

How do I get my GI Bill started?

- If you have not already done so, you will need to apply for your Chapter 35 DEA benefits through the VA: <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>.
 - Once the VA processes your application (8-10 weeks), they will send you a Certificate of Eligibility in the mail. Please forward a copy of the COE to me. You can scan the COE, or take a picture of it with your phone, and email it to me.
 - I also need you to submit the online, internal-to-UK, benefit request form after you register for classes: <http://seeblue.com/varequest> When you select Chapter 35 DEA in the “VA Chapter” section, a field will populate for your file number. That is the veteran’s social security number.
 - I need this form every semester, and I always send out a group email to remind everyone to turn the form in each term. Please be sure to check your UK email regularly. All communication from my office will go to your UK email address.

What does the GI Bill Pay?

- The Chapter 35 DEA GI Bill pays a monthly stipend of \$1,401 directly to you while class is in session.
- The payment will direct-deposit into the bank routing number you provided to the VA on your original application for benefits.
- The GI Bill pays a month in arrears.
 - The earliest you can expect to see payment from the VA for the Fall term is around September first. That payment will be a small one since we are only in class for about a week in August.
 - The first full payment will arrive around October 1st, payment for September.
- I do not have access to VA payment records to check on the status of your GI Bill payments.
 - If you have questions about your GI Bill stipend, please contact the VA directly at 888-442-4551.
 - Please allow a 5-day window on either side of the first of each month for the payment to appear in your account.

Using your GI Bill to pay for tuition and/or on-campus housing and dining

- The total funds received from your Chapter 35 DEA GI Bill will not cover your tuition charges.
 - The base tuition for 2022-23 is \$6,429 per semester. Depending on your schedule, you may also have additional course and/or program fees.
 - You will receive a total of roughly \$5,600 from the VA over the course of the semester.
 - You should work with your Financial Aid counselor to identify other sources of funding to cover your educational expenses: <https://www.uky.edu/financialaid/>.
- If you have other sources of Financial Aid to cover tuition, and want to use your Chapter 35 DEA GI Bill stipend to pay towards your dorm and dining costs, you will need to make arrangements with Wendy Christian in Student Account Services to pay those fees in installments. You can reach Wendy at wcch222@uky.edu.
 - You will need to contact Wendy **every semester** to prevent late fees from accruing to your account.
 - Again, keep in mind that you will receive roughly \$5600 in GI Bill funds throughout the course of the semester. Depending on your dorm and meal plan, you may very well have out-of-pocket expenses for those charges.

Residency and Chapter 35

- The University of Kentucky will change your residency status to in-state, based on your Chapter 35 DEA GI Bill eligibility.
 - I need a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility from the VA to get your status changed.
 - You can scan the COE, or take a picture of it with your phone, and email it to me.