

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 Veteran is one who:

- 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 an approval email. Complete the listed steps in the email in order to start your benefit. This is the only way JMU is aware you are eligible for VMSDEP.

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 in-state tuition and required fees (excludes internet fee if living on campus) for four academic years (8 terms).

Stipend: (Tier 2 only) Eligible students *may* receive a one-time stipend/semester 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 the 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 & comprehensive fee charges. Make sure all other charges (ex: room and board) are covered by the UBO deadline.

IMPORTANT

- ◇ You must complete the portal step each semester
- ◇ Please verify your tier is listed correctly in the portal. Contact VMSDEP if it is incorrect.
- ◇ Room rent/internet fee/meal plan charges must be paid up front.
- ◇ JMU does not allow students to backdate waivers for terms prior to the VMSDEP approval. You must be approved and listed on the 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.
- ◇ Please refer to the VMSDEP website for application target deadlines in order to make sure you are approved in time.

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 # 1-800-MyVA411
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>

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.

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

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.

School Certifying Officials (SCO)

- ◇ **Phone:** Kelly Burch: 540-568-4769
Lauren Houff: 540-568-6569
- ◇ **Email:** veteran@jmu.edu
- ◇ **Fax:** 540-568-5615
- ◇ **Mail:** Office of the Registrar
738 S. Mason St, MSC 3528
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

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 4 and turn in to SCO with Step 3. Keep a copy.

Step 3: Complete the [JMU Request for Veterans Educational Benefits](#) form found on our website. Please submit the form 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).

Basic Monthly Rate

Enrollment	Monthly Rate*+	Daily Rate
Full time (12+ Cr)	\$1265.00	\$42.16
3/4 Time (9-11)	\$1000.00	\$33.33
1/2 Time (6-8)	\$734.00	\$24.46
Less than 1/2 (4-5)	\$734.00**	NA
1/4 Time or less (1-3)	\$316.25**	NA

**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.

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@jmu.edu 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.