

Check List to Assist Student Veterans When Using VA Benefits at Colorado Mesa University

(Most items in the check list are covered in the FAQ section below.)

1. Apply online for your VA benefits.
2. Apply to Colorado Mesa University at www.coloradomesa.edu/admissions
3. Request official transcripts from all colleges, universities, or military to be sent to Colorado Mesa University.
4. Apply for financial aid and/or scholarships.
5. Complete the Veteran's Intent to Register form.
6. Visit with an academic advisor for assistance with class selection.
7. Enroll in classes.
8. Complete the enrollment verification monthly, if you receive Chapter 30, 1606, or 1607.

FAQs for Student Veterans

Getting Started

- How do I apply for my educational benefits and get them started at Colorado Mesa University?
- If I am a returning student, how do I get my educational benefits started again?
- How many credits do I need to register for to be considered full-time and receive my maximum benefits?
- Do I have to use my VA benefits by a certain date?

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- Can I receive scholarship funds while receiving VA benefits?

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- What if I do not know what degree program or major I want to pursue?
- Do I have to decide on a degree program or major to receive VA benefits?
- I was admitted into an associate's degree program but I want to pursue a bachelor's degree. Do I have to get an associate's degree and do I need to change my program with the VA?
- What career services are available at Colorado Mesa University?
- Can I receive VA benefits if I take online classes?
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- Can VA benefits be used for developmental (remedial) classes?

Disability Services

- How do students get class accommodations for a disability?
- What accommodations are available for veterans who have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)?
- What accommodations are appropriate for a veteran who has a traumatic brain injury?
- What documentation does Educational Access Services (EAS) need?

How do I apply for my educational benefits and get them started at Colorado Mesa University?

Visit www.gibill.va.gov and apply online. This website also provides information about the different types of educational programs, pay rates, verification procedures, educational forms, and more. Fill out the Veteran's Intent to Register form, which you can find on the website at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/forms.html>. Fax the completed form to the Veterans Certifying Official at 970.248.1131 or deliver it to the Registrar's Office located at LHH 121. If you have questions regarding your benefits while attending Colorado Mesa University, call the Veterans Certifying Official at 970.248.1855. [return to top](#)

If I am a returning student, how do I get my educational benefits started again?

You will need to complete the Request for Change of Program or Place of Training form (VA form 22-1995). You can either visit the website at http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/education_forms.htm and fill it out online or visit the Registrar's Office located at LHH 121 and ask to speak to the Veterans Certifying Official. Also fill out the Veteran's Intent to Register form. You can find this form on the web at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/forms.html> and fax the completed form to the Veterans Certifying Official at 970.248.1131 or deliver it to the Registrar's Office located at LHH 121. If you have questions regarding your benefits while attending Colorado Mesa University, call the Veterans Certifying Official at 970.248.1855. [return to top](#)

How many credits do I need to register for to be considered full-time and receive my maximum benefits?

You need to register for 12 credits to be considered full-time, but you must attend those 12 credits the entire semester if you want to receive benefits based on full-time status for the entire semester.

Benefits are awarded based on the beginning and ending dates of each class. If you register for 12 credits, but not all the classes begin and end on the same dates, you will not be considered as full-time for VA benefits. The examples below demonstrate this: [return to top](#)

Scenario 1	Credits	Begin date	End date	Scenario 2	Credits	Begin date	End date
	10	8/22/11	12/15/11		10	8/22/11	12/15/11
	1	8/22/11	10/14/11		2	8/22/11	10/14/11
	1	10/19/11	12/15/11		1	10/19/11	12/15/11
You were only attending 11 credits at any one time during the semester. According to the VA, you would be considered ¾-time instead of full-time and would not receive your maximum benefit.				From 8/22/11 to 10/14/11, you were registered for 12 credits and would receive full-time benefits. However, from 10/19/11 to 12/15/11, you were only registered for 11 credits which is considered ¾-time. You would not receive your maximum benefit during this time.			

Do I have to use my VA benefits by a certain date?

Yes. Each educational program has a certain time period by which the VA benefits must be used before they expire. To find your deadline, visit the website www.gibill.va.gov and find the details on your particular educational program. [return to top](#)

Do I have to report my VA benefits on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?

No. Effective July 1, 2009, VA benefits are not to be reported on the FAFSA. However, if you are active duty military, you will need to report taxable and nontaxable income from your military salary. Follow the instructions on the FAFSA to determine what amounts to include. [return to top](#)

Will receiving VA benefits affect my financial aid?

No. Effective July 1, 2009, VA benefits are not included as either a resource or financial aid. Veterans who have applied in the past may find they are eligible for more grant or loan funds than in previous years. [return to top](#)

Can I receive scholarship funds while receiving VA benefits?

Yes. There are many scholarships available for veterans. Great places to research scholarships are the Financial Aid office, www.fastweb.com, www.scholarshipexperts.com, military websites such as www.military.com/education-home, or just Google scholarships.

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What address should I send my official transcripts to?

Send your official transcripts to:

Colorado Mesa University
Admissions Office
1100 North Ave
Grand Junction, CO 81501

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How do I obtain my military transcript?

Each branch of the service has set procedures to follow when requesting your official military transcript. Please find your branch of service and follow the instructions on the [Request Military Transcript](#) document. Send your transcript to the Registrar's Office.

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How many transfer credits can I receive from my military service?

The maximum credits Colorado Mesa University awards for military service is 20 lower division credits. These credits are determined by comparing your completed training to the ACE guides. If you have any questions regarding transfer credit evaluation, contact Robyn Huss at rhuss@coloradomesa.edu, 970.248.1905, or the Registrar's Office located in LHH 122.

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How do my credits from the military fit into my degree program?

Once your military credits have been evaluated by the Registrar's Office, you can either visit with your Faculty Advisor or an Academic Advisor in the Advising Center. They will help you determine where the credits fit into your degree program and what courses are remaining for you to earn your degree. [return to top](#)

What degree programs are available at Colorado Mesa University?

To find all the degree programs offered at Colorado Mesa University, visit our website at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/academics/programs.html>. If you need help determining which program fits your educational goals, visit with an Academic Advisor in the Advising Center. You can email advising@coloradomesa.edu, call 970.248.1177, or stop by LHH 127.

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What if I do not know what degree program or major I want to pursue?

Career Services have trained staff who are available to help you select a degree program or major that will best fit your educational goals. Taking a career assessment such as Choices CT or the Strong Interest Inventory (SII) is highly recommended as a first step. As a Colorado Mesa student, your first SII is free. For information about the assessments and instructions on how to take them, visit our website at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/advising/assessments.html>. We encourage you to set up an appointment with Career Services to discuss your options at career@coloradomesa.edu or 970.248.1404.

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Do I have to decide on a degree program or major to receive VA benefits?

When you apply online for your VA benefits, you must fill in a degree program and major. *You will not receive VA benefits if you are classified as non-degree seeking.* Most students change their degree program or major multiple times before they have accomplished their educational goals. If you change your degree program or major, let the Veterans Certifying Official know of the change by calling 970.248.1855 or visiting the Registrar's Office at LHH 121.

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I was admitted into an associate's degree program but I want to pursue a bachelor's degree. Do I have to get an associate's degree and do I need to change my program with the VA?

No. Once you meet the requirements to transfer to a bachelor's degree, complete the Transfer to Baccalaureate Program form. You can find this form on the web at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/forms.html> or at the Registrar's Office located at LHH 121. If you changed your degree program or major from what you put on your VA Educational benefits application form, notify the Veterans Certifying Official of the change by calling 970.248.1855 or visiting the Registrar's office at LHH 121. [return to top](#)

What career services are available at Colorado Mesa University?

Colorado Mesa University offers a variety of career services: career assessments, employment readiness workshops, career fairs, job postings, on-campus employer recruitment, Career Resources Corner (located next to the Advising Center on the first floor of Lowell Heiny Hall), and more. To find out more information about Career Services, you can visit the website at www.coloradomesa.edu/career , email career@coloradomesa.edu, call 970.248.1404, or stop by University Center 106E. [return to top](#)

Can I receive VA benefits if I take online classes?

Yes. Be aware, however, that under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, active duty members or veterans enrolled in only online will only received half the in-class rate for Basic Allowance Housing (BAH). For more information about pay rates for each program visit the website below. http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Benefit_Comparison_Chart.htm#SCHOOLS [return to top](#)

Can I receive tutoring while taking online classes?

Yes. The Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) has distance tutoring available. You will need to call their distance tutoring line at 970.248.1021. Their hours are limited to Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM MST. Please call the main TLC phone line for questions at 970.248.1392 or check our website at www.coloradomesa.edu/tutoring. [return to top](#)

Can VA benefits be used for remedial classes?

Yes.

How do students get class accommodations for a disability?

Students need to contact the Educational Access Services (EAS) Coordinator, Nancy Conklin, at 970.248.1826 or naconkli@coloradomesa.edu to schedule an appointment. EAS staff will develop an individual accommodation plan with the student based on the documented disability and class schedule. [return to top](#)

What accommodations are available for veterans who have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)?

Veterans, who have an anxiety disorder including PTSD, may be allowed extra time on exams and testing in a separate environment. These students will also be able to use priority registration, which allows them to register early for classes. This enables them to set up a schedule with extra time between classes for test-taking and to select class sections in rooms they are more comfortable in or that have smaller numbers of students. To receive accommodations, contact the Educational Access Services Coordinator, Nancy Conklin, at 970.248.1826 or naconkli@coloradomesa.edu to schedule an appointment. [return to top](#)

What accommodations are appropriate for a veteran who has a traumatic brain injury?

Traumatic brain injuries are highly variable and can affect students in any number of ways. In the college environment, students may need extra time on exams for processing and memory issues, a reduced distraction environment for testing, support with note-taking, and audio books. If vision, hearing, or motor skills are affected by the brain injury, Educational Access Services can provide adaptive equipment, support for reading and writing exams, and an assistant in a class lab or library.

Priority registration is also provided so the student can schedule classes that will work well for extra testing times, transportation, and other disability-related reasons. To receive accommodations, contact the Educational Access Services Coordinator, Nancy Conklin, at 970.248.1826 or naconkli@coloradomesa.edu to schedule an appointment. [return to top](#)

What documentation does Educational Access Services (EAS) need?

Documentation guidelines are found on the EAS website: www.coloradomesa.edu/EAS. In general, documentation should include: the credentials of the evaluator(s), a diagnostic statement identifying the disability, the diagnostic methodology used, the current functional limitations, the impact of medications, and recommendations for accommodations or services. [return to top](#)