

# Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) provides a tuition/fee waiver to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became rated as totally and permanently disabled or at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service.

Please see their website for details on specific criteria for Tier 1 or Tier 2 eligibility.



The eligible student must be (applies to Tier 1 and 2):

1. Admitted to a Virginia public institution *and*
2. The spouse or the child (biological or adopted) between the ages of 16 and 29 of a qualifying Veteran. Step children are not eligible at this time..
3. Met other listed eligibility requirements as found on the VMSDEP website.

## STEPS TO SET UP VMSDEP



### 1 Complete application through the VMSDEP portal.

*It can take up to 6 weeks to receive approval. Please refer to VMSDEP for application target deadlines.*

The next steps should be completed by the student *after* they have attended springboard and their schedule is set.

### 2 JMU Student Agreement Form

### 3 JMU Request for Veterans Education Benefits form

**If eligible for Chapter 35 and VMSDEP, student will only complete steps 2 & 3 once.**

## How does VMSDEP work?

VMSDEP provides up to 8 terms of a tuition/fee waiver (Tier 1 and Tier 2) and if eligible, a one time/semester stipend (Tier 2 only).

### Charges waived:

Tuition  
Comprehensive fee  
Orientation fee  
Course fees (if applicable)

### Charges NOT waived

Room rent  
Meal plan  
Internet fee  
  
Charges not waived are required to be covered by the UBO deadline each semester.

## IMPORTANT

- There is a 6-8 week delay for the VMSDEP tuition waiver to post on the student's JMU financial account and even longer for the stipend (tier 2 only) each semester. As long as the student has verified the upcoming term information in their myVMSDEP portal, holds/late fees will not be issued for the "waived" charges. Charges "NOT waived" need to be covered upfront by the UBO deadline.
- JMU does not backdate waivers. Student must be approved and listed on the semester roster in the VMSDEP portal by the last day of the current term to have the waiver be applied to that term.
- Portal step is required each semester.

As a state veterans' benefit, the VMSDEP will be included as a financial resource in your financial aid package and may reduce state grants, university grants or scholarships, federal loans, federal work-study, and private loans. Each financial aid offer type is different, so the benefit may affect each person's offer differently.

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

## CHAPTER 35 DEA & VMSDEP



### School Certifying Officials (SCO)

**Kelly Hollembeak:** 540-568-4769

**Lauren Houff:** 540-568-6569

**Email:** Veteran@jmu.edu

**Fax:** 540-568-5615

**Mail/Drop Off:** Office of the Registrar  
738 S. Mason St, MSC 3528  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

[www.jmu.edu/registrar/veterans](http://www.jmu.edu/registrar/veterans)

### Department of Veterans Affairs

Toll Free #: 1-888-442-4551

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-7pm EST

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the US Department of Veterans Affairs. More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the Official US Government website at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)

# Chapter 35 DEA

Dependents' Educational Assistance is a federal program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans who are totally and permanently disabled.

This program offers up to 36 months of education benefits. **It provides a monthly stipend payment paid directly to the dependent and paid based on the dates of each semester.**

Please see VA's website for details on specific eligibility criteria



## STEPS TO SET UP CHP 35 DEA



### 1 Apply at [va.gov](https://va.gov) and provide COE

Steps 2 & 3 should be completed by the student *after* they have attended springboard and their schedule is set.

### 2 JMU Student Agreement Form

### 3 JMU Request for Veterans Education Benefits form

★ If you are/were a Virginia resident, refer to reverse side for details on VMSDEP. Ch 35 (federal) and VMSDEP (state) can be used together if eligible for both.

**If eligible for Chapter 35 and VMSDEP, student will only complete steps 2 & 3 once.**

## Out of State Students

Effective 8/1/2022 with Fall 2022 semester, out of state students using Chapter 35 DEA benefits *may* qualify for in-state tuition rates if they meet each of the following:

1. Using Chapter 35 benefits *and*
2. Living in Virginia/JMU area while attending in-person classes

**Required documentation:** Must provide Chapter 35 Certificate of Eligibility by the first day of classes

### VA only covers courses needed for graduation, which includes:

- General education
- Degree requirements (BA, BS)
- Declared major requirements
- Declared minor requirements
- Allowed electives to reach 120 credits (after all other required credits are accounted for)

### Requesting Benefits after the 1st semester

- After the first semester, the JMU Request for Educational Benefits form (Step 3) is the only required form a student needs to provide each semester to request benefits.
- We email students prior to registration about the form.
- The form is emailed to the student's @dukes account after registration.
- Parent is not notified during this process.

## Your Financial Obligation

- Chapter 35 stipend is sent directly to the student, paid monthly and in arrears over the course of the semester.
- Stipend is prorated for Aug./Dec. & Jan./May.
- **You must pay the full semester bill by the UBO deadline each semester.**
- Student loans, financial aid, scholarships, UBO monthly payment plan, credit card, etc. may be used to cover the charges.
- If you qualify for VMSDEP, you may include that benefit in covering the tuition/fees portion only.

See our insert for total estimated payments.



- JMU VALOR Advisory Board is comprised of many departmental representatives. Meetings are held frequently to ensure JMU is meeting the needs of Veterans. Students are welcome to have a voice in this committee. Contact [JMUvalor@jmu.edu](mailto:JMUvalor@jmu.edu).
- JMU VALOR Resource Center
  - A private student space for all Military Connected students. 24/7 JACard access.
  - Contact Kelly or Lauren for access.

# Chapter 35 DEA Stipend Monthly Rate

| Enrollment             | Monthly Rate** | Daily Rate |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Full time (12+ Cr)     | \$1,298.00     | \$43.26    |
| 3/4 Time (9-11)        | \$1,026.00     | \$34.20    |
| 1/2 Time (6-8)         | \$753.00       | \$25.10    |
| Less than 1/2 (4-5)    | \$753.00*      | NA         |
| 1/4 Time or less (1-3) | \$324.50*      | NA         |

- \*Tuition and Fees ONLY. Payment cannot exceed the listed amount.
- + Rates will change on October 1st of each year. Listed rate is effective 10/1/2021.
- We use the current rate as an estimate for months 10/1 and forward.
- Benefits are only paid for the dates of the term.
- Aug/Dec and Jan/May will be prorated based on the semester begin & end dates. VA pays on a 30-day month



- Chapter 35 is paid directly to the family. No funds are sent to JMU. Full bill must be covered upfront.** See benefit brochure or website for semester payment requirements for Chapter 35 users. (what does this mean?)
- Expected payment date can depend on: VA's processing time, your bank's processing time, and/or if the 1st falls on a weekend/holiday.
- "Total received" is an estimate. VA makes the final determination for exact payment amounts.

## Ch35 Estimated Payments

Fall 2022

Example is for a fulltime student (12 semester credits reported to VA)

|           | Dates                              | Amount  | Expected |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| August    | 8/24-8/30                          | \$302   | 9/1      |
| September | 9/1-9/30                           | \$1298  | 10/1     |
| October   | 10/1-10/30                         | \$1298  | 11/1     |
| November  | 11/1-11/30                         | \$1298  | 12/1     |
| December  | 12/1-12/16                         | \$692   | 1/1/23   |
|           | <b>Total received by 1/1/2023:</b> | \$4,888 |          |

Spring 2023

Example is for a fulltime student (12 semester credits reported to VA)

|          | Dates                           | Amount  | Expected |
|----------|---------------------------------|---------|----------|
| January  | 1/17-1/30                       | \$605   | 2/1      |
| February | 2/1-2/28                        | \$1298  | 3/1      |
| March    | 3/1-3/30                        | \$1298  | 4/1      |
| April    | 4/1-4/30                        | \$1298  | 5/1      |
| May      | 5/1-5/11                        | \$475   | 6/1      |
|          | <b>Total received by 6/1/23</b> | \$4,974 |          |



## Other Contact Information

VA Education Toll Free #: 888-442-4551

UBO: 540-568-6505 | [www.jmu.edu/ubo](http://www.jmu.edu/ubo)

Financial Aid: 540-568-7820 | [www.jmu.edu/financialaid](http://www.jmu.edu/financialaid)

## VMSDEP Expected Waiver

**TIER 1:** Tuition/fee waiver

**TIER 2:** Tuition/fee waiver & one time/sem. stipend

Waiver & stipend are posted directly to the student's JMU account

Charges waived:  
Tuition  
Comprehensive fee  
Orientation fee  
Course fees (if applicable)



As long as the student has submitted the upcoming semester and credits in their myVMSDEP portal, a hold/late fee will not be issued for the waived charges.

Charges not waived:  
Room rent  
Internet fee  
Meal plan



Charges not waived must be covered by the deadline set by the University Business Office each semester.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- VMSDEP provides 8 semesters of a tuition/fee waiver.
- There is a 6-8 week delay into the semester for the waiver to post to the student's account.
- Please refer to the VMSDEP website for application target deadlines to ensure the student is approved in time.
- Student must complete the portal step each semester.
- Student must be listed on the JMU semester roster in the VMSDEP portal by the last day of the current term in order for the waiver to be applied to that term.



