The 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.

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).

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 and even longer for the stipend (tier 2 only) each semester. As long as we have the VMSDEP approval letter with the current term listed on file at JMU, 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.

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, 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 Veteran's 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.

School Certifying Officials (SCO)
Kelly Burch/540-568-4769/burchke@jmu.edu
Lauren Houff/540-568-6569/houffle@jmu.edu
◊ Fax: 540-568-5615
◊ Mail: Office of the Registrar
738 S. Mason St, MSC 3528
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
◊ Email: veteran@jmu.edu
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:** Submit VA Form 22-5490 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:** Sign the Student Agreement Form and turn in to SCO. Keep a copy for your records.

**Step 3:** Compete and submit the JMU “Request for Veteran’s Educational Benefits” form to JMU SCO once student’s semester schedule is finalized. The form can be found on JMU Veteran website.

**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).

**Basic Monthly Rate**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Monthly Rate*+</th>
<th>Daily Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full time (12+ Cr)</td>
<td>$1248.00</td>
<td>$41.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Time (9-11)</td>
<td>$986.00</td>
<td>$33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Time (6-8)</td>
<td>$724.00</td>
<td>$24.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1/2 (4-5)</td>
<td>$724.00**</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 Time or less (1-3)</td>
<td>$312.00**</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.