



Veterans Resource Center

Office for Student Success

Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)

Benefit Information

VRC Office Information:

VetCenter@uky.edu

(859) 257-1148

Monday-Friday - 7:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Ground Floor, Erikson Hall

Post-9/11 (Chapter 33) Benefit Process and Residency Changes

Starting Benefits

1. Apply for your Post-9/11 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 (COE) in the mail. **Please scan the COE, or take a picture of it with your phone, and email it to VetCenter@uky.edu**

2. Submit the online, internal-to-UK, benefit request form after you register for classes: <https://go.uky.edu/varequest>

- The **VRC needs this form every semester**. An email reminder will be sent out each term to turn in the form. **Please check your UK email regularly. All communication from the VRC will go to your UK email address.**

Residency Changes

Residency Changes

When the VRC receives your VA Certificate of Eligibility, if you are an out of state student, you will be changed to an in-state student status for tuition purposes.

*This is a federal law the VRC and University must follow

Maintaining In-State Resident Status

Residency status of a student will be reevaluated if a student has exhausted their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and the following circumstance(s) arise:

- Graduates from current degree program and reapplies to another degree program (i.e. a student graduates from an undergraduate program and applies for a graduate degree program, Medical school, Law school etc.)
- Takes an extended leave of absence from the University of Kentucky

**If neither of these situations arise, a student will maintain the in-state student status even after Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are exhausted*

Post-9/11 GI Bill Certification Process

- Enrolled semester credit hours are first submitted to the VA - this generates the book and housing stipend.
- Tuition charges are submitted to VA at the end of the first week of classes.
 - All charges will be stable at that time and will not change unless student falls below full time
 - Student will receive automated email from VA after enrolled hours are submitted stating "...school submitted \$0.00 in tuition and fees so VA not forwarding payment" - UK School Certifying Official places an interest-lock on the students account to prevent late fees from being assessed.

What Does Post-9/11 Benefit Pay?

- **Tuition Payment** - VA pays directly to the University of Kentucky
 - UK cannot give a timeline on when the VA will pay the tuition bill for students - **this will be last payment to arrive**
 - All students receiving Post-9/11 benefits will have an interest lock placed on their student account to prevent late fees from accruing
**If you receive a late fee email the VRC at vetcenter@uky.edu*
- **Monthly Housing Allowance** - VA pays directly to bank account they have on file
 - Pays a month in arrears
 - VA bases MHA on the monthly military Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates for an E-5 with dependents, percentage benefits eligible for and number of credit hours taking
**More information visit: <https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/post-9-11-gi-bill-rates/>*
- **Book Stipend** - VA pays directly to bank account they have on file
 - Pays at a \$41.67 per credit hour; maxes out at \$1,000 per academic year
 - This will be first payment to arrive, but a date cannot be given on when VA will issue the payment
 - If book stipend has not been received when classes begin, student can charge up to \$700 at the UK bookstore directly to their student account
**You will be required to pay these charges after receiving the stipend from the VA*

Important Note:

Dollar amounts started above are based on Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at the 100% tier. Student that qualifies for GI Bill benefits at less than 100% tier, the payments will be prorated to the percentage of the benefit that student qualifies for.

Financial Aid/Scholarships and the GI Bill

- Tuition specific aid **must** be deducted from the amount of tuition that is reported to the VA
 - Vast majority of financial aid/scholarships are **not** tuition-specific
 - Examples of tuition-specific aid are: UK's Employee Education & Family Education program; ROTC scholarships; National Guard tuition assistance; certain athletic scholarships; some academic scholarships
**This is not an exhaustive list - there are the most common examples*
- Student Financial Aid awards (scholarships, grants, KEES money, student loans, etc) will post to student account before tuition payment from the VA and will pay towards the balance of the student account.
- If there is an overage on the student account after the VA tuition payment posts, a refund will be issued to the student
 - For refund to be issued, student needs to set up direct deposit account with Student Account Services - can be done in the students MyUK portal
- For questions about non-GI Bill Financial Aid, contact your Financial Aid counselor:<https://www.uky.edu/financialaid/>

Post-9/11 GI Bill - Living on Campus

- Tuition Payment is only payment that VA pays directly to the University of Kentucky - **student is responsible to pay on-campus housing and dining charges**
- If Student plans to use monthly housing stipend from the VA to pay on-campus housing and/or dining charges, **student has until middle of November (Fall Semester) and middle of April (Spring Semester) to pay full balance** - student **does not** need to sign up for installment payment plan with Student Account Services
**Exact payment deadline is established by Student Account Services*
 - If these deadlines are not feasible, contact Wendy Christian in Student Account Services (wcch222@uky.edu), she will work with student/families on a case-by-case basis to extend deadline

Depending on students housing, meal plan and additional Financial Aid, student may have out-of-pocket expenses not covered by Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Post-9/11 GI Bill - Billing Cycle

- Student will continue to receive a bill from the University of Kentucky while a balance remains on their student account
- As long as student has submitted internal benefit request form to the UK Veterans Resource Center for that semester, student will not be charged late fees while the university waits for the tuition payment from the VA (<https://go.uky.edu/varequest>)

Online Classes and GI Bill Benefits

- Student must be enrolled in at least one in-person class to receive the full amount for the monthly housing stipend.
 - If student is enrolled in solely online courses, the housing stipend pays at half the national average (just over \$900 per month)

Verifying Attendance with the VA

- Student receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits **must verify attendance** with the VA at the end of each month that class is in session to receive their monthly stipend
- VA will reach out to student directly via text message after initial certification is submitted
 - Opt-in text message will be sent to phone number on original benefit application submitted to the VA
 - The **VRC strongly recommends student to reply "yes" to opt-in text verification system**
 - If student does not opt-in to text message verification within 14 days of the original opt-in text from the VA, they will automatically default to email verification.
**Email will be sent to address student/parent included on original benefit application that was submitted to the VA.*
- If student fails to verify attendance with the VA for two months in a row, their monthly housing stipend will be suspended.
- Here is the link to a YouTube video with instructions on how to verify attendance with the VA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKq-reD01ZA>
- For questions about verifying attendance, contact the VA Education Hotline at 888-442-4551