

Student Veterans

Advising Fact Sheet

This fact sheet applies to students who are eligible for veteran education benefits. You are solely responsible for understanding the requirements of your benefit in terms of course selection and length of courses and how that may affect your benefits. Questions may be referred to a Jefferson College VA Certifying Official or Academic Advisor, or to the VA directly (see contact information at the end of this sheet).

COURSE SELECTION

- **You MUST have a specific degree program.** You cannot enroll in Business Math, for instance, if you are pursuing an AA degree even if you think you might change to an AAS in Management. Degree plans are available at www.jeffco.edu under the “Academics” menu.
 - The only time you may deviate from the selected degree plan is the **VERY LAST** semester in which you are enrolled prior to graduation (spring semester for a May graduation, for example). The student may be enrolled in the remaining requirements for the degree and then may take any additional course(s) in order to be full time. This is **ONLY** true in the **VERY LAST** semester.
 - **Post 9/11 Beneficiaries ONLY:** Be aware that enrolling in **ONLY** online/hybrid courses (*Hybrid courses are considered online by the VA definition*), you will receive a *maximum of 50% of the national average for BAH*. The exact amount depends on your percentage of benefit eligibility and length and number of credit hours enrolled.

REPEAT COURSES

- Repeating Courses Classes that are successfully completed may not be certified for again for VA purposes if they are repeated.
- However, if a student fails a class, or if a program requires a higher grade than the one achieved in a particular class for successful completion, that course class may be repeated and certified to VA again.
 - Example 1, if a Nursing program requires a “B” or better in Biology, then that class may be repeated if a “B” or better was not earned. That requirement must be in the school catalog.
 - Example 2. If a course is required for graduation, a student may repeat the course and be certified for it until it is successfully completed. No further information needs to be provided to VA regarding those courses.
 - Example 3. If a student chooses to repeat a course that was successfully completed, just to improve their GPA, that course cannot be certified to VA. This is true even if the student completed the course without using VA Benefits.

COURSE LENGTH

- **Benefit amounts you may receive is dependent on the number of hours in which s/he is enrolled on any given day of the semester.** VA Benefits are not paid in the same way as financial aid. Total semester enrollment is not the key factor.
 - According to the Enrollment calculations used by the VA, you may be considered full time if enrolled in a first 8-week class of 3 credit hours or more **AND** a 16-week class of 3 credit hours or more., but only for the duration of the 8-week class. You would need to be enrolled in a

second 8-week course of at least 3 credit hours as well in order to maintain benefits at the full time level. It is feasible for a student to carry 12 hours or more and yet not be full-time enrolled for all or portions of the semester by VA standards. It is very important to keep this in mind if you are a student in Automotive, CIM, Welding, etc. where short term courses are common.

- Because intersession courses end before other summer courses begin, they do not count toward enrollment status for summer enrollment. If you wish to enroll in an intersession course, you will also want to enroll in 6 credit hours for the 6 or 8-week summer term to remain full time.
 - Wintersession courses also do not count toward total enrollment for the spring semester. The student will be considered full time for the wintersession term but the credit hours may not be counted in toward reaching full time enrollment for the January – May time period.
 - Wintersession may be problematic for Post 9/11 recipients since students enrolled ONLY online will receive reduced benefits. You may be ok with this since payment would not normally be received for periods when not enrolled. Some benefit may be considered better than none.
- All students wishing to receive veteran education benefits **MUST** also file a **Request for Certification EVERY** semester in order to have his/her claim submitted to the VA. This form is available on the Veterans tab, on the MyJeffCo system. Once the form is received, the schedule will be verified against the degree plan and the claim submitted.
 - Remember it is **YOUR** responsibility to understand these and any other factors that may affect your benefits. The staff of Jefferson College will do our best to alert you to potential problems, but you must educate yourself about how your benefits work to insure you are using them in the best way for your circumstances.
 - **Questions regarding benefit amounts and specifics may be answered by links on the Veterans Tab or by contacting the VA Academic Advisor or School Certifying Official (SCO).** Full contact information as well as hours and locations are available on the **Veterans Services** page on www.jeffco.edu.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

VA Information Call Center: 888-442-4551

Jefferson College VA Certifying Officials: Stacey Wilson, 636-481-3207, swilson@jeffco.edu

Jefferson College VA Academic Advisor: Kimberly Flora, 636-481-3285, kflora1@jeffco.edu