# Lakeshore College Veteran Benefits Guide



Lakeshore College

1290 North Avenue Cleveland WI 53015

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#### FEDERAL VETERAN EDUCATION BENEFITS

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## FEDERAL VETERAN EDUCATION BENEFITS

#### **Introduction**

The following guide is intended to answer questions you may have regarding Veteran Benefits and provide information about services available to you while enrolled at Lakeshore College.

We request that you keep our office informed of any changes in your enrollment status, withdrawals, incompletes, etc. Also, please refer to the current Lakeshore College Student Handbook as it relates to Satisfactory Academic Progress for students receiving Veteran Benefits.

See VA.GOV for information about specific Veteran Benefits programs. If you have specific questions regarding the application process, eligibility, required credit loads, etc., please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Best wishes for a pleasant and worthwhile learning experience at Lakeshore College!

Jessica Weber Veterans School Certifying Official (SCO) Financial Aid Office Telephone: (920)693-1383 or (920)693-1718 1-888-468-6582, ext. 1118 or 1718 veterans@gotoltc.edu

#### Disclaimer

*This resource guide should be used strictly for reference purposes. To obtain detailed information, you should always contact your County Veterans Service Officer or call the Veterans Administration at 1-888-442-4551.* 

GI Bill<sup>®</sup> 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 <u>https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/</u>.

Revised 01/28/25

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(1.888.468.6582) 920.693.1000 • TTY: 920.693.8956 LTC is an equal opportunity/access employer and educator.

## FEDERAL VETERAN BENEFITS CHAPTERS/PROGRAMS

## Chapter 30 - Montgomery GI Bill<sup>®</sup> - Active Duty (called "MGIB")

CH30 provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans for:

- College, Business, Technical, or Vocational School
- On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship Programs
- Correspondence Courses
- Flight Training
- Remedial, Deficiency, and Refresher Training (in some cases)
- Costs of tests for licenses/certifications needed to get, keep, or advance in a job.
- National Tests

#### Who is Eligible?

Veterans may be an eligible if they received an honorable discharge, have a high school diploma or equivalent (or, in some cases 12 hours of college credit), and meet the requirements of one of the categories below:

#### Category 1

- Entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985;
- Did not decline MGIB in writing;
- Not commissioned as Service Academy Graduate or ROTC Scholarship Graduate;
- Continuously served for 3 years, 2 years if you first enlisted for less than 3 years (or 2 years if you entered Selected Reserve within a year of leaving active duty and served 4 years called the "2 by 4" Program), or you are currently on active duty.

#### Category 2

- Had Vietnam Era Entitlement;
- Not commissioned as Service Academy Graduate or ROTC Scholarship Graduate;
- Served certain dates (see <u>www.va.gov</u> for more information).

#### Category 3

- Not eligible for MGIB under Category I or 2;
- Involuntarily separated (may be eligible if you elected MGIB before you were involuntarily separated for certain reasons).
- You were voluntarily separated under the Voluntary Separation Incentive or Special Separation Benefit Program;
- Elected MGIB before being separated;
- Military pay was reduced by \$1,200 before discharge.

#### Category 4

- VEAP participant on active duty on 10/9/96, had money remaining in a VEAP account, and elected MGIB by 10/9/97 and paid \$1,200;
- VEAP participant on or before 10/9/96 even with no money in VEAP account, served active duty from 10/9/96-4/1/00, elected MGIB by 10/31/01, and contributed \$2700 to MGIB.

#### How Much Does VA Pay?

#### **Educational Costs**

CH30 does not pay tuition, fees, books, or supplies.

#### **Monthly Benefit**

See Education Rates Chart for CH30 Federal VA Educational Monthly Benefits on page 15 of this guide. The monthly benefit paid to you is based on the type of training you take, length of your service, your category, and if DOD put extra money ("Kickers") in your MGIB Fund or you participated in the \$600 "buy-up" program. It varies by Active Duty-Less than 3 years vs. Active Duty-3 or more years OR 2 years Active Duty and 4 years Selected Reserves. Monthly Benefits may be higher if a "Kicker" is involved.

#### Entitlement

Accrues at the rate of one month for each month of active duty up to a maximum of 36 months full-time credits or its equivalent in part-time education. For example, if you receive half-time benefits for 12 months, the charge is six months.

#### Time Limit

Ten years from date of last discharge from active duty.

#### **Important Notes**

A cost-of-living allowance may be added each October.

## Chapter 31 – Veterans Readiness & Employment (VR&E) (Previously Vocational Rehabilitation)

CH31 is for veterans with a 20% or more service-connected disability (possibly lower if determined by VR&E) for post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical, or business school. Can also be used for on-thejob training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences. Must have received, or will receive, a discharge that is other than dishonorable. Must apply for services through the Veterans Affairs/Veterans Readiness & Employment Office in Milwaukee.

#### How Much Does VA Pay?

#### **Educational Costs**

CH31 does pay tuition, fees, books, and supplies from the VA.

#### **Monthly Benefit**

See Education Rates Chart for CH31 Federal VA Educational Monthly Benefits on page 15 of this guide. Adjustments are made for dependents.

Additional documents such as marriage and birth certificates may be required.

#### Entitlement

Maximum 48 months.

#### Time Limit

Usually twelve years from date of disability.

#### **Important Notes**

A cost-of-living allowance may be added each October 1.

#### **Other Information**

- Individuals may be eligible for more than one chapter of benefits for a cumulative total of 48 months. Only one chapter of benefits can be utilized at a time.
- A veteran participating in the VR&E Program who qualifies for Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> benefits can elect to receive the GI Bill<sup>®</sup> rate of pay instead of the regular Chapter 31 subsistence allowance. In most cases, the GI Bill<sup>®</sup> rate is higher than the regular Chapter 31 rate of pay. To elect the GI Bill<sup>®</sup> rate, the Veteran must have remaining eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup>, and must formally choose (or "elect") the GI Bill<sup>®</sup> rate. Your Vocational Rehabilitation Caseworker can help you with election.
- Veterans participating in the VR&E Program who elect the Post-9/11 rate are paid at the 100% rate level for their school and training time, even if their Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> eligibility is less than 100%.

## Chapter 33 – Post-9/11 GI Bill®

CH33 is for Veterans who served active duty after September 11, 2001, who have at least 90 days of aggregate active-duty service after Sept. 10, 2001 and are still on active duty, or who were honorably discharged or were discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. Students must be in a VA-approved academic program (see CH30 education qualifications above). CH33 went into effect August 1, 2009 (see <u>www.va.gov</u> for more information).

#### How Much Does VA Pay?

The following chart represents the maximum percentage payable based on the length of an individual's aggregate active-duty service. **Tuition, books, and BAH are all prorated based on this period of active duty.** 

Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001 of:	Includes entry level and skill training?	Percentage of Maximum Benefit	
At least 36 months	Yes	100	
At least 30 continuous days on active duty and must be discharged due to service-connected disability or received a Purple Heart	Yes	100	
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	Yes	90	
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	Yes	80	
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	No	70	
At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	No	60	
At least 6 months, but less than 12 months	No	50	
At least 90 days, but less than 6 months	No	40	

#### **Educational Costs**

Tuition & Fee Payment (Paid to School) -

Full in-state tuition costs covered for training pursued at public institutions.

#### Books and Supplies Stipend (Paid to Student) -

Up to \$1,000 a year for books and supplies. Paid to the student proportionately for each term.

#### **Monthly Benefit**

#### Housing Allowance (Paid to Student) -

See Education Rates Chart for CH33 Federal VA Educational Monthly Benefits on page 16 of this guide.

- Stipend is based on local BAH for E-5 with dependents and paid monthly.
- Rate is adjusted based on number of credits.
- A student must take the equivalency of 7 credits in a "traditional" semester time period to receive BAH.
- Online students receive the national average rate which is less than on-campus rates.

#### Entitlement

Maximum 36 months.

#### Time Limit

Generally payable for 15 years following your release from active duty. However, the "Forever GI Bill<sup>®</sup>" signed into law on August 16, 2017, removes the time limitation for the use of Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> benefits for individuals whose last discharge or release from active duty is on or after January 1, 2013, children of deceased service members who first become entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> program benefits after January 1, 2013, and all Fry spouses. All others remain subject to the current 15-year time limitation for using their Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> benefits.

#### **Important Notes**

- A cost-of-living allowance may be added each August.
- Eligible service members may transfer all 36 months or the portion of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> benefits (unless DoD or the Department of Homeland Security has limited the number of transferable months). If you're eligible, you may transfer benefits to the following individuals: your spouse, one or more of your children, any combination of spouse and child (see below for more information).

## Chapter 33 – Post-9/11 GI Bill® Transfer of Entitlement (ToE)

The Department of Defense (DoD) offers members of the Armed Forces the opportunity to transfer CH33 benefits to their spouse or dependent children if the member of the Armed Forces (active duty or Selected Reserve) serves six years and reenlists for 4 more years or has at least 10 years of service.

While in the Armed Forces, members use the Transfer of Entitlement (ToE) website to designate, modify, and revoke a ToE request. After leaving the Armed Forces, members must submit a written request to the VA to: provide a future effective date for use of ToE, modify the number of months transferred, or revoke entitlement transferred.

**NOTE**: After separating from the Armed Forces individuals cannot designate new dependents to receive transferred entitlement or amend the effective date of the initial transfer of entitlement to an earlier date. As of the passing of the Forever GI Bill<sup>®</sup> August 2017, the following changes occurred:

- Veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies before using the entitlement.
- Dependents who received transfer of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> can transfer their entitlement to another eligible dependent if the Servicemember or Veteran who made the transfer subsequently dies.

#### Lakeshore College Veteran Benefits Guide

• This law applies to deaths on or after August 1, 2009. A dependent to whom entitlement is transferred may use it beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

Information regarding this benefit can be found at: <u>Transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits</u>. It explains what the member must do and the child/spouse must do, and gives the needed links. There are two basic steps:

- The service member (transferor) must transfer the entitlement. If approved, transfer data is put into a secure online database that DoD shares with VA. That database, in addition to providing VA qualifying periods of CH33 service, also provides ToE data.
- The spouse or child (transferee) must apply by completing VA Form 22-1990e Application for Family Member to Use Transferred Benefits. Application can be completed online.

#### How Much Does VA Pay?

#### **Educational Costs**

- Tuition & Fee Payment (Paid to School) Full in-state tuition and fee costs covered for training pursued at public institutions.
- Books and Supplies Stipend (Paid to Student)
  - Up to \$1,000 a year for books and supplies, paid to the student proportionately for each term.

#### **Monthly Benefit**

#### Housing Allowance (Paid to Student) -

See Education Rates Chart for CH33 Federal VA Educational Monthly Benefits on page 16 of this guide.

- Monthly stipend is based on local BAH for E-5 with dependents. Adjustments are made for dependents.
- Additional documents such as marriage and birth certificates may be required.
- Rate is adjusted is based on number of credits.
- A student must take the equivalency of 7 credits in a "traditional" semester time-period to receive BAH.
- Online students receive the national average rate which is less than on-campus rates.
- Spouses are not eligible for this while the member is serving on active duty.
- Children are entitled to the housing allowance even though the eligible individual is on active duty.

#### Entitlement

Number of months transferred by veteran.

#### Time Limit

- Spouses can use the benefit for up to 15 years after the service member's last separation from active duty.
- Children may not use the benefit until they reach age 18 or attain a high school diploma (or equivalency certificate). They are not subject to the 15-year delimiting date, but may not use the benefit after age 26.

#### **Important Notes**

A cost-of-living allowance may be added each August 1.

## The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship)

Currently available for children and surviving spouses of those who died in the line of duty after September 11, 2001, while serving in a line of duty other than active duty, or a Selected Reserve member who died on or after this date from a service-connected disability.

#### How Much Does VA Pay?

#### **Educational Costs**

- Tuition & Fee Payment (Paid to School)
- Full in-state tuition costs covered for training pursued at public institutions.
- Books and Supplies Stipend (Paid to Student)
- Up to \$1,000 a year for books and supplies, paid to the student proportionately for each term.

#### **Monthly Benefit**

#### Housing Allowance (Paid to Student) -

See Education Rates Chart for CH33 Federal VA Educational Monthly Benefits on page 16 of this guide.

- Monthly stipend based on local BAH for E-5 with dependents. Adjustments are made for dependents.
- Rate is adjusted based on number of credits.
- A student must take the equivalency of 7 credits in a "traditional" semester time-period to receive BAH.
- Online students receive the national average rate which is less than on-campus rates.

#### Entitlement

Maximum 36 months.

#### Time Limit

- Spouse must use benefit within 15 years from veteran's date of death and lose eligibility if they marry.
- Children have 15 years to use the benefit from age 18 until their 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday, even if married.
- The "Forever GI Bill<sup>®</sup>" signed into law on August 16, 2017, removes the time limitation for the use of Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> benefits for children of deceased service members who first become entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> program benefits after January 1, 2013, and all Fry spouses.

#### Important Notes

- A cost-of-living allowance may be added each August 1.
- Spouse, if eligible for both Chapter 35 Dependents' Education Assistance and Fry Scholarship benefits, must make an irrevocable election of which benefit they wish to receive.

## <u>Chapter 35 – Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEAP)</u>

CH35 offers 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. Benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training.

Dependents may receive up to 45 months of education benefits. This will decrease to 36 months effective **August 1, 2018**. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, some DEA beneficiaries may be eligible for up to 81 months of GI Bill® benefits if they use the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance program in conjunction with an entitlement from other VA Education Benefit Programs.

#### Eligibility

You must be the child 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 a permanent and total 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.
- A service member, hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service-connected permanent and total disability, and likely to be discharged for that disability (change effective 12/23/ 2006).

How Much Does VA Pay? Educational Costs

#### **Monthly Benefit**

#### Housing Allowance (Paid to Student) -

See Education Rates Chart for CH35 Federal VA Educational Monthly Benefits on page 15 of this guide.

#### Time Limit/Period of Eligibility

Children of Veteran/Service Member may receive benefits between the ages of 18 and 26, even if married. These time limits can be extended under certain circumstances. For spouse of Veteran/Service Member, benefits end 10 years from the date VA finds spouse eligible or from the date of death of the Veteran. A spouse of a Veteran who died while on active duty has 20 years from the date of Veteran's death (see <u>www.gibill.va.gov</u> for more information).

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 plus four months.

#### **Important Notes**

A cost-of-living allowance may be added each October 1.

## Chapter 1606 MGIB Selected-Reserve (MGIB-SR)

CH1606 is for eligible members of the Selected Reserve, including the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, and Air National Guard. Eligibility for this program is determined by the Selected Reserve components.

#### Guide Requirements To Qualify:

- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your original obligation. For some types of training, it is necessary to have a six-year commitment that begins after Sept. 30, 1990.
- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT).
- Receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT. You may not use the exception to earn 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement.
- Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit. You will also retain MGIB-SR eligibility if you were discharged from Selected Reserve due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct. Your eligibility period may be extended if you are ordered to active duty.

## How Much Does VA Pay?

#### **Educational Costs**

CH1606-SR does not pay tuition, fees, books, or supplies.

#### **Monthly Benefit**

#### Housing Allowance (Paid to Student) -

See Education Rates Chart for CH1606 Federal VA Educational Monthly Benefits on page 15 of this guide. **Monthly benefits may be higher if a kicker is involved.** 

#### Entitlement

36 months full-time credits or its equivalent in part-time education. For example, if you receive half-time benefits for 12 months, it uses up six months of entitlement.

#### Time Limit

Your eligibility for the program normally ends the day you leave the Selected Reserve. There are exceptions to this (see <a href="https://www.gibill.va.gov">www.gibill.va.gov</a> for more information).

#### Important Notes

A cost-of-living allowance may be added each October 1.

## Chapter 1607 – Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)

There is no longer eligibility for this benefit. Chapter 1607 was created for those who served in the Selected Reserve or National Guard and were called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency as declared by the President or Congress. However, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended REAP on November 25, 2015. Some individuals remained eligible for REAP benefits until November 25, 2019.

CH33 Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>®</sup> in many ways has replaced REAP because it also provides educational assistance benefits for Reserve and National Guard members called to active duty on or after September 11, 2001, and in many cases provides a greater benefit than REAP.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL VA EDUCATION BENEFITS

#### Apply for Admission to a VA-Approved Academic Program

You must be accepted or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program. (A list of Lakeshore College programs that are approved can be found by clicking on this link: <u>VA's WEAMS Institution Search Tool</u>) or by accessing the <u>www.va.gov</u> website. Courses must meet graduation requirements for your enrolled VA-approved program. Apply for Admission to Lakeshore College online.

#### **Apply for Education benefits**

Go to <u>Vets.gov</u> to apply online for the Veteran Education Benefit/Chapter for which you are eligible. First time applicants of Federal VA Educational Benefits are encouraged to contact the Lakeshore College Veterans School Certifying Official (SCO) 6-8 weeks prior to their first semester to help you with the next steps.

#### New Student - 1st Time Using Benefits

- For CH30, CH33, CH1606: Complete Form 22-1990 Application for Educational Benefits.
- For CH33-ToE: Complete Form 22-1990e Application for Family Member to Use Transferred Benefits. First the Veteran, while in the Armed Forces, must have designated the dependent as being eligible to receive transferred entitlement.
- For CH35: Complete Form 22-5490 Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits.
- For CH31: Complete Form 28-1900 Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation.
- If active duty veteran, submit Form DD214 Member 2 or 4 copy.
- For CH1606: If a Reservist/National Guard Member, submit NOBE (Form DD2384),
- Before each term you wish to use any Federal Veteran Benefit, complete the Lakeshore College Veteran Education Benefits Request form (summer, fall, or spring). Lakeshore College School Certifying Official (SCO) will provide you with the link to complete this online form.

#### **Student Transferring from Another School**

- For CH30, CH33, CH1606: Complete Form 22-1995 Change of Program/Place of Training.
- For CH33-ToE, CH33 Fry Scholarship, CH35: Complete Form 22-5495 Dependents' Request for Change of Program or Place of Training form (22-5495).
- Before each term you wish to use any Federal Veteran Benefit, complete the Lakeshore College Veteran Education Benefits Request form (summer, fall, or spring). Lakeshore College School Certifying Official (SCO) will provide you with the link to complete this online form.

#### **Continuing Lakeshore College Student**

• Before each term you wish to use any Federal Veteran Benefit, complete the Lakeshore College Veteran Education Benefits Request form (summer, fall, or spring). Lakeshore College School Certifying Official (SCO) will provide you with the link to complete this online form. This form must be done for each term or benefits will not be paid and late fees will be assessed.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – FEDERAL VA EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

#### Address Change

Report any change in address to Lakeshore College Records Department. Also report a change of address to the Veterans Administration via the WAVE process (see below).

#### Credits/Enrollment

Credits will be certified for dates/weeks listed on your registration.

Training time for any semester is based upon number of credits AND number of weeks the course meets. Not all courses are the same length of time, which may affect rate of pay during the semester. You might have a total of 12 credits and think you are full-time but may not be due to VA calculation that considers weeks.

#### **Enrollment Status Changes**

It is the responsibility of the student receiving Federal VA Educational Benefits to notify the Lakeshore College Veterans School Certifying Official (SCO) of any changes in enrollment or withdrawal.

#### **Called to Active Duty While a Student**

If you are called to active duty while attending Lakeshore College, you must provide the Veterans School Certifying Official (SCO) with a copy of your orders. You must also contact Lakeshore College Records to withdraw from your courses. You will receive a 100% tuition refund unless you are able to complete course requirements prior to deployment. Upon return from active duty, you will must provide the Veterans Certifying Official with a copy of your DD214. You can be reinstated at the status you were at when deployed.

#### Monthly Student Verification of Enrollment

**CH30, CH1606, CH1607 students:** are required, on a monthly basis, to verify attendance to the VA (WAVE verification). Student verification of enrollment triggers the VA to issue the prior month's check to the student. Use <u>Web Automated</u> <u>Verification of Enrollment (WAVE)-https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do</u> or call VA toll free Interactive Voice Response (IVR) telephone line at 1-877-VA-ECERT (1-877-823-2378) to verify your attendance. **CH35 DEA students who are in a non-degree program:** must verify attendance by calling

1-888-GI BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551), or by using "Ask VA.gov" (formerly "Ask a Question").

On-line WAVE accessibility can also be used to change your mailing address and direct deposit, view current benefit information, sign up for monthly reminder messages, and determine if there is anything pending at VA.

#### Prior Credits/Military Experience

Request your Official Military Transcript be sent to Lakeshore College, so it can be reviewed for any training that could give you advanced standing credit for classes at Lakeshore College. Lakeshore College Registrar will review the transfer credits.

- Go to Joint Services Transcript (JST) site <u>https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signIn.do</u> Click on "How to request an official transcript" for instructions.
- If you were in the Air Force, go to: <u>https://www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/</u> and click on "Order a Transcript" box and the "Mail in Transcript Request Form" blue link to print out/complete the form and mail to address shown.
- Lakeshore College awards credit for prior learning based on years of service, if the applicable classes are in your program. To determine this, submit a DD-214 or NGB-22 showing years of service and honorable discharge.

#### **Tuition and Fees**

All students are required to pay for their tuition and fees except those receiving Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 benefits (including Fry Scholarship and Transfer of Entitlement). Only Chapter 31 students may charge books. Chapter 33 book charging is not possible as CH33 book allowance is paid directly to students, not Lakeshore College. Once all required forms are submitted, your student account will be updated to reflect charges covered by Veteran Benefits. You must pay or set up payment arrangement for any remaining balance by the payment arrangement deadline or late fees will be assessed. For tuition deadlines and Payment Arrangement options, see <a href="https://gotoltc.edu/financial-aid/pay-tuition/">https://gotoltc.edu/financial-aid/pay-tuition/</a>.

## STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (WDVA) BENEFITS

#### Introduction

There are a variety of different State Veteran Programs available. **Applications/eligibility determination forms can be obtained from the County Veterans Service Office.** You can find your individual <u>County</u> <u>Veterans Service Office</u> online. Often CVS offices are in the County Courthouse but not always.

Manitowoc County Veterans Service Office: Veterans Service Office, 1701 Michigan Avenue, Manitowoc, WI 54220. Phone (920) 683-4055 or 920-683-4417.

<u>Sheboygan County Veterans Service Office</u>: Sheboygan County CVSO, Aging and Disability Resource Center, 650 Forest Avenue, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085. Phone (920) 459-3053.

Listed below are current State Veterans Programs available for students attending college.

#### Wisconsin GI Bill (WGIB)

Effective with the fall 2005 semester, for eligible Veterans or their eligible dependents, the Wisconsin GI Bill provides a waiver ("remission") of "Program Fees" and "Material Fees" portion of tuition only (not "Supplemental Fees", Insurance, or Tools which the student would owe.) for up to eight full-time semesters or 128 credits at any <u>University of WI System</u> or <u>WI Technical College System</u> institution. The veteran must have entered service as a Wisconsin resident or made residency for five consecutive years.

100% remission of Program and Material fees is provided for:

- Veterans who qualifies
- Unremarried surviving spouse and children (ages 18-26) of a veteran who died in the line of duty.
- Spouse and children (ages 18-26) of a veteran with substantial service-connected disabilities (combined VA service-connected disability rating of 30% or greater).

Residency status must be one of the following:

- Spouse/dependent must be currently residing in Wisconsin at time of application and veteran must have been a Wisconsin resident at time of entry into active duty, **OR**
- The veteran and spouse/dependent must have been residing in the State of Wisconsin for at least 5 consecutive years immediately preceding the semester/term for which they register.

For additional information, eligibility criteria, instructions on how to apply for the Wisconsin GI Bill, and statutory citations for the program, see the Wisconsin Tuition Programs Brochure by accessing this link: <u>WDVA Wisconsin GI Bill</u>. Requires Form WDVA2029, Form WDVA2030, Form WDVA2031, and for dependents, Birth and/or Marriage Certificates.

#### **Wisconsin National Guard Tuition Grant**

This grant is available for guard members and reimburses 100% of the member's **TUITION COSTS** after satisfactory completion of the semester. Student must have completed semester with a GPA of 2.0 or better.

Guard members must contact their guard unit for eligibility verification and application paperwork or access the application via this website: <u>https://dma.wi.gov/DMA/support/education</u>. **PLEASE NOTE, THERE IS A 90-DAY DEADLINE FROM THE END OF THE SEMESTER FOR SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION TO THE COLLEGE.** 

#### Veterans Education (VetEd) Grant

The Veterans Education Grant Program (VetEd), S45.20 Wisconsin Statutes, reimburses veterans for tuition and fees paid for courses when enrolled as an undergraduate student. **Wisconsin veterans who do not have a bachelor's degree** may use the VetEd to pursue educational or vocational objectives up to a bachelor's degree at an eligible school. Reimbursement may be up to 100% of unreimbursed tuition and fees, not to exceed the amount charged by UW-Madison for the same number of credits. **The reimbursement percentage may be adjusted periodically to reflect demand and available funding.** 

Courses must contribute to a degree, certificate of graduation, or course completion. Courses offered under clock-hour standards are not eligible for reimbursement. The maximum number of credits for which a veteran may receive reimbursement is based on the amount of time the veteran served on active duty. Active Duty for Training does not count toward department or program eligibility.

Active Duty Time	Maximum Amount of Credits		
90 to 180 days	30 credits or two semesters		
181 to 730 days	60 credits or four semesters		
731 days or more	120 credits or eight semesters		

Veterans must achieve a semester GPA of 2.0 or better to be eligible for reimbursement and must submit the application to WDVA no later than 60 days after the start of the academic period. The WDVA 2200 application and information can be accessed via this website: <u>WDVA VetEd Grant</u> or can be applied for through the County Veterans Service Office.

Veterans may use the VetEd for full-time or part-time study up to their 10-year anniversary of leaving active duty (delimiting date). To be eligible for the VetEd Grant, the veteran's household income must be below \$50,000 plus \$1,000 for each dependent in excess of two dependents. Information can also be found in the <u>Wisconsin Tuition Programs Brochure</u>, which can be linked to from the Veteran Section of the Lakeshore College website.

#### **Retraining Grant**

Recently unemployed or underemployed veterans may receive up to \$3000 per year for a maximum of two years, if they have a financial need while being retrained for employment. Amount is determined by financial need as calculated by the WDVA. Other grants will be included when determining need for this program and will be included on the application. The Retraining Grant Application can be accessed via this website: <u>WDVA</u> <u>Retraining Grant</u> can be applied for through the County Veterans Service office.

## Lakeshore College Veteran Benefits Guide

To qualify, applicant must have been involuntarily laid off or discharged (not due to willful misconduct) within a period beginning one year before the date the WDVA receives the application. Must have been employed for at least six consecutive months with the same employer or in the same or similar occupations. At least one day of that employment must have been within the period beginning one year before the date that the WDVA receives the application.

Must have current annual income from employment that does not exceed federal poverty guidelines. Must be currently enrolled in a technical education program or structured on-the-job training program that will be completed within two years of the date application is received by WDVA and it must reasonably be expected to lead to employment. Written verification of satisfactory progress may be required by WDVA.

Applicant may receive a second retraining grant no sooner than one year after first grant was issued. Cannot receive more than two retraining grants or a retraining grant and another WDVA education grant for the same period.

## **OTHER ASSISTANCE**

#### **Financial Aid**

A comprehensive financial aid program helps students who would otherwise be unable to afford their education.

The financial aid program is administered on the principle that financial assistance should be viewed only as supplementary to the efforts of the family. Therefore, to determine need and make awards fairly, the parents of aid applicants are required to complete a financial aid application. In the case of a student who is clearly self-supporting in accordance with federal guidelines, eligibility is based on the financial resources of the student and/or spouse. All financial aid awards are based on the applicant's financial need as determined by the Financial Aid Office.

Applications for financial aid or questions/concerns regarding financial aid should be directed to the Financial Aid Office, (920) 693-1718, <u>financial.aid@gotoltc.edu</u>. The Veterans School Certifying Official (SCO) can also assist with financial aid questions/concerns. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (<u>FAFSA</u>) after October 1 each year to apply for aid for the next school year.

#### **Scholarships**

The Lakeshore College Foundation operates for the purpose of aiding students and the college. <u>Lakeshore</u> <u>College Foundation Scholarships</u> links you to the single application to fill out to be considered for all Foundation Scholarships. Their application deadline for fall scholarships is generally around the middle of March; for spring scholarships, around the end of October.

Students can also click <u>"Additional Scholarship Opportunities Listing"</u> to view a listing of other outside (external) scholarships, their criteria, and application information.

## Veterans Standards of Progress - Policy for <u>Federal</u> Benefits

To obtain federal veterans educational benefits government regulations require you to maintain satisfactory academic progress in the program in which you are enrolled. Academic suspension will be reported to the Veterans Administration, as officials at Lakeshore Technical College are obligated to do so. Failure to meet satisfactory progress requirements will result in:

**GPA of 1.0 to 1.99 - veterans academic probation** during the next semester of enrollment. During the semester you are on veterans academic probation you must achieve satisfactory progress with a 2.0 GPA or lose eligibility for benefits the following semester.

**GPA of .99 or lower - veterans academic suspension.** If you earn less than a 1.0 grade point average for any semester, you will lose your eligibility for veterans benefits. If you become ineligible for veterans benefits, you can reestablish eligibility by seeking counseling services through your Lakeshore College guidance counselor in order to resolve academic or other problems and to establish a meaningful plan for successful completion of your education or training. A specific request for resumption of veterans benefits following an interruption due to unsatisfactory progress or conduct must be filled out by you and your counselor and submitted to the veterans certifying official at Lakeshore College to determine whether further payments of veterans educational assistance allowance should be authorized. This form will be mailed to you with notification of your unsatisfac-tory progress. You can reestablish eligibility in this manner only one time. If you are suspended a second time, you will need to take six credits in a semester and pass with a 2.0 GPA or greater. You will be able to resume your benefits the semester following this.

The law prohibits any payment for a course which is not used in computing graduation requirements unless extenuating circumstances are shown. If you fail a course, you are allowed one retake, and you will have one year to retake it. If you fail that course a second time, you will be required to pay for it on your own the third time.

If you feel there are extenuating circumstances, you should notify the Veterans Administration of the circumstances. The Veterans Administration will then make a decision regarding whether the extenuating circumstances are beyond your control.

If you do write to the Veterans Administration, explain the circumstances in detail in order that a fair and just decision can be made. Be sure to include your Veterans Administration claim number. Any correspondence should be addressed to:

Veterans Administration Regional Office P.O. Box 4616 Buffalo, NY 14240-4616

## Veterans Standards of Progress - Policy for Wisconsin GI Bill Benefits

As of January 1, 2014, a student must have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA to qualify for benefits (Wisconsin GI Bill tuition/material fee waiver). Student will be responsible for any costs associated with attending classes, if cumulative GPA is below 2.0. This will be a requirement for every semester.

If you lose your WI GI Bill eligibility because of your GPA but later improve your cumulative GPA to at least 2.0, you will be able to use the WI GI Bill during the next semester in which you enroll for classes.

Supplemental stipends will still be paid if the 2.0 cumulative GPA is not met but student has met eligibility criteria for that (applied/eligible for Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill federal benefits and relinquished other federal benefits and has Wisconsin GI Bill eligibility).

Education Rates				
	As of	October 1, 2024		
Training Time	Chapter 30 3-Yr. or More Obligation	Chapter 30 Less Than 3-Yr. Obligation	Chapter 1606 Selected Reserve/Guard	Chapter 35 Survivor & Dependents
Full-time 12 Credits or More	\$2,358.00	\$1,913.00	\$466.00	\$1,488.00
3/4-Time 9-11 Credits	\$1,768.50	\$1,434.75	\$349.00	\$1,176.00
Half-Time 6-8 Credits	\$1,179.00	\$956.50	\$233.00	\$862.00
Less Than Half-Time, More Than 1/4-Time	Tuition & Fees Not to Exceed \$1,179.00	Tuition & Fees Not to Exceed \$956.50	\$116.50	Tuition & Fees Not to Exceed \$862
1/4-Time or Less	Tuition & Fees Not to Exceed \$589.50	Tuition & Fees Not to Exceed \$478.25	\$116.50	Tuition & Fees Not to Exceed \$372
Apprenticeship/OJT 1-6 Months	\$1,768.50	\$1,434.75	\$349.50	\$945.00
Apprenticeship/OJT 7-12 Months	\$1,296.90	\$1,052.15	\$256.30	\$710.00
Apprenticeship/OJT +1 year	\$825.30	\$669.55	\$163.10	\$466.00
Apprenticeship/OJT Remainder	N/A	N/A	\$163.10	\$237.00 19+ months

CH30: https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/montgomery-active-duty-rates/

CH1606: https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/montgomery-selected-reserve-rates/

CH35: https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/chapter-35-rates/

Chapter 31 Monthly Subsistence Allowance					
	As of	October 1, 2024			
		Number of	Dependents		
	0 1 2 Addi				
Full-time 12cr or more	\$723.56	\$897.51	\$1,057.65	\$77.07	
3/4-time 9-11cr	\$543.68	\$674.11	\$790.75	\$59.30	
1/2-time 6-8cr	\$363.77	\$450.71	\$529.79	\$39.55	
1/4-time* Less than 6cr	\$181.86	\$225.39	\$264.90	\$19.73	

\*The quarter-time rate may be paid only during extended evaluation.

CH31: https://www.benefits.va.gov/VOCREHAB/VREratesFY23.asp

## Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Basic Allowance for Housing Effective 8/1/2024

Lakeshore College Cleveland Campus: 53015	\$1,209 at full-time status	(was \$1,152)
Lakeshore College Sheboygan: 53081	\$1,332 at full-time status	(was \$1,242)
LC Manitowoc & School of Agriculture: 54220	\$1,209 at full-time status	(was \$1,15 <b>2</b> )
Distance Learning Only: (non-locality)	\$ 938 at full-time status	(was \$917)

Shared Program School BAH by Request.

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Rate is adjusted based on number of credits and % eligibility and based on E-5 with dependents.

Must be equivalent to 7 credits in a traditional semester time period in order to receive BAH. Can receive BAH and books/supplies stipend for apprenticeship and on-the-job training.

For BAH Calculator and FAQs, search online here: va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/