

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **I am a veteran student or a dependent of a veteran. How do I apply for education benefits?**

You may apply for chapter benefits through the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#). If you have been found eligible and have received your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) letter from the VA, please submit the COE to UC Merced's Veteran Certifying Official. You must also complete and submit the [Veteran Enrollment Card](#) to UC Merced's Veteran Certifying Official each term you wish to receive benefits.

## **Is there a deadline for submitting my VA forms?**

You cannot receive payment for chapter benefits until we have received your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and [Veteran Enrollment Card](#). You must submit a Veteran Enrollment Card every semester.

## **What is the process to certify my enrollment to the VA?**

Once we have received your Veteran Enrollment Card, the School Certifying Official will report a student's dates of attendance, degree program, number of registered units, and tuition and fees (if applicable) to the VA. The VA will not pay any student without receiving this information. Certifications are usually processed within 3 business days, with the exception of course enrollment issues that may cause delays.

## **How do I receive payment for my chapter benefits?**

Chapter 33 payments for tuition and fees will be paid directly to the school by the VA. All other benefit payments will be paid directly to the student. If you have not received your monthly benefit payment, you may contact the Veterans Administration Educational Office at 1-888-442-4551.

## **My schedule changed after I submitted my Veteran Enrollment Card. What should I do?**

All changes to the veteran/dependents schedule (major/minor, adds, drops, class cancellations, and/or withdrawals) must be reported to UC Merced's Veteran Certifying Official. Please keep in mind, the VA will only pay for approved classes that fulfill your graduation requirements.

### **What is the monthly enrollment verification requirement for students using Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits?**

Enrollment verification is a new requirement for Post-9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33) students to verify that they are still enrolled in the same courses the school certified to the VA. Students using their Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits will be required to verify their enrollment at the end of each month. Failure to verify for two consecutive months will impact your Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments. More information is available [here](#).

### **What is the California Veteran Fee Waiver and how do I apply?**

The Cal Vet Fee Waiver as its commonly referred to is a benefit offered through the state of California for veteran dependents. Students apply through their local county Veteran Affairs Office. Once eligibility is determined, an approval letter is sent to the student from their local county Veteran Affairs office. A copy of the approval letter needs to be provided to UC Merced's Veteran Certifying Official. The Cal Vet Fee Waiver will waive tuition and student services fees to California resident students. The waiver covers summers as well and students must reapply every academic year they wish to use the waiver. Applicants must meet California residency requirements as stated by the Registrar's Office. For more information, please click [here](#).

### **Can I receive both the California Veteran Fee Waiver and the Cal Grant?**

No. The Cal Vet Fee Waiver and the Cal Grant are both considered fee-paying resources and they both cover the same thing, therefore, students are only eligible to receive one during a period of enrollment. The Financial Aid Office will coordinate your Cal Vet Fee Waiver with any other financial aid offered to ensure there are no conflicts with aid specifically designated to cover tuition and fees (e.g., Cal Grant) or impacts other need-based aid (e.g., Bobcat Grant). If you have any questions you may contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 209-228-7178 or online at <https://studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/contact-us-0>.

### **Can I receive college credit for military experience?**

UC may award lower-division (freshman/sophomore level) units for military courses completed if the courses are consistent with University policy on awarding transfer credit when there is an equivalent course taught at a UC campus. UC will consult the ACE recommendations for information regarding course content and as a guide to the awarding of credit. Credit for military courses is determined after matriculation at UC. For any questions or further information regarding military credit transfer, please contact [admissions@ucmerced.edu](mailto:admissions@ucmerced.edu).

### **What is the non-resident tuition exemption for military-connected students?**

The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (VACAA) allows military-connected students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits to qualify for non-resident tuition exemptions.

Effective 2022-2023 academic year, students using VA education benefits (Chapter 30, 31, 33, or 35 benefits) may qualify for the non-resident tuition exemption if they are living in California, regardless of former state of residence. All questions related to determining your residency and eligibility for a VACAA waiver should be directed to the UC Merced Residence Officers in the Office of the Registrar. They may be contacted at [slr@ucmerced.edu](mailto:slr@ucmerced.edu). The Statement of Legal Residence is found here: <https://registrar.ucmerced.edu/CAResidency>.