

VA**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
Veterans Benefits Administration

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance

What Is Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance?

Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance (DEA) is an education benefit for eligible spouses and children of certain Veterans.

How Much Entitlement Will I Receive?

If your first enrollment using DEA in a education or training program is after August 1, 2018, you will receive 36 months of entitlement.

If you started using DEA before August 1, 2018, you qualify for a maximum of 45 months of entitlement.

Eligible people can receive full-time or equivalent benefits for:

- College, business, technical or vocational courses
- High school diploma or GED
- Independent study or distance learning courses
- Correspondence courses (spouses only)
- Apprenticeships or on-the-job training
- National exams (e.g., SAT, LSAT, GRE, GMAT)
- Remedial, deficiency, and refresher training (in some cases)
- The costs for necessary licenses and certifications
- Preparatory courses designed to prepare for licensure or certification

For more information on DEA and to apply, please visit:

<https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance/>.

To search for GI Bill approved schools, please visit: <https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>.

Who Is Eligible?

To be eligible for DEA, you must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:

- A Veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled because of a service-connected disability
- A Veteran who died from any cause while the service-connected disability was in existence
- A Service member missing in action or captured in the line of duty by a hostile force
- A Service member forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power
- A Service member hospitalized or receiving outpatient care for a VA-determined service-connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability

When Can This Benefit Be Used?

Generally, spouses and surviving spouses have 10 years to use this benefit. The 10 years begins on the date the VA establishes DEA eligibility or from the Veteran's date of death. Spouses and surviving spouses remain eligible for 20 years if VA rates the Veteran permanently and totally disabled with an effective date of three years from discharge. Surviving spouses of Service members who died while on active duty also have 20 years from the date of the Servicemember's death to use the benefit.

Children can use the benefit between the ages of 18 and 26.

Note: These time limits can be extended under certain circumstances. Call 888-442-4551 for details.

How Much Does VA Pay?

The amount VA pays is based on the type of training program. It's also based on whether the individual attends part-time or full-time. Benefits are paid monthly and in arrears or at the end of the course of study. If attendance is less than a month or less than full-time, payments will be reduced. Find current payment rates on our website.

How Can You Apply?

Apply online and find more information at <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance/>.

2022 to 2023 Chapter 35 benefits rates

Effective October 1, 2022

The DEA rates listed here are for October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. We'll make the payments directly to you.

For institutions of higher learning

These monthly rates are for courses at colleges and universities.

The amounts listed here are for a full month of enrollment. We'll pay you a percentage of the full month's rate based on the number of days that you're enrolled in the month. We call this a prorated payment. For example, if your school starts on the 20th, you would get a payment for 10 days of enrollment that month. Your payment would be 1/3 of the monthly rate.

We'll pay you up to the rate listed here based on how many courses you're taking:

- **Full-time enrollment:** \$1,401 for each full month
- **3/4-time enrollment:** \$1,107 for each full month
- **1/2-time enrollment:** \$812 for each full month

If you're enrolled less than 1/2 time, we'll pay you up to the amount listed here for every month you're enrolled—but no more than the cost of your tuition and fees:

- **Less than 1/2-time and more than 1/4-time enrollment:** \$812 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)
- **1/4-time enrollment or less:** \$350.25 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)

If your tuition and fees are less than the monthly rate, we'll send you a lump sum (1 payment) at the start of each term.

Example: If you're enrolled less than 1/2 time and more than 1/4 time, and you attend a 90-day term, you may get up to \$2,436 for the term (\$812 per month x 3). But if your tuition and fees are less than \$2,436, then we'll send you the amount of your tuition and fees at the start of the term instead.

For non-college degree programs

These monthly rates are for trade and vocational schools.

The amounts listed here are for a full month of enrollment. We'll pay you a percentage of the full month's rate based on the number of days that you're enrolled in the month. We call this a prorated payment. For example, if your school starts on the 20th, you

would get a payment for 10 days of enrollment that month. Your payment would be 1/3 of the monthly rate.

We'll pay you up to the monthly rate listed here based on your scheduled clock hours:

- **Full-time enrollment:** \$1,401 for each full month
- **3/4-time enrollment:** \$1,107 for each full month
- **1/2-time enrollment:** \$812 for each full month

If you're enrolled less than 1/2 time, we'll pay you up to the amount listed here for every month you're enrolled—but no more than the cost of your tuition and fees:

- **Less than 1/2-time and more than 1/4-time enrollment:** \$812 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)
- **1/4-time enrollment or less:** \$350.25 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)

If your tuition and fees are less than the monthly rate, we'll send you a lump sum (1 payment) at the start of each term.

Example: If you're enrolled less than 1/2 time and more than 1/4 time, and you attend a 90-day program, you may get up to \$2,436 (\$812 per month x 3). But if your tuition and fees are less than \$2,436, then we'll send you the amount of your tuition and fees at the start of the program instead.

For on-the-job training and apprenticeships

We'll pay you up to this much each month based on how far along you are in your training:

- **Months 1 to 6:** \$890 for each full month
- **Months 7 to 12:** \$669 for each full month
- **Months 13 to 18:** \$439 for each full month
- **More than 19 months:** \$223 for each full month

Note: To get the full amount listed here, you must have worked at least 120 hours each month. As your payments go down, your entitlement charges also go down.

For correspondence training

We'll pay **55%** of the established cost for the number of lessons you complete by mail, online, or in some other way. You'll need to submit completed lessons to get these payments.

Note: Only spouses using Chapter 35 benefits can get correspondence training. Children aren't eligible for this benefit.