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# Survivors and Dependents (AKA Chapter 35)

#### Overview

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. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

### **Eligibility**

The student 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 permanent and total service-connected disability was in existence.
- A servicemember missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.
- A servicemember forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.
- A servicemember who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability. This change is effective December 23, 2006.

#### **Benefits**

- For the current rates for all types of training, check <u>www.gibill.va.gov</u> (click on *Payment Rates*), or contact us through phone or e-mail.
- The basic monthly rates increase October 1 every year with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase. While you're in training, you'll receive a letter with the current rates when the increase goes into effect each year.
- The rates may increase at other times by an act of Congress.
- You receive the rates as described on the next page, up to the remaining amount of your entitlement for benefits, or up to the end of your eligibility period, whichever comes first.

## Frequency and Rate of Payment for College training

Monthly payments based on your training time—Full time, three quarter time, half time. When you train at less than half time, you'll be paid tuition and fees. But if tuition and fees amount to more than you would be paid at the half-time rate (or the quarter-time rate if you're training at quarter-time or less), your payments will be limited to the half-time (or the quarter-time rate).

#### Housing Allowance from VA

Beginning August 1, 2011, break (or interval pay) will no longer be payable under Post-9/11 GI Bill (and other Chapters with housing allowances) except during periods the school is closed as a result of an Executive Order of the President or an emergency (such as a natural disaster or

strike). For example, if the Fall term ends on December 15th and the Spring term begins January 10th, the student's January housing allowance will cover 15 days in December and their February housing allowance will cover 21 days in January.

## **Applying**

Obtain and complete VA Form 22-5490, Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance. Send it to the VA regional office with jurisdiction over the State where you will train (Buffalo). If student is a son or daughter, under legal age, a parent or guardian must sign the application.

If student has started training, they must bring their application to the School Certifying Official (SCO). The SCO will complete VA Form <u>22-1999</u>, submit an Enrollment Certification, and send both forms to VA.

http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/other\_programs/dea.html