

CONNECTICUT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VETERANS BENEFIT GUIDE



The federal government offers a wide variety of services to veterans through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. CT State is committed to improving the resources available for student veterans on our campuses by fostering an encouraging environment to strengthen institutional and individual goals.

A Veterans Certifying Official can help eligible students apply for Veterans Administration (VA) benefits. **You are advised to apply for veterans benefits as soon as you apply for admission to CT State through <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply>.** To be eligible for VA benefits, you must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program. Most credit programs and some non-credit programs offered by CT State are eligible for VA benefits. Approved programs can be found at the Connecticut Office of Higher Education at <https://portal.ct.gov/ohe>.

Once you have registered for classes and submitted your request for certification, CT State will certify your enrollment to the VA. Your continued certification by CT State is contingent upon meeting academic progress guidelines (*please see the section below*). If you are a student whose Combined Academic Standing indicates suspension you are academically ineligible to receive VA educational benefits.

If you are receiving VA benefits you must complete and submit a Certification/Enrollment Contract to your campus Certifying Official each semester and notify them of any changes in your course load and/or program of study. Courses must meet the requirements of the degree or certificate that you or your dependent are enrolled in.

POLICY PROTECTING STUDENTS FROM FEES AND PENALTIES DUE TO VA PAYMENT DELAY

By Title 38, US Code 3679(e), CT State has adopted the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA. CT State will not:

- Prevent a veteran student's enrollment.
- Assess a late penalty fee.
- Require students to secure alternative or additional funding.
- Deny access to any resources (including access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- For Chapter 31, provide the VA VR&E's contract with the school on VA Form 28-1905 by the first day of class.
 - Chapter 31 students cannot get a completed VA Form 28-1905 (or any equivalent) before the VA VR&E case manager issues it to the school.
- For Chapter 33, provide a Certificate of Eligibility (or its equivalent)
 - Chapter 33 students can apply for benefits through <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
- Provide written requests to be certified.
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies.

In addition, the VA GI Bill Comparison Tool will identify schools that have additional requirements. Please visit <https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool> for more information.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations require that all students receiving VA educational benefits meet CT State's academic standing policy as stated in our college catalog. Students who are suspended for failing to meet the College's academic standing policy will be reported to the VA. Students may appeal their academic suspension in accordance with CT State policy (*Please see the "Academic Suspension" section of the handbook*). Should the appeal be successful, the student's enrollment will be reported retroactively to VA for the enrollment period to which the appeal applies.

The CT State Student Handbook is available at <https://ctstate.edu/images/Forms-Documents/CTS-Student-Handbook.pdf>.

AVAILABLE BENEFIT PROGRAMS

Connecticut State Community College helps through the following sources of veteran's educational benefits. For more information regarding available veteran resources at CT State, please visit <https://www.ctstate.edu/veterans>.

- **Chapter 30** – Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty)
- **Chapter 31** – Veteran Readiness and Employment (students work directly with a case manager to coordinate payment)
- **Chapter 32** – Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP)
- **Chapter 33** – Post 9/11 GI Bill
- **Chapter 35** – Dependent Educational Assistance
- **Chapter 1606** – Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve)

For more information about the specific resources listed above, please visit <https://www.va.gov/education/eligibility>.

POST 9/11 GI BILL BENEFITS

The Post 9/11 GI Bill includes multiple payments to you. The VA pays the amount of your tuition and fees directly to CT State; all other benefits are paid directly to you. Please note, these funds are prorated if you are not eligible for the 100% tier.

- **Tuition and Fees** – If 100% eligible, it covers the full cost of public, in-state tuition and fees.
- **Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA)** – Students must be enrolled more than half time, 51% or more (at least 7 credits during the Fall and Spring semesters). Credits will vary during Summer and Winter sessions. Students enrolled half-time or less (6 or fewer credits) are not eligible.
 - Not eligible if on active duty (or spouse/dependent of service member).
 - Must take at least one on-campus class to receive the full housing allowance rate.
- **Books and Supplies Stipend** – Up to \$1,000 each academic year, based on full-time enrollment.
- **Rural Benefits** – If you need to relocate from a highly rural area so you can attend college, the VA will issue a one-time payment of \$500 to help with your moving expenses.

CONNECTICUT VETERANS' TUITION WAIVER

A waiver of general fund tuition is extended to all eligible Connecticut Veterans with service during certain wartime periods. Members of the Connecticut National Guard may also be eligible for waivers of tuition. Veterans must submit their DD-214 (Discharge Papers) to their campus Certifying Official. **Tuition waivers are not provided for summer sessions, winter intersessions, or credit-free courses.**

To be eligible for this waiver, veterans must:

- Be honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions for active service in the U.S. Armed Forces (U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard). National Guard members, activated under Title 10 of the United States Code, also are included.

- Have served at least 90 or more cumulative days active duty in time of war (please see Periods of Service below), except if separated from service earlier because of a federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) rated service-connected disability; or the war, campaign, or operation lasted less than 90 days and service was for the duration.
- Be accepted for admission at CT State.
- Be domiciled in Connecticut at the time of acceptance, which includes domicile for less than one year.

Only those veterans who served active duty for at least 90 days during the periods below are eligible to qualify for this benefit.

- World War II Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946
- Korean Conflict June 27, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955
- Vietnam Era Feb. 28, 1961 – July 1, 1975
- Persian Gulf War Aug. 2, 1990 – Until an ending date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or by law (no end date at this time). All military war service subsequent to August 2, 1990, is covered, including but not limited to, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, Somalia, and Bosnia.

Only those veterans who were engaged in combat or were in a combat support role during the following periods are eligible to qualify for this benefit.

- Lebanon July 1, 1958 – Nov. 1, 1958, or Sept. 29, 1982 – March 30, 1984
- Grenada Oct. 25, 1983 – Dec. 15, 1983
- Operation Earnest Will July 24, 1987 – Aug. 1, 1990 (escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the U.S. flag in the Persian Gulf)
- Panama Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990
- Reservists must be mobilized in times of war for other than training purposes.

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD TUITION ASSISTANCE

Connecticut National Guard members will need to file an application with their unit before the beginning of each semester. The Certificate of Eligibility that is issued by the Connecticut National Guard must be on file with the campus Certifying Official before the registration process can be completed. **Tuition waivers are not provided for summer sessions, winter intersessions, or credit-free courses.**

DEPENDENT CHILDREN/SURVIVING SPOUSE WAIVERS

The Connecticut General Statutes provide for a waiver of tuition at Connecticut public colleges and universities under the conditions below.

- Any Connecticut resident who is a dependent child or a surviving spouse of a member of the Armed Forces killed in action on or after September 11, 2001, who was a Connecticut resident; and
- State residents who are dependent children of a person whom the Armed Forces have declared to be either missing in action or a prisoner of war while serving in the Armed Forces after January 1, 1960.

If you are a military spouse and would like to use the MyCAA Scholarship, you must contact your certifying official to have a training plan written.

COSTS SUBJECT TO WAIVERS

Tuition waivers are for credit-bearing courses during the Fall and Spring semesters only, and are not provided for summer sessions, winter intersessions, or continuing education/credit-free courses. Costs other than tuition, such as books, student activity or course fees, and parking are not subject to a waiver. Waivers may also be reduced by the amount of education reimbursement you may receive from your employer.

PRINCIPLES OF EXCELLENCE

CT State adheres to the principles outlined in the Principles of Excellence executive order, which are summarized below.

- Provide students with a personalized form covering the total cost of an education program.
- Provide educational plans for all military and veteran education beneficiaries.
- End fraudulent and aggressive recruiting techniques and misrepresentation.
- Provide accommodation for service members and reservists absent due to service requirements.
- Designate a point of contact for academic and financial advising.
- Ensure accreditation of all new programs prior to enrolling students.
- Align institutional refund policies with those under Title IV.

Foreign schools, high schools, on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs, residency and internship programs, and those who do not charge tuition and fees were not asked to comply with the Principles of Excellence.

OPERATION ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR INCOMING SERVICE MEMBERS (OASIS)

CT State is dedicated to supporting our military community with their transition from service member to student. Each CT State campus provides a safe space specifically for veterans to study, relax, and build comradery with other veteran students through our Veteran OASIS (Operation Academic Support for Incoming Service Members) Centers.

HOW TO APPLY FOR VA BENEFITS

1. Apply through <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply>.
 - Contact the VA by phone at (888) 442-4551 if additional assistance is needed in applying.
 - If you would like to transfer any unused Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to your spouse or dependents, you must have already elected to pass them over while on active duty. If so, you can then apply through the VA to have them transferred.
2. The VA will send you a Certificate of Eligibility in the mail. You can also view this through your e benefits portal at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>.
3. Be in touch with your VA certification team at CT State. We will search for you in our database if you are approved for benefits. We can then certify you once you are registered.
4. If you are a new student, send your Certificate of Eligibility paperwork to us. You must request to be certified each semester.
5. If you are a veteran, please send a copy of your DD214 with your social security number completely redacted.
6. Make sure you communicate any enrollment changes to us as they occur. Any changes in your enrollment status can have an effect on your Monthly Housing Stipend.

VETERAN CONTACT INFORMATION

To locate veteran's affairs resources on your home campus, please visit <https://www.ctstate.edu/veterans>. For additional information, or to request certification each semester, please email CTState-Veterans@ct.edu.

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GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. Government website, <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.