

Veterans Education Benefits Guidelines

- Classes being taken need to count towards your degree at Finlandia University. Please check with your Academic Advisor to be sure that your scheduled classes will count toward your program. If you change your program of study, you must inform the Registrar's Office of this change.
- Once a student is certified for classes with the VA, they have committed to fulfilling the credit load they have signed up for.
 - Students that do NOT fulfill their commitment may owe money back to the VA. This is overpayment is NOT the responsibility of Finlandia University.
- If you revise your schedule in any way, you must notify the Registrar's Office. When doing so, you must specify that you are a Veterans Education Benefits student.
 - If your previously scheduled credits were already certified with the VA, Finlandia University will send out a revised certification to update the modification.
 - Students need to be aware that a change in scheduling after a certification has already been made with the VA could result in an overpayment. This overpayment will be the responsibility of the student.
 - Chapter 33 (Post-9/11) and Chapter 31 (Voc. Rehab) students must also notify the Office of Financial Aid and the Office of Student Accounts of their change.
 - If your program is set up to make a tuition payment to the University, you will want to contact the Veterans Affairs Regional Office to discuss any overpayment amount that may be pending for you. This overpayment may result from both a tuition payment to the University and also from payments directly to the student (Basic Housing Allowance, book stipend, etc.).
 - Drops, withdrawals, and “walking away” (choosing to stop attending a class) will all have an effect on your standing with the VA. If the VA has paid for a semester's funding and it is not fulfilled, you will be responsible for the amount they figure to be owed. This balance is the responsibility of the STUDENT. This amount will be figured by the VA.
 - Chapter 33 students who receive any non-title IV federal funding after a certification need to be aware that this funding amount may be owed back to the VA. This is due to a new VA ruling, effective August 1, 2011, that states we must report the tuition and fee cost AFTER any non-Title IV funding has been deducted. Examples of Title IV funds include the Pell Grant, the SEOG Grant, and Federal Student Loans (Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized).
- The processing time for education benefits may vary and can be lengthy. It is recommended that students have all paperwork submitted and their class schedule finalized as early as possible. This is in an attempt to prevent a delay in the student receiving benefit payments. Due to timing, demand, and processing, students may experience their benefit payments being delayed until after their semester is in progress.
- If you begin attending classes at the University before getting a final ruling from the VA on your eligibility, you are acknowledging the fact that you may be responsible for a balance and/or receive a lesser amount of benefits if they find you to be eligible for a smaller percentage than you had been projecting.

- If you are choosing to sign up for a class that ends part-way through the semester, please be aware that the VA will only count that class towards your attendance status until the date that the class ends.
- If you are taking online classes, the VA considers online classes differently in regards to figuring a monthly housing allowance. If you are taking an online class that would affect your level of enrollment (part-time to full-time, for example), you will want to be aware of this.
- If you are looking to repeat a course, please be aware that the VA will not pay for you to repeat a class that you had passed previously. There are certain exceptions to this case, depending on program requirements. For questions regarding these situations, you will want to contact Robin Anderson in the Registrar's Office.
- Finlandia continues to be a participant in the Yellow Ribbon Program. We will continue under the program as we previously have, which is to allow Yellow Ribbon-eligible veterans to have their tuition/fees covered for the Fall/Spring semesters. For students that are looking to attend in the Summer semesters, we encourage you to plan accordingly, as charges for the Summer are not generally covered under the Yellow Ribbon Program agreement with Finlandia. We encourage students to save funding from their Fall/Spring overage checks and/or save your student loan options to be placed towards your Summer charges.
- To receive your monthly stipend payment, some students are required to certify their attendance monthly with the WAVE program through the VA. This can be done by phone or online. Failure to do this will result in students from certain VA programs to not receive a monthly payment.
- End-of-semester grades are evaluated by the Registrar's Office for the Department of Veterans Affairs. If benefits were received and punitive (F) grades were assigned or the student has not met the academic expectations required of them to continue their schooling, this will be reported to the VA and they will determine whether or not money will need to be paid back to them by the student.
- While Finlandia University will make students aware of any changes or upcoming events within the VA that may affect them, it is also the responsibility of the student to make themselves knowledgeable of these possible situations. To review the program(s) and any changes to the processes, requirements, or benefits, students can visit www.gibill.va.gov.
- If there are any questions regarding your account/file with the VA, you will want to contact the Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 888-442-4551. This number can also be used for any questions regarding overpayments.
- We want to see you succeed and will do all we can to help you receive your benefits and see your goal fulfilled, but the final responsibility for following the college's policy and guidelines is yours as the veteran, dependent, or spouse.

As a student receiving Veterans Education Benefits at Finlandia University, I am aware of the above mentioned guidelines, along with the guidelines laid out before me in the literature I received from the VA in regards to my eligibility and benefits.

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

06/29/2017