

## Veterans and Military Benefits

Since 2011, Coe College has been named a *Military Friendly School* by *G.I. Jobs* magazine and is included in the guide listing those colleges and universities that were cited for their support of veterans. According to the magazine, this honor places Coe College in the top 15% of schools nationwide that meet the criteria for a military friendly designation.

Coe College adopted the *Principles of Excellence Standards* issued in Executive Order 13607. To comply with this order, prospective students, who informed the college that they may be eligible to receive military or veterans' benefits, will receive a *pre-enrollment form (Financial Aid Shopping Sheet)* that was developed by the Department of Education. The Financial Aid Shopping Sheet is issued as a supplement to the college's standard financial aid award letter to assist prospective students who are eligible to receive Federal military or veterans' educational benefits in making informed choices about how to use their Federal educational benefits.

### **Coe College is proud to participate in the following programs:**

- [Montgomery GI Bill- Active Duty](#) (Chapter 30)
- [Montgomery GI Bill- Selected Reserve](#) (Chapter 1606)
- [Post-9/11 GI Bill](#) (Chapter 33)
- [Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program](#) (Chapter 33)
- [Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program](#) (Chapter 35)
- [Reserve Educational Assistance Program](#) (Chapter 1607)
- [Vocational Rehabilitation- Veterans with Disabilities](#) (Chapter 31)

Notes: The VA has 7 different chapters, so the student needs to know from which chapter they receive funds.

1. The file number for Chapter 35 is the donor's social security number.
2. The file number for Chapter 33 is the recipient's (student's) social security number.
3. The file number for all other chapters is the student's social security number.

### **Veterans' Benefits**

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers programs for veterans seeking assistance for education and training. If you are a veteran or dependent of a veteran and plan to receive educational benefits as

determined by the Department of Veteran Affairs, contact the Coe College Registrar and VA Certifying Official, Shawna Massow by phone at: 319.399.8526 or email at: [smassow@coe.edu](mailto:smassow@coe.edu), once you have done the following:

1. Go to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) and complete the [VONAPP application](#). Submit it electronically and make a copy for your records and for the Registrar.
2. Submit the following information to the Registrar:
  - Copy of DD 214 Form
  - Copy of VONAPP Educational Benefits Application
  - [Certificate of Eligibility](#) from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Coe College VA and Military Education Benefit Enrollment Certification
3. The Registrar will then submit an online form certifying that you are a student at Coe, the number of credits you are registered for and make changes to your record, if necessary. You must notify the Registrar's Office if you change your enrollment to part time.

Benefits usually begin six to eight weeks after initial certification.

## **Military Tuition Assistance**

Tuition Assistance may be offered through the various branches of the military. Soldiers must request TA through [GoArmyEd](#) on a course-by-course basis prior to the course start date or before the school's late registration period. Students should contact the Education Officer of their unit for information on these programs.

## **The National Guard Education Assistance Program (NGEAP)**

NGEAP is a state funded tuition assistance program administered by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission for members of the Iowa National Guard who have not met the requirements of a baccalaureate degree and are enrolled in an Iowa College or university accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The school is paid "up front" for the cost of tuition for the soldier. [NGEAP](#) and [GoArmyEd](#) may be used together!

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

1. Iowa Resident (determined by The Adjutant General of Iowa)
2. Active member of the Iowa Army or Air National Guard (satisfactory performance of duty)
3. Completion of Initial Entry Training (Basic Training & Advanced Individual Training)
4. Not met requirements for a baccalaureate degree
5. Attendance at a North Central Association (NCA) accredited community college, university or private college or university in Iowa
6. Must submit application by July 1, 2013 for fall term and December 1, 2013 for spring term.

## **Educational Advising**

The Coe College catalog, which includes the requirements for all majors, general education and degree requirements, is available to all students at <http://www.coe.edu/uploads/pdfs/academics/catalog.pdf>. In addition, students may access a record of courses they have earned credit for and the remaining requirements for this educational plan at <http://my.coe.edu/ics/>.

Finally, students are assigned an advisor and have the freedom to change that assignment at any time. This advisor releases the advising hold after their initial meeting so the student can register, and with the student, has access to the individual educational plan, which includes transfer credits accepted from other institutions and how/if they apply to the students' major, general education requirements or elective credits. This plan is available to the student upon matriculation and initial registration at Coe College. The service member is responsible for providing this information to their Service's education office.

## **Military Call Up- Withdrawal/ Refund Options**

A student who is called to active duty, or a student with a dependent child whose spouse is called to active duty, during a term has the following options:

1. Withdraw from all current term courses and receive a full refund of tuition and fees. If the student received federal financial aid, the Financial Aid Office will calculate the amount of earned and unearned federal aid according to the standard federal *Return of IV Funds* as published in the academic catalog and the financial aid handbook.
2. Make arrangements with individual faculty members for final course grades, or for incompletes that shall be completed upon release from active duty. If such arrangements are made, the student's registration will remain intact and tuition and fees will be assessed in full.
3. Make arrangements with only some of faculty for final grades or incompletes that shall be completed upon release from active duty. If such an arrangement is made, the registration for those courses shall remain intact and tuition and fees will be assessed for those courses. Any courses for which arrangements cannot be made for grades or incompletes will be considered dropped and the tuition and mandatory fees for those courses will be refunded.

## **Readmission Requirements for Service Members**

Coe College complies with Readmission Requirements for Service Members as outlined in the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) section 487. The HEOA provides that a prompt readmission of a previously enrolled or admitted student may not be denied to a service member of the uniformed services for reasons relating to that service. This applies to active duty in the Armed Forces; whether voluntary or involuntary, including service under federal authority as a member of the National Guard or Reserve, for a period of more than 30 days.

A qualifying service member will be readmitted:

- To the same program, unless the service member requests or agrees to admission to another program;
- At the same enrollment status (for example, full-time), unless the service member requests or agrees to a different enrollment status;
- With the same number of course credits completed, unless the service member is admitted to a different program and the credits are not transferable;
- With same academic standing (for example, satisfactory academic progress status);
- For the first academic year, with the same tuition and fee charges as when the service member left, unless military benefits will pay the increase, but never more than the college is charging other students.

## **Postsecondary Education Complaint System**

The Department of Defense launched the **Postsecondary Education Complaint System** which provides a centralized online reporting system for service members and their families to use in reporting problems with education institutions. Agency partners including the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Education are also launching online feedback tools providing a centralized system for veterans, service members and eligible family members to file student complaints.

Veterans and their families who run into problems getting access to education benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the DOD Military Tuition Assistance Program can submit a complaint. The agencies will work with the school on the veteran's behalf to find a resolution. Whether the problem is related to funding, treatment or practices, the centralized system is designed for veterans and their beneficiaries to report bad experiences.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***How long am I eligible for benefits?***

Generally, you may receive up to 36 months of entitlement through the Post-9/11 GI Bill. You are eligible for benefits for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.

### ***What is the Post-9/11 GI Bill?***

A new education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. For information on eligibility and benefits, please refer to this website:

[http://gibill.va.gov/documents/pamphlets/ch33\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://gibill.va.gov/documents/pamphlets/ch33_pamphlet.pdf)

### **What is the Yellow Ribbon program and how will it pay for my education?**



The [Yellow Ribbon GI Educational Enhancement Program](#) is a provision of the Post- 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. The program is designed to supplement the Post- 9/11 tuition benefit. Under the Yellow Ribbon program, Coe College entered into an agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs to jointly pay the portion of an eligible veteran's net tuition and fees that exceed the maximum amount otherwise provided by the Post- 9/11 GI Bill. Veterans are encouraged to visit the VA's Yellow Ribbon webpage to determine their eligibility.

Due to the progressive nature of the program, please refer to this website for the latest details on benefits: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

### **What is Post- 9/11 GI Bill Transferability?**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill allows uniformed service members (officer or enlisted, active duty or Selected Reserve), on or after August 1, 2009, to transfer unused education benefits to immediate family members (spouse and children). The service member must have at least six years of service and commit to an additional four years of service in order to transfer benefits to a spouse or child. The Department of Defense (DoD) and the military services determine whether or not you can transfer benefits to your family members. *Please note: Parents **and** students need to apply for benefits on [www.gibill.va.com](http://www.gibill.va.com) or no benefits will be paid to the approved student.*

### **How do I receive payments of my VA benefits?**

The VA makes payment directly to the veteran by (1) direct deposit or (2) mailing a check to the mailing address on file at the VA. To establish or change your direct deposit information, click on the Direct Deposit Enrollment Form link after you have logged into [WAVE](#). Changes and enrollments are usually processed the next business day.

- **Under Montgomery GI Bill (Ch. 30 and 1606) and REAP:** If you attend school, you must verify your enrollment each month by using the WAVE or IVR system or by calling the toll free 1-877-823-2378. Remember that you cannot be paid for a month until the month is over and you verify that you were still in attendance for that month.
- **Under Post-9/11 GI Bill (Ch. 33 and Yellow Ribbon):** The VA will send the tuition and fees directly to Coe College. The VA will send a book stipend (if applicable) directly to you near the beginning of the term (or once your enrollment is processed). The VA will send the housing allowance (if applicable) directly to you at the end of each month.

### **How long does it take to receive a payment?**

Initial payments may take as long as 10 to 12 weeks to activate. Students filing under Chapters 30, 35, 1606, and 1607 will be given retroactive pay from the start of the semester, and continue to receive monthly installments thereafter. Chapter 33 Veterans should receive their housing allowance payment approximately four to six weeks after courses begin, provided all paperwork was completed prior to the start of the semester.

### **How do I receive payment of my Federal Tuition Assistance?**

The Department of Defense will send tuition payments directly to Coe College. Active duty's oldiers using tuition assistance can bring their forms to the Business Office located in Lower Voorhees Hall. Anyone using tuition assistance must notify the Coe's Registrar and VA Certifying Official, Shawna Massow, at [smassow@coe.edu](mailto:smassow@coe.edu).

## **Community/Corridor Resources**

- [Linn County Veteran Affairs Office](#)
- [Johnson County Veteran Affairs Office](#)
- [Cedar Rapids Vet Center](#)
- [Iowa City VA Medical Center](#) (VA medical care)
- [VA Benefits: VBA Regional Office](#)
- [U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [GI Bill Home](#) to check on eligibility for benefits
- [Apply online for all VA educational benefits](#)
- [Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

## **Coe College Resources**

Office of the Registrar- 319.399.8526- Shawna Massow– [smassow@coe.edu](mailto:smassow@coe.edu)

*Certifies courses the veteran student is enrolled in at Coe College and assigns academic advisors*

Office of Admission- 319.399.8500- Admission Counselor

*Help with the process of applying to Coe College, preliminary evaluation of transfer credits, information about Coe and academic programs*

Office of Financial Aid- 319.399.8540- Barb Hoffman- [bhoffman@coe.edu](mailto:bhoffman@coe.edu)

Amanda Colehour- [acolehou@coe.edu](mailto:acolehou@coe.edu)

*Financial aid application process, FAFSA filing, Yellow Ribbon Program, GI Bill and other financial assistance programs available to Veterans*

Business Office- 319.399.8525- Heidi Patterson- [hpatters@coe.edu](mailto:hpatters@coe.edu)

*Financial fees and payments, releases financial holds for non-payment of bills, Military Tuition Assistance Invoicing*