster service apply for education benefits online by going to the VA's [VONAPP website](#). If you choose to complete your application online, print out a copy of your application and send the copy along with any supporting documents listed in the next section to the IHCC Veterans Affairs Office.

The required application documents and procedures for each GI Bill chapter are listed below. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Indian Hills Veterans Affairs Office.

VA Education Benefit Application Requirements

Chapter 30 - The Montgomery GI Bill

- Complete either the paper or online [Application for Education Benefits](#), VA Form 22-1990
- Attach a photocopy of Copy 4 of all DD Form 214.
- If you are married and applying for benefits under Chapter 30, Category 2, you will also need to attach a statement listing the names and social security numbers of your dependent spouse and/or dependent children.

Chapter 31 - VA Vocational Rehabilitation

- Complete [Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation](#), VA Form 28-1900
- Contact the VA Regional Office in Des Moines by calling 800.827.1000 and request an appointment with a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

For more information, contact [Gary Beckman, VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor](#) (gary.beckman@vba.va.gov), via email.

Chapter 32 - Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

- Complete either the paper or online [Application for Education Benefits](#), VA Form 22-1990
- Attach a copy of all DD214, Separation from the Armed Forces

Chapter 33 – Post 9/11 GI Bill

- Complete either the paper or online [Application for Education Benefits](#), VA Form 22-1990
- Attach a copy of all DD214, Separation from the Armed Forces
- If you are eligible for a National Guard or Reserve “kicker”, attach a copy of your Kicker Contract. (Available on [AKO](#) under IPERMS)

Chapter 35 - Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance

- Complete Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance, VA Form 22-5490
- You may be required to provide proof of dependency, which may include a marriage certificate, birth certificate, divorce decree, etc.

Chapter 1606 - Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserves)

- Complete either the paper or online [Application for Education Benefits](#), VA Form 22-1990
- Attach Notice of Basic Eligibility, DD Form 2384, which may be obtained from your National Guard/Reserve unit
- If you are eligible for a National Guard "kicker", attach a copy of DD Form 4, Annex K from your National Guard enlistment contract. (Available on [AKO](#) under IPERMS)
- If you are eligible for "kicker" from service as an Army Reservist, attach a copy of DA Form 5435-1-R, Statement of Understanding - The Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill Kicker Program (10 USC 16131) (Available on [AKO](#) under IPERMS)

Chapter 1607 - Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP)

- Complete either the paper or online [Application for Education Benefits](#), VA Form 22-1990
- Attach a copy of your activation orders from all mobilizations and a copy of all DD Form 214
- If you are eligible for a National Guard "kicker", attach a copy of DD Form 4, Annex K from your National Guard enlistment contract) (Available on [AKO](#) under IPERMS)
- If you are eligible for "kicker" from service as an Army Reservist, attach a copy of DA Form 5435-1-R, Statement of Understanding - The Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill Kicker Program (10 USC 16131)) (Available on [AKO](#) under IPERMS)

Monthly Benefit Rates

Generally, VA education payment rates for Chapters 30, 31, 1606 and 1607 are determined each October 1, the beginning of the Federal fiscal year. You can view benefits information on the [Veterans Affairs website](http://www.gibill.va.gov/) (<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>).

How to Self-Certify Your Enrollment Status to the VA

If you receive benefits under Chapter 30, 1606, 1607 or 35 (Diploma programs ONLY), you must certify your enrollment status to the VA each month. This process is called self-certification. You will NOT be paid until your self-certification is received by the VA.

Your enrollment status is determined by the number of semester hours of credit you are taking. For the Fall, Winter and Spring terms, your enrollment would be:

- 8 or more semester hours = Full-time
- 6 or 7 semester hours = Three-quarter time
- 4 or 5 semester hours = Half-time
- 3 semester hours or less = Less than half-time

Contact the Veteran's Affairs Office for information on how to calculate your enrollment status for the Summer Term.

You may self-certify in two ways - by internet or by using a touch-tone telephone. You cannot use the telephone system if you have changed your enrollment status since your last self-certification.

To certify using the internet, go to the VA's [WAVE \(Web Automated Verification of Enrollment\) site \(https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do\)](https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do) and follow the instructions given.

To certify using the touch-tone telephone system, call 877.823.2378 and follow the instructions.

NOTE: Chapter 35 students enrolled in diploma programs can only self-certify by mail. You will receive a self-certification form each month from the VA. Sign and return the form to the VA...do not send it to the IHCC Veteran's Affairs Office.

VA Rules and Regulations

The VA has established a series of rules and regulations governing the administration of VA education benefits. This page details how these regulations affect you, as a student receiving VA education benefits.

Enrollment Certifications

Each term the Indian Hills Community College Veterans Affairs Office will certify your enrollment status to the VA. Your status will generally be based on the number of semester hours of credit for which you are enrolled on the day after the "add/drop" date for each term. *****IMPORTANT: At the end of each month, you will be required to self-certify that the enrollment status certified by the Veterans Affairs Office has not changed.*****

For a course and its associated credit hours to be certifiable to the VA, the course must meet graduation requirements in the program of study on file with the VA. For example, if, when you applied for education benefits, you indicated on your application that your program was going to be Aviation Maintenance Technology, only those courses that are required for graduation in the Aviation Maintenance Technology program will be certifiable to the VA.

Also, courses for which you have previously received a passing grade (even those not taken at Indian Hills Community College) are not certifiable.

Be sure to check with the Veterans Affairs Office if you decide to re-take a course or take any courses in addition to or instead of your program degree requirements.

Change of Program

If you change your program of study at Indian Hills Community College, you must file a change of program request with the VA. You will need complete a [Change of Program or Place of Training form](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1995-ARE.pdf) (<http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1995-ARE.pdf>), which is available in the Veterans Affairs Office.

Satisfactory Academic Progress/Academic Probation

The VA requires that all students receiving VA education benefits maintain satisfactory academic progress. Indian Hills Community College defines satisfactory academic progress as achieving a 2.00 grade point average (GPA) each term of enrollment. If you fail to achieve a 2.00 GPA in a term, you will be placed on academic probation for your next term of enrollment. If you fail to achieve a 2.00 GPA during your probationary term, your VA education benefits will be terminated.

Your VA education benefits may be reinstated through counseling to determine the cause of your unsatisfactory progress or by proving that there is a reasonable likelihood that you will make satisfactory academic progress in the future.

New/Transfer Students

Using Your GI Bill for the First Time

If you have never used VA education benefits to attend college or have only used the GI Bill to attend college while on active duty, you will need to:

- Apply for your benefits. You should allow at least ten weeks for your application to be processed by the VA - so start early.
- Apply for admission to the college.
- Have a certified copy of transcripts from all colleges you have previously attended sent to the Registrar's Office.
- Have a copy of your military transcript sent to the Registrar's Office.

Transferring to Indian Hills from Another College Where You Used the GI Bill

If you have used VA education benefits to attend another college or university and you were not on active duty, you do not need to re-apply for your GI Bill education benefits. You will need to:

- Complete [VA Form 22-1995, Change of Program or Place of Training](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1995-ARE.pdf) (<http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1995-ARE.pdf>) and mail the form to the Indian Hills Community College Veterans Affairs Office.
- Have a certified copy of transcripts from all college you have attended to the Registrar's Office.
- Have a copy of your military transcript sent to the Registrar's Office.

Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent enrollment occurs when a student is "enrolled" at two or more schools at the same time. Using the VA's definition, you do not have to be physically enrolled at multiple schools to be a concurrently enrolled student. For example, if you were enrolled in the Spring semester at the University of Iowa and are taking a class at Indian Hills Community College during the Summer term, with the intent of

transferring the class back to the University of Iowa when you returned for the Fall semester, you would be a concurrently enrolled student at Indian Hills Community College.

At Indian Hills Community College, concurrent enrollment occurs most frequently with the cooperative degrees at Buena Vista University - Ottumwa Center.

When you are concurrently enrolled, you have two schools:

1. your parent school, which is generally the school that will grant the highest degree, and
2. your secondary school, which is the school where you are taking supplemental or transfer classes.

Certification of Concurrent Enrollment

If you want to receive VA education benefits for classes taken at a secondary school, you must receive written permission from your parent school in the form of a parent school letter. The parent school letter indicates that the courses you are taking at the secondary school will transfer into your current major at the parent school.

To avoid surprises, you should contact the veterans certifying official at your parent school AND contact Veterans Affairs at Indian Hills Community College BEFORE enrolling in classes.

Summer Enrollment

The VA bases your enrollment status (full-time, part-time) and, thus, the amount you are paid each month on two factors - the number of semester hours of credit you are taking and the time period over which you are taking those credits. The VA does not determine your enrollment status in the same way Indian Hills Community College does. Since the length of summer session classes may be different than Indian Hills Community College's regular terms, the number of hours needed to maintain your enrollment status may be different.

Based on your particular major, you may take courses in a single session or combination of sessions. Therefore, it is important that you contact the Veterans Affairs Office prior to enrolling in summer session classes so that you will know what your enrollment status and pay amounts are during each session.

CHAMPVA Certification

CHAMPVA provides healthcare insurance coverage for the children and spouses of veterans who

- have been rated by VA as having a total and permanent disability, or
- died from a service-connected conditions, or
- at the time of death, were rated permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected condition, or
- died in the line of duty and not due to misconduct, and
- are not otherwise eligible for DoD Tricare benefits, and
- are not eligible for Medicare, Part A

CHAMPVA is administered by the VA's Health Care Administration center in Denver, Colo. For more information on CHAMPVA eligibility and for application procedures, go to the [CHAMPVA web site](http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp) (<http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp>).

CHAMPVA Certification

To remain eligible for CHAMPVA benefits, a dependent child over the age of 18 must be certified as a full-time student. It is important that you notify the Veterans Affairs Office of your eligibility for CHAMPVA benefits. The Veterans Affairs Office will then send a letter certifying your full-time status to the VA Health Care Administration each term of your enrollment and a copy of the letter will be kept in your file, if any, in the Veterans Affairs Office.

REPS Certification

REPS (Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors) is a program for the children of veterans who either died from a service-connected disability prior to August 13, 1981, or a veteran who later died as a result of a service-connected disability acquired before August 13, 1981. Eligible children of veterans may receive Social Security replacement payments. REPS benefits are payable to unmarried eligible children between the ages of 18 and 22, who are full-time students at an approved post-secondary institution, and whose income is below Social Security specified limits. Applications and information are available in the Veterans Affairs Office or from the VA. Benefits are awarded on the basis of an education institution's academic year. The academic year at Indian Hills begins with the first day of class in the Fall term.

REPS Certification

A Student Beneficiary Report - REPS (VA Form 21-8938) must be completed each year before eligibility is extended for the following academic year. To have your enrollment certified for REPS, complete Section I, Student Identification and Section II, Student Certification of the Student Beneficiary Report. Do not enter any information in Section III, School Official Certification, or a new form will be required. Bring the Student Beneficiary Report to the Veterans Affairs Office. The certification will be mailed and a copy of the form kept with your student record, if any, in Veterans Affairs.

General REPS Payment Guidelines

Breaks in School Attendance: REPS is generally payable during breaks, including summer breaks, as long as the breaks are not longer than four calendar months. If you do not enroll full-time for more than four months, your REPS benefit will stop.

Effective Date of Payments: Benefits begin the month in which you first satisfy all REPS eligibility requirements and submit a claim form to the VA. If you do not enroll as a full-time student for four months, the REPS claim must be re-established when you return to full-time enrollment status.

Marriage: REPS benefit entitlement ends effective the first of the month of marriage.

Less Than Full-Time Status: If your enrollment falls below full-time, your REPS enrollment will end effective on the last day of the month in which the reduction or termination occurred. Part-time enrollment must be reported to the REPS program office. You should also indicate when you expect to return to school on a full-time basis.

Earned Income from Wages or Self-Employment: REPS benefits are reduced by one dollar for each two dollars of earned income over the exempt amount for Social Security. The exempt amount of wages is announced at the beginning of each calendar year. The current annual exempt amount can be obtained by contacting any Social Security Administration office.

Re-entitlement to Any Social Security Benefit: If, as a surviving child, you establish entitlement to Social Security benefits on your own or any other account, you must notify the VA immediately, since it will cause a dollar for dollar reduction in the REPS benefits entitlement. If another family member re-establishes entitlement to Social Security, REPS benefit entitlement may change.

Help with Problems

If you have problems with your VA benefits, be sure to contact the Indian Hills Community College Veterans Affairs Office. We are always ready to help.

You may also contact the VA directly by using their toll-free inquiry line: 888.442.4551. Remember that the inquiry line is available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is particularly busy the first week or so of each month.

General information that may help answer your questions includes:

- Education benefits are paid one month in arrears. For example, the education benefits check for September will be received in October.
- Remember to self-certify each month. You should receive your check within a week to 10 days after self-certification.
- Don't wait to make an inquiry. If you think something is wrong, contact the Veterans Affairs Office at once. The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be to get corrected.
- If you are receiving benefits under Chapter 30 or 1606, have your checks directly deposited in your checking or savings account - it will save time. Call 888.442.4551 to set up direct deposit.
- Don't change programs or drop classes without checking with the Veterans Affairs Office. These actions may cause an overpayment that you will have to pay back. Overpayments will be deducted from your check until the overpayment is paid back.
- If you change your mailing address, be sure to notify the VA (call the inquiry number above to let them know) and notify the Veterans Affairs Office. If a check is returned to the VA, no further checks will be sent until the address is corrected.