Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP)

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program provides education benefits 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. Stepchildren are not eligible at this time.

The eligible student must be (applies to Tier 1 and 2):
- admitted to a Virginia public college or university; and
- the spouse; or the child between the ages of 16 and 29 of a qualifying Veteran.

Tier 1 Eligibility:
A qualified Veteran is one who:
- meets the domiciliary requirement as defined in the Code of Virginia § 23.1-608; and
- is rated totally and permanently disabled or at least 90% permanently disabled due to military service.

Tier 2 Eligibility:
- A qualified military service member or Veteran is one who meets the domiciliary requirement as defined in the Code of Virginia § 23.1-608 and
- was killed, became missing in action, taken prisoner of war; or
- is rated totally and permanently disabled or at least 90% permanently disabled due to direct involvement in covered military combat (includes military operation against terrorism; a peacekeeping mission; a terrorist act; or any armed conflict).

How To Apply

Step 1: Complete the VMSDEP online application at: www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment
- Once approved, VMSDEP will send you a disclaimer letter. Once disclaimer is returned to VMSDEP, VMSDEP will send you and JMU the approval letter by email.

Step 2: Complete the Student Agreement Form and turn into SCO. Keep a copy for your records.

Step 3: Fill out and submit the JMU Request for Veterans Educational Benefits form to SCO once your schedule is finalized.

*If using Ch 35 benefit along with VMSDEP, you only need to complete steps 2 & 3 once.* Step 2 and 3 forms can be found at www.jmu.edu/registrar/veterans.

What VMSDEP Covers

Tuition/Fee Waiver: (Tier 1 and 2) Eligible students, as confirmed by DVS, are guaranteed a waiver of instate tuition and required fees (excludes internet fee if on campus) for four academic years (8 semesters). Approved terms listed on approval letter sent by VMSDEP office.

Stipend: (Tier 2 only) Eligible students may receive a stipend to offset other educational expenses. The availability and amount of the stipend is determined annually by SCHEV and is dependent on the student’s enrollment status; the number of participating students; and the available funding.

Please be aware there is a 1-2 month delay in the posting of the VMSDEP tuition waiver on your JMU financial account and even longer for the stipend (tier 2 only) each semester. As long as you have verified your upcoming semester and credits in your myVMSDEP portal, an indicator will be placed on the student account and holds/late fees will not be issued for the tuition & fee charges. Make sure all other charges (if applicable) are covered by the UBO deadline. Your must complete the portal step each semester to utilize the VMSDEP benefit.

School Certifying Officials (SCO)
Kelly Burch/540-568-4769/burchke@jmu.edu
Lauren Houff/540-568-6569/houffle@jmu.edu

◊ Email: veteran@jmu.edu
◊ Mail: Office of the Registrar
738 S. Mason St, MSC 3528
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
◊ Fax: 540-568-5615

Chapter 35 DEA And VMSDEP

James Madison University
Office of the Registrar
Student Success Center Room 5300
veteran@jmu.edu
www.jmu.edu/registrar/veterans

Department of Veterans Affairs
Toll Free # 888-442-4551
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-8pm 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 http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill
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. This program offers up to 36 months of education benefits. It provides a monthly stipend payment paid directly to the dependent.

Eligibility
You must be a spouse, son, or daughter (stepchildren or adopted), of a:

- 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 service member missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.
- A service member forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.
- A service member 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.

Website: https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/DEA.asp

How to Apply

**Step 1: First time user:** Submit VA Form 22-5490 application through the va.gov website.
**Current benefit user:** Submit VA Form 22-5495 application through the va.gov website.

Provide to JMU SCO:
- A copy of the application confirmation page
- The service-member's SSN or VA file #

Within 6-12 weeks, VA will send either a Certificate of Eligibility or denial letter. Provide a copy of the Certificate of Eligibility to JMU SCO.

**Step 2: Student Agreement Form** found on our website. Complete page 1, Chapter 35 section on page 3 (and VMSDEP section if eligible), and sign/date page 3 and turn in to SCO. Keep a copy for your records.

**Step 3:** Complete the JMU Request for Veterans Educational Benefits form found on our website and submit it to the JMU SCO once the student’s semester schedule is finalized.

**Step 4:** If you are/were a Virginia resident, refer to reverse side for details on VMSDEP. Chapter 35 (federal) and VMSDEP (state) can be used together if eligible for both benefits.

Financial Responsibilities

- The DEA stipend is sent directly to the student, paid monthly and in arrears over the course of the semester. Stipend is prorated for August/December and January/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 of the bill (see reverse side for details).

Required Classes for Graduation Only

VA only covers courses that a student must take to graduate from JMU, including:
- General Education
- Degree Requirements (BA, BS)
- Declared major requirements
- Declared minor requirements
- Allowed electives to reach 120 credits (after all other requirements have been met)

Requesting Benefits after 1st Semester

- After the first semester, the JMU Request for Educational Benefits form (mentioned in Step 3) is the only required form a student needs to provide each semester to request benefits.
- The form is emailed from “Auto_notification” and requires all major courses to be signed by the major advisor.
- We email students prior to registration about the form and then the form is emailed to their dukes email account during the early registration period.
- Parent is not notified during this process.

Basic Monthly Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Monthly Rate*+</th>
<th>Daily Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full time (12+ Cr)</td>
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<td>$42.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Time (9-11)</td>
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<td>$33.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Time (6-8)</td>
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<td>$24.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 1/2 (4-5)</td>
<td>$734.00**</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 Time or less (1-3)</td>
<td>$316.25**</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuition and Fees ONLY. Payment cannot exceed the listed amount. 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.**

*Rates will change on October 1st of each year. Listed rate is effective 10/1/2020. Daily rate found by dividing by 30.*