



Guide to VA Education Benefits

Welcome to UCLA all veteran benefit recipients!

This packet contains an overview of all veteran educational benefits that can be used at UCLA. Please save this packet and use it as a resource and guide throughout your time at UCLA for any questions or concerns that may arise.

What are the different types of benefits that can be used at UCLA and what do they cover?

Ch.33 Post 9/11 GI Bill (Veterans or Dependents)

- In-state portion of your tuition & fees: Equivalent to GI Bill eligibility percentage.
- Monthly Housing Allowance ("BAH"): \$2,997
- Book stipend: \$1,000 per school year
- Priority registration/priority housing (if student is a veteran)

Ch.30 Montgomery GI Bill (Veterans only)

- Monthly stipend only: \$1,994
- Priority registration/priority housing

Ch.31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Veterans only)

- Full coverage of tuition & fees (excluding the UCSHIP student health insurance charge)
- Monthly Housing Allowance ("BAH"): \$600 - \$2,997
- Books, parking and supplies: If authorized by your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- Priority registration/priority housing

Ch. 1606/1607 Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Reservists)

- Monthly stipend only: \$384

Ch. 35 Dependents Education Assistance (Dependents only)

- Monthly stipend only: \$1,224

California Veterans Fee Waiver (Dependents only)

- Waives the tuition charge and the student services fee
- Does not cover any campus-based fees or the UCSHIP student health insurance charge



How do I apply for benefits?

Chapter 30, 33, 35 and 1606 benefits

- Apply online at www.vets.gov. If eligible, the VA will mail you a Certificate of Eligibility. Once you have this, please turn it in to the UCLA Veterans Benefits Coordinator.

Chapter 31 benefits

- Apply with a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. If approved, your counselor will then email your award letter documents to the UCLA Veterans Benefits Coordinator.

California Veterans Fee Waiver

- Apply at any County Veterans Services Office in California. To find a location, visit the CalVet website for a full list.
- Once you have been given an award letter, please turn it in to the UCLA Veterans Benefits Coordinator. For the school year beginning in Fall 2019, you will need to apply for the 2019-2020 version of the CalVet waiver, which will cover Fall 2019 through Summer 2020. You will need to reapply for an updated CalVet waiver every year.

What happens next?

Chapter 30, 31, 33, 35 and 1606/1607 benefits

- A few weeks prior to the beginning of the quarter, we will check your record to see if you have reached full-time enrollment: 12 units or more for undergrads, or 8 units or more for most graduate level programs. If you have, we will proceed to the next step (and if not, your file will be placed aside until you have).
- We will then login to our online VA system and provide them with the following information for that quarter: start date, end date, # of units you are taking, and what you are being charged for tuition & fees. This is called an "enrollment certification".



You will receive an automated email from the VA letting you know that this has been done. For students using the Ch.33 Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, we will at this time place a “Ch.33 VA Fee Deferral” your BruinBill, which will place you in a paid-in-full status behind the scenes while we are waiting on your VA funding to arrive so that you are not dropped from your classes at the tuition payment deadline.

- Funding will arrive about a month after the enrollment certification has been submitted for a given quarter/semester. Tuition funding will be sent directly from the VA to UCLA and will be posted to your BruinBill.

Stipend/BAH funding is sent directly from the VA to the student, around the 1st of the month by direct deposit, and pays for the *prior* month’s enrollment. For instance, you will receive payment for your February enrollment around March 1st.

The amount of funding that will arrive – both for your tuition and for your BAH/stipend – is based on your eligibility percentage, which can be found on your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or eBenefits statement. For example, if your eligibility percentage is 60% then you will receive 60% of the BAH amount and 60% of the full tuition & fees charge.

- We will automatically process enrollment certifications on your behalf for the regular quarters (Fall, Winter, Spring) unless you inform us not to; if you would like to use your benefits for a Summer session however, you have to contact the Veterans Benefits Coordinator and make the request.
- Amendments and adjustments will be made to your enrollment certification during the quarter if any financial changes occur (ex: you’re awarded a Cal Grant late, you waive out of the UCSHIP student health insurance fee late, etc.)
- At the end of the quarter, the Veterans Benefits Coordinator will run a report to see how many units you completed. Any course withdrawals, drops, Incomplete or NP grades that resulted in you dropping below full-time enrollment will need to be reported back to the VA, which may result in you getting billed for all or a portion of your VA funding.
- For any inquiries pertaining to remaining eligibility, amount the VA may bill you for not completing a full-time course load, or about the status of an enrollment certification that has already been submitted, you’ll want to contact a live rep at the VA directly at their educational benefits line, 1-888-442-4551 or on the web via www.gibill.va.gov and clicking on the ‘Submit a Question’ tab on the right hand side of the page, or contact your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor if using Ch. 31 benefits.



California Veterans Fee Waiver (“CalVet”)

- Upon submission of your CalVet approval letter to the Veterans Benefits Coordinator, we will post the waiver towards all quarters that fall under the approved school year on the letter **as long as we have the student coded as a California resident**. The school year at UCLA begins in the Fall and runs the end of the Summer.
 - o Ex: A CalVet approval letter labeled “2019-2020” works for the Fall 2019, Winter 2020, Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 quarters.
- Similar to the chapter benefits on the previous page, CalVet benefits are automatically put through for the regular quarters (Fall, Winter Spring) but they are not automatically put through for a student’s optional Summer quarter; they are by request only. Please contact the Veterans Benefits Coordinator once your Summer session schedule is finalized.
- The CalVet waiver specifically “waives” your charges for tuition, the student services fee, and the professional school fee for grad students as well. It does not cover any campus based fees, UCSHIP student health insurance, books, rent, meals, etc.
- As UCLA charges tuition on a flat-rate basis (instead of charging by the unit) the CalVet fee waiver can be used no matter how many units you are taking, completing, dropping, withdrawing from, etc.
- Reapply every year for the CalVet fee waiver through a county veterans service office and submit a copy of your updated approval letter to the UCLA Veterans Benefits Coordinator.



What if I'm a non-resident of California?

If you are coded as non-CA resident, you will be charged a non-resident fee on top of your regular in-state resident tuition & fees. The VA does not cover the non-resident fee. Please see below as to options for having the non-resident fee waived:

Traditional

- The traditional way to possibly obtain residency is through the UCLA Residence Deputies. They can be reached at 310-825-3447 or residence deputy@registrar.ucla.edu.

Veterans Choice Act ("VACAA")

- To be eligible, students must 1) be utilizing the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and 2) the sponsoring service member is either on active duty or has separated from active duty no longer than 3 years before the student's 1st day of classes at UCLA.
- If you feel that you have met this criteria, please submit the student's GI Bill Certificate of Eligibility and the veteran or service member's verification of their status (DD-214 for veterans; Leave & Earning Statement or copy of Enlisted Record Brief for active duty military members) to the Veterans Benefits Coordinator.

Frequently Asked Questions?

Q: Who is the Veterans Benefits Coordinator? Who is the Veterans Resource Program Director?

Ryan Redding is the Veterans Benefits Coordinator for UCLA. He handles all areas of VA educational benefits. His office is located within the Registrar's Office in Murphy Hall. The best way to contact the Veterans Benefits Coordinator or submit documents is via email at vabenefit@registrar.ucla.edu. Please include your UCLA Student ID# on all correspondence.

Emily Ives is the Veterans Program Director. She works with our student veterans on all areas that fall outside of benefits – resources, events, outreach, counseling, and special issues. Her office is located in Kerckhoff Hall Room 132.



Q: How do my VA benefits affect my financial aid package?

It is critical that you inform the UCLA Financial Aid Office as early as possible about your upcoming VA funding so that they can properly adjust your financial aid offer. Failure to do so may result in you getting billed back at the end of quarter for an over-award, and if the funding has already been spent then your file may be forwarded to collections.

Q: What financial aid awards can I receive on top of my VA benefits? Which ones can I not?

The UC system-wide rule of thumb is that financial awards that are specifically designated as being *tuition & fee specific* (Cal Grants, University Grants, UCSHIP Grants, UCSHIP waivers) cannot be used on top of your Ch.33, 31 or CalVet waiver funding. However, students of any VA benefit can utilize any financial aid awards that are considered *general* in nature (Pell Grants, Student Loans, Outside Scholarships).

Q: Can I use more than one VA benefit at a time?

You cannot use more than one *chapter* benefit a time, but you are able to use the *CalVet fee waiver* in conjunction with Ch.33 or Ch.35 benefits.

Q: Do my veterans benefits cover my non-resident fee as well?

No. However, the non-resident fee can be waived for eligible Veterans Choice Act students.

Q: Will the VA reimburse me for fees incurred for national tests (LSAT, GMAT, etc.)?

Yes. Please inquire with the School Certifying Official or see VA Form 22-0810 on the web.

Q: How often does my monthly housing allowance (“BAH”) or stipend come?

BAH/stipend funds are paid out from the VA for periods in which you are enrolled in courses. (There is no VA funding for times during the year in which you are not enrolled, such as during the optional Summer quarter for example.)

Funds generally arrive via direct deposit to you on or around the 1st of the month and pay out based on the previous month’s enrollment. For a quarter that has dates of 09/29/19 to 12/19/19 for example, your payment amounts and schedule would look like this:



10/01/19: Prorated for two days of September
11/01/19: Full payment
12/01/19: Full payment
01/01/20: Prorated for nineteen days of December

Q: Can I use my VA benefits toward a study abroad program?

With very few exceptions, yes you can. Please contact the Veterans Benefits Coordinator to discuss the details of your specific program to verify that it qualifies.

Q: I'm a veteran/service member. Am I eligible for priority enrollment?

Yes. By law, active or former members of the U.S. armed forces who have left military service (with any discharge other than dishonorable or bad conduct) are eligible for priority registration. GI Bill recipients are automatically assigned a priority enrollment. Those who do not currently receive GI Bill benefits must present proof of their military service (DD Form 214 or military ID) to the Veterans Benefits Coordinator. Only students that are veterans or active duty service members are eligible for priority housing and priority enrollments, dependents are not.

Q: Can I be reimbursed for payments I make to a tutor?

Yes. The VA will pay up to \$100 per month for your tutorial assistance. Please inquire with the School Certifying Official or print VA Form 22-1990t from the web.

Q: I'm a veteran/service member. Am I eligible for priority housing?

Yes. Priority housing is a benefit provided to all of our student veterans and active duty service members. Please contact Emily Ives in the Veterans Resource Office for further information.

Q: I have a general question regarding my VA educational benefit eligibility or about the status of an enrollment certification that has already been submitted. Who should I contact?

You can contact a live rep at the VA education benefits line at 1-888-442-4551 or by visiting www.gibill.va.gov and clicking on the 'Submit a Question' tab on the right hand side of the page. Students looking to utilize Ch.31 Voc Rehab benefits can call (510) 637-6128, or contact their counselor if already enrolled in the Vocational Rehabilitation program.



Q: I use a chapter benefit and I'm enrolled less than full-time this quarter, how will my VA benefits be affected?

Generally, all UCLA students receiving veteran education benefits are enrolled full-time. However, if you would like to be certified at a less-than-full-time course load we can do that upon request. For Ch.33 benefits this won't affect the amount that the VA sends UCLA towards your tuition and fees, but for chapters 33, 35, 30, 31, and 1606/1607 your BAH/monthly stipend amount will be reduced according to your 'Rate of Pursuit' that the VA calculates on their end. For example, if you're an undergraduate student that is requesting to only be certified for 6 units, this is considered half-time enrollment, and thus you will only receive 50% of your BAH/monthly stipend. (CalVet students are not affected – see page 4.)

Q: How do I know that my Ch.33, Ch.31 or CalVet tuition funding has processed and posted?

For Ch.33 students you will see a 'Ch.33 Fee Deferral' posted on your BruinBill on the day I certified your enrollment to the VA for that quarter; this ensures that you are put in a paid-in-full status behind the scenes so that your classes aren't dropped at the tuition payment deadline while we wait on the VA to send the funding.

When the actual funding itself arrives/posts, this is how it will reflect on your BruinBill:

- Ch.33 funding will display as "Chapter 33 VA payment".
- Ch.31 funding will display as "Veteran's Affairs".
- CalVet waivers will appear as "Veteran's Dependent" and will be in the exact amount of the charges that it covers – the student services fee, tuition, and, if applicable, the professional school fee (for grad students).

Q: How are my VA benefits affected if I drop classes, receive an NP or F grade, or withdraw from the quarter?

The Veterans Benefits Coordinator runs a report at the end of each quarter and must inform the VA whenever a student doesn't complete the amount of units that they were certified for or drops below full-time. The VA will then decide how or if they will bill the student back for a portion of their tuition, BAH or stipend funding.

For example, a student that was originally certified for 16 units but drops down to 12 units is ok; nothing needs to be reported since they still completed a full-time course load (12 units or more for undergrads, 8 units or more for most grad students). However, if a student that was originally certified for 15 units and withdrew from one class and receives a NP (no pass) in another class, resulting in the completion of only 4 units, then this would need to be reported to the VA.

The *CalVet waiver* is not affected by any drops, withdrawals or fail grades.



Campus Contacts

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310-206-9160

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(310) 983-3126

UCLA Campus Resources

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)
Kerckhoff Hall Room 132
(310) 206-6915
www.veterans.ucla.edu
www.brc.ucla.edu

Counseling & Psychological Services
(CAPS)- POC: James Cones
John Wooden Center West
(310) 825-0768
www.counseling.ucla.edu

Financial Aid
A-219 Murphy Hall
(310) 206-9317
www.financialaid.ucla.edu

Career Center
Strathmore Bldg. 501
(310) 203-1025
www.career.ucla.edu

Registrar's Office
1105 Murphy Hall
(310) 825-1091
www.registrar.ucla.edu

Ashe Student Health & Wellness Center
Arthur Ashe Center
(310) 825-7693
www.studenthealth.ucla.edu

Center for Accessible Education (CAE)
A-255 Murphy Hall
(310) 825-1501
www.osd.ucla.edu

Academic Advancement Program
1232 Campbell Hall
(310) 206-1568
www.aapucla.com