

# Student Veteran Guide

## STEPS to SUCCESS

STEP 1

### Apply to Tri-C®

Submit a free application online or in person at any Tri-C® Enrollment Center. Receive your S-number in 3 to 5 business days and log into my Tri-C space.

STEP 2

### Apply for VA Educational Benefits

Visit [vets.gov](http://vets.gov) to apply for educational benefits using VA Form 22-1990. Refer to the GI Bill Comparison Chart to determine eligibility. VONAPP is available for other form needs (see 'Applying for Benefits').

STEP 3

### Financial Aid and Scholarships

Make sure to finish your FAFSA and complete the necessary administrative forms for financial aid. Apply for scholarships at [www.tri-c.edu/scholarships](http://www.tri-c.edu/scholarships).

STEP 4

### Request Your Military Transcripts

Submit official military transcripts along with all official high school and college transcripts. Air Force veterans should visit [www.tri-c.edu/veterans/veterans-web-resources.html](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans/veterans-web-resources.html) to obtain transcripts.

STEP 5

### Placement Test and VUB

Take placement tests in math and English (if necessary). This will identify which courses you will be placed in. See our website for more details on VUB's free refresher courses if your results aren't what you expected. New students will need to attend an orientation session after completing the placement tests.

STEP 6

### Meet With a Counselor

Meet with an academic counselor to make sure the classes you take will apply toward your degree and are in line with your course sequence to avoid certification issues.

STEP 7

### Register for Classes

Register for classes each semester through *my Tri-C space* or with your counselor. Tri-C offers priority registration for veterans.

STEP 8

### Submit GI Bill Certification Form

This form must be submitted to a campus certifying official each semester in which you wish to utilize benefits. You must submit the form 30 days prior to the start of the semester to ensure proper documentation is in place for payment.

### How are benefits broken down?

Benefits will be awarded based on session/term start date and total credits. The VA's definition of full time does not always align with Tri-C or financial aid.

The minimum full-time course load for VA education benefits is as follows:

- 12 credit hours for 16-week terms
- 10 credit hours for 14-week terms
- 7 credit hours for 10-week terms
- 6 credit hours for 8-week terms
- 4 credit hours for 5-week terms

#### For example:

Student veteran R. Smith started one 16-week class on Jan 14. On Jan. 28, Smith picked up several 14-week classes, bumping the schedule up to full-time status only at the start of the 14-week session.

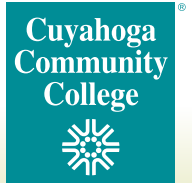
**Please visit our website** for direct links to scholarship resources, job opportunities, events, campus support teams, military transcript and education benefit information, forms and other community initiatives.



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[www.tri-c.edu/veterans](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans)



## Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)

Veterans Upward Bound refresher courses prepare students for success in college. Courses are available in English, math, science and computer skills. Additionally, VUB provides instruction on various college skills such as time management, goal setting, financial aid, note taking and campus resources. Open tutoring hours are available for students who want extra help or wish to move at a quicker pace.

## Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for services through Veterans Upward Bound, individuals must meet the following conditions:

- Completed at least 180 days active duty (less if certain conditions apply)
- DD-214 discharge other than dishonorable
- No previous college degree
- Demonstrated academic need based on individual skills assessment

The VUB team provides all resources and class materials to students at no cost. Free bus passes are also available.

Visit [www.tri-c.edu/vub](http://www.tri-c.edu/vub) for more information.



## Military Transcripts

Be sure to have your transcripts evaluated to determine if you can receive academic credit for your military training. The process can take up to four weeks, so keep an eye on your Tri-C email for notification that your transcripts have been evaluated. A counselor and program manager will advise you on how credits can be applied to your specific degree. The primary contact for military transcripts is Chris Dorsten at 216-987-3664 or [chris.dorsten@tri-c.edu](mailto:chris.dorsten@tri-c.edu).

### Joint Services Transcript (JST):

Order your free official transcripts and review unofficial transcripts and summaries of equivalent credits. Register at <https://jst.doded.mil>.

### Air Force veteran?

Check out Air University at [www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/](http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/) to review various options for ordering your transcripts.



## Applying for Benefits

First-time users of educational benefits must complete the 22-1990 form at [www.vets.gov/education/apply/](http://www.vets.gov/education/apply/).

The VONAPP system (old 22-1990 site) still contains other important forms such as compensation, pension, vocational rehabilitation, employment, burial benefits, change in place/training and dependent application for VA benefits.

Do not use forms 22-1990N or 22-1990E to apply for Post 9/11 GI Bill, CH30 or CH1606. The 22-1990N is for National Call to Service only. The 22-1990E is for family members to use transferred benefits.

## CONTACTS:

VA Regional Office  
(St. Louis, MO)  
1-888-GIBILL-1  
(1-888-442-4551)

Direct Deposit Center  
1-877-838-2778

Enrollment Certification  
1-877-823-2378

## Which Veterans Education Benefit Should I Use?

### DEPENDENT

- **Chapter 33:** Post 9/11 GI Bill
- **Chapter 35:** Dependents Educational Assistance

### VETERAN

- **Chapter 30:** Montgomery GI Bill (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- **Chapter 31:** Voc Rehab (Service-Connected Reability)
- **Chapter 33:** Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)

PLEASE NOTE: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines eligibility for veterans education benefits.

## STILL SERVING?

### ACTIVE DUTY

- Tuition Assistance

### RESERVIST OR NATIONAL GUARD

#### Deployment

- **ONGSP:** NG only (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- **Chapter 33:** Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)
- **Chapter 1607:** REAP\*
- **Tuition Assistance**

#### No Deployment

- **ONGSP:** NG only (Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserves)
- **Chapter 1606**
- **Tuition Assistance**

\*REAP has been terminated for all applicants, with complete termination expected in November 2019.

Disclaimer: This is a visual aid and not an exhaustive explanation of benefits; nor does it include every possible scenario of benefits eligibility.

