**Veterans at SMU**

Southern Methodist University supports our valued soldiers and veterans. The University is proud to have many undergraduate transfer students who have served in our country’s armed forces. These veterans enhance our community through the experiences they bring and their commitment to education.

The new Post 9/11 GI Bill makes an SMU education accessible and affordable to many veterans. This Quick Connect is designed to help answer the questions you may have as you prepare for a move to the University. While SMU does not advise students regarding the various VA benefits that might be available to them, you may contact a Veterans Education Program Specialist at the Texas Veterans Commission, (903) 216-2919.

**Types of VA Educational Benefits**

There are several types of VA Educational Benefits available to veterans which may be used for an undergraduate degree at SMU. They are:

- **Chapter 30-Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB)**
  The MGIB program provides up to 36 months of education benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs. Generally, benefits are payable for 10 years following your release from active duty.

- **Chapter 33 – Post-9/11 GI Bill**
  The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

- **Chapter 35-Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program (DEA)**
  DEA provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. Eligibility criteria can be found at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs.

- **Chapter 1606-Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)**
  The MGIB-SR program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs.

- **Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)**
  VEAP is available to veterans who first entered active duty between January 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985 and who elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. Veterans’ contributions are matched on a $2 for $1 basis by the government. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs.

- **Chapter 31-Vocational Rehabilitation Program**
  The Vocational Rehabilitation Program is for service-disabled veterans who require further education to attain suitable, stable employment. This program may provide vocational and other training services and assistance, including tutorial assistance, tuition, books, fees, supplies, handling charges, licensing fees and equipment and other training materials necessary.

- **Yellow Ribbon Program**
  The Yellow Ribbon Program allows institutions to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the annual cap for private institutions. SMU can contribute up to 50% of those expenses, and VA will match that same amount. SMU offers Yellow Ribbon undergraduate scholarships each year. Please visit [smu.edu/registrar/vet_yellow_ribbon.asp](http://smu.edu/registrar/vet_yellow_ribbon.asp) for more information.

**Applying for VA Benefits at SMU**

Veterans apply online to the VA to receive their educational benefits. To apply, go to [www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/How_to_Apply.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/How_to_Apply.htm). The VA determines eligibility for educational benefits.

**What documents do I need to submit?**

Once approved for educational benefits, SMU will need copies of certain documents in order to certify your enrollment to the VA. Required documents are listed at [smu.edu/registrar/vet_benefits_apply.asp](http://smu.edu/registrar/vet_benefits_apply.asp). At this time, SMU certifies VA students for academic programs only.

**We’re Here to Help**

We know you have many questions, and the Registrar’s Office is here to help you navigate the process of receiving VA benefits. Our website is a great place to begin, but if you have further questions, please contact Meghan Budig, Registrar Manager, at [mabudig@smu.edu](mailto:mabudig@smu.edu) or Mitzie Goff, Associate Registrar, at [mgoff@smu.edu](mailto:mgoff@smu.edu). SMU’s Coordinator of Veterans Support and Services in Student Affairs is Deanie Kepler, [gkepler@smu.edu](mailto:gkepler@smu.edu).

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*For more information about transferring to SMU, please go to [smu.edu/transfer](http://smu.edu/transfer) or call 214-768-3417.*
Veterans Student Check List

Please return forms and documents to:

**VA Certifying Official**
Meghan Budig, Registrar’s Office
Laura Lee Blanton, Suite 100
(p) 214-768-4348  *  (f) 214-768-2507
Email: mabudig@smu.edu

**Mailing Address:**
SMU Registrar's Office
P.O. Box 181
Dallas, TX  75275-0181

Forms can be found at:  [http://smu.edu/registrar/veterans.asp](http://smu.edu/registrar/veterans.asp)
Yellow Ribbon Information: [http/sm.edu/registrar/vet_yellow_ribbon.asp](http/sm.edu/registrar/vet_yellow_ribbon.asp)

**Chapter 30, 31, 33, 1606, VEAP**

- _____ Completed VA Form 22-1990
- _____ Letter of Eligibility from VA
- _____ VA Form 22-1995: Change of Place or Program, if applicable
- _____ Completed TC-4900A: Information Sheet for Claiming Veterans
- _____ Yellow Ribbon Program Application (TC4900B) **
- _____ Financial Aid Benefit Form
- _____ Veterans: Military Transcript (Army - AARTS, Navy/Marine - SMARTS, Airforce - CCAF, Coast Guard- CGI Transcript) If you were an officer you will not have a transcript but you must email mabudig@smu.edu to inform her.
- _____ FRY Scholarship Awardee, if applicable
- _____ Undergraduate: Copies of transfer transcripts, if applicable
- _____ Graduate: Copies of undergraduate transcript including degree awarded

**Chapter 35**

- _____ Completed VA Form 22-5490
- _____ Letter of Eligibility from VA
- _____ Completed 22-5495: Change of Place or Program, if applicable
- _____ Completed TC-4900A: Information Sheet for Claiming Veterans
- _____ Financial Aid Benefit Form
- _____ Undergraduate: Copies of transfer transcripts, if applicable
- _____ Graduate: Copies of undergraduate transcript indicating degree awarded

**Note:**
(1) Fry Scholarship Recipients or Spouses of Active Duty Veterans are not eligible for Yellow Ribbon.
(2) Must be 100% eligible under Post 9/11 to be eligible for Yellow Ribbon.
(3) Yellow Ribbon applies to Post 9/11 Chapter 33 ONLY.