

Chapter 33 VA Benefits: Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I've been verified for benefits for the semester?

You will receive an automated email from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) verifying that your enrollment has been certified to your AppState email and/or personal email. **Please review your email inbox before reaching out to Student Veteran Services.** If you have discrepancies or some classes cannot be certified, a School Certifying Official representative will alert you to these discrepancies.

How do I get in-state tuition with my benefits?

You can [file for in-state tuition](#) with the Office of the Registrar. While you may receive a non-residency number or denial letter, Appalachian State University commits to providing in-state tuition for all VA benefit types that we can. In-state tuition can only be considered if the student plans to relocate to North Carolina for their degree program or if the veteran enlisted out of North Carolina.

What will the GI Bill (CH 33) cover?

The GI Bill will cover required tuition and fees, including health services fees, book rental fees, student government fees, and internship fees if necessary to graduate. The GI Bill will not cover on-campus housing, meal plans, premium medical insurance, or elective class fees. You will receive a monthly stipend called a Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) which you can put towards on- or off-campus housing and meal plans if applicable. The BAH is determined on the local area's average cost of living but is affected by how many distance (online) classes taken.

How are payments sent?

Tuition and fee payments are made directly to the school. BAH payments are sent to the direct deposit account on file with the VA. If this direct deposit information needs to be updated, changed, or reviewed, call the VA education assistance line at 888-442-4551.

My tuition and fees are labeled \$0. Why is that?

For Chapter 33 beneficiaries, schools are required to submit both a general enrollment certification and a second enrollment verification after the drop-add period with tuition and fees added. While your first enrollment verification will not have tuition and fees added, we submit your second verification with tuition and fees added to the VA closer to mid-September/October.

Will I get monthly housing allowance (MHA) during school breaks?

No. In 2011, Congress passed a law that prohibits VA from paying BAH during extended school breaks. This includes breaks between semesters. Be sure to plan ahead to cover your housing costs when school isn't in session. If your enrollment starts after the first of the month or ends before the last day of the month, the VA will pay you a prorated housing payment for the part of the month you're enrolled in classes.

Will the GI Bill pay for study abroad?

Under Chapter 33, the VA often pays required tuition and fees, a book stipend, and a BAH. The VA will often not pay for airfare, passports, lodging, or meals. In order for VA to pay any additional fees specific to the Study Abroad program, the Study Abroad option must be required for graduation. The student must be enrolled in courses that will apply to their degree program for VA certification purposes. Certain programs may certify differently, so call the VA education assistance line to learn more.