

Veteran Education Benefits

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA) - Chapter 35

DEA provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service related condition. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits.

What is the Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program?

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.

Who is Eligible?

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.

What is the Period of Eligibility?

If you are a son or daughter and wish to receive benefits for attending school or job training, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26. In certain instances, it is possible to begin before age 18 and to continue after age 26. Marriage is not a bar to this benefit. 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 generally go beyond your 31st birthday, there are some exceptions.

If you are a spouse, benefits end 10 years from the date VA finds you eligible or from the date of death of the veteran.

How Much Does VA Pay?

[Current Benefit Rates for Chapter 35 Benefit Recipients](#)

How Do I Apply?

New Applicant

You can apply by filling out [VAF 22-5490 - Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance](#). The original VA Form 22-5490 and a Mount Olive College VA Certification Form must be submitted to the Veterans Affairs Office.

You may also apply online at the **V**eterans **O**n Line **A**pplications ([VONAPP](#)) website. If you choose to apply online, please print out the application and bring it along with your class schedule to the Mount Olive College Veterans Affairs Office so we know that you applied online and can remind the Veterans Administration Office of your method of applying for benefits.

Transfer Applicant

You can apply by filling out [VAF 22-5495 - Request for Change of Program or Place of Training Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance](#). The original VA Form 22-5495 and a Mount Olive College VA Certification Form must be submitted to the Veteran Affairs Office.

Mount Olive College VA Certification Form

All educational benefits recipients must submit your course schedule EVERY semester to receive your benefits. [MOC VA Certification Form](#)

How can I Prevent Overpayments and Penalties?

An overpayment is an incorrect benefit payment that is more than the amount to which you are entitled. If you promptly notify the college's Veterans Affairs

Office of changes affecting your benefits, you can prevent or reduce overpayments.

In addition, you should use reasonable judgment when you accept and cash a check. Carefully read all letters from the VA about the monthly rate and effective dates of your benefits. If you think a VA check is wrong, contact the VA **before** cashing the check. Return any checks for too much money to the VA.

If you cash a check for the wrong amount, you will be liable for repayment of any resulting overpayment.

If you apply for financial aid with the Mount Olive College Financial Aid Office and complete the FAFSA, you must declare your veteran benefits on the FAFSA or you will be liable for repayment of an overpayment.

How Can I Get More Information?

Visit the [Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program \(DEA\)](#) web page. Or Call toll free 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).