



## Guide to VA Education Benefits for veterans and dependents

Welcome to UCLA.

This guide is an overview of all veterans' education benefits that can be used at UCLA. It is also a resource to help answer any questions or concerns that may arise while at UCLA.

### Different Benefit Types and What They Cover

#### Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill (veterans or dependents)

In-state portion of tuition and fees: equivalent to GI Bill eligibility percentage

Monthly housing allowance (MHA): \$2,997

\*The Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) is generally the same as the military Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents. This rate is variable and dependent on factors such as the location of your school, your rate of pursuit, and whether you enrolled in the program prior to 1/8/18. The MHA amount is determined by the VA.

Book stipend: \$1,000 per academic year

Priority registration/priority housing (veterans only)

#### Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill (veterans only)

Monthly stipend only: \$2,150.00 at full time status

Priority registration/priority housing

#### Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (veterans only) Full

tuition and fees (excluding UCSHIP student health insurance fee)

Monthly housing allowance (BAH): \$600 – \$2,997

Books, parking and supplies, if authorized by vocational rehabilitation counselor Priority registration/priority housing

#### Chapter 1606/1607 Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (reservists) Monthly

stipend only: \$384 at full time status

#### Chapter 35 Dependents Education Assistance (dependents only) Monthly stipend

only: \$1,298 at full time status

#### California Veterans Fee Waiver (dependents only)

Waives tuition and student services fee

Does not cover any campus-based fees or UCSHIP (student health insurance) fee

### How to Apply for Benefits

#### Chapter 30, 33, 35 and 1606 benefits

Apply [online](#). If applicant is eligible, the VA will mail a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). Once applicant receives the COE, submit it to a UCLA [certifying official](#) via Message Center on your MyUCLA portal.

#### Chapter 31 benefits

Apply with a VA vocational rehabilitation counselor. If approved, the counselor will send your award letter documents to the UCLA [certifying official](#) by e-mail.

#### California Veterans Fee Waiver

Apply at any county Veterans Services Office in California. To find a location, see the CalVet website. Once applicant receives the COE, submit it to the UCLA [certifying official](#). For the 2022-2023 academic



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year, apply for the 2022-2023 CalVet waiver, which covers fall 2022 through summer 2023 terms. Applicants must apply for an updated CalVet waiver each year.

### Certification Process

#### Chapter 30, 31, 33, 35 and 1606/1607 benefits

A few weeks prior to the beginning of the quarter, the student record is checked to see if full-time enrollment (12 units or more for undergraduates, 8 units or more for most graduate-level programs) has been reached. If yes, the certification process proceeds. If not, the student's file is placed aside until full-time enrollment is reached.

UCLA staff then logs into its online VA system and enters the following information for the quarter: start date, end date, number of units enrolled, and tuition and fees being charged. This is called enrollment certification.

The student then receives an automated e-mail message from the VA confirming that certification has been made. For students using Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill, UCLA places a Ch.33 VA fee deferral on the student's BruinBill account, which places it in paid-in-full status while UCLA waits for VA funding to arrive, so the student is not dropped from classes at the fee-payment deadline.

Funding arrives at UCLA about one month after the enrollment certification is submitted for a given term. Tuition funding is sent directly from the VA to UCLA and is posted to the student's BruinBill account.

Stipend/BAH funding is sent directly from the VA to the student, around the first of each month by direct deposit, and pays for the prior month's enrollment. For instance, payment for February enrollment is received around March first.

The amount of tuition and BAH/stipend funding that arrives is based on the student's eligibility percentage, which can be found on the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or eBenefits statement. For example, if the eligibility percentage is 60%, the student receives 60% of the BAH amount and 60% of full tuition and fees amounts.

UCLA automatically processes enrollment certifications on behalf of students for regular quarters (fall, winter, spring) unless it is informed not to do so. However, to use benefits for a summer session, the student must contact the Veterans Benefits Coordinator and make a request.

Amendments and adjustments will be made to your enrollment certification during the quarter if any financial changes occur (e.g., late award of a Cal Grant, late waive out of UCSHIP student health insurance, etc.).

At the end of the quarter, the Veterans Benefits Coordinator runs a report to see how many units were completed. Any course withdrawals, drops, or Incomplete or NP grades that resulted in the student dropping below full-time enrollment must be reported to the VA, which may result in the student being billed for all or a portion of the VA funding.

For any inquiries pertaining to remaining eligibility, amount the VA may bill for not completing a full-time course load, or about the status of an enrollment certification that has already been submitted, contact an educational benefits representative at the VA directly at 1-888-442-4551, or on the VA [Education and Training](#) home page. If using Chapter 31 benefits, contact a vocational rehabilitation counselor.



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### California Veterans Fee Waiver (CalVet)

Upon submission of a CalVet approval letter to the Veterans Benefits Coordinator, and the student status coded as a California resident, a waiver is posted for all quarters that are part of the academic year approved on the letter. The UCLA academic year begins in fall quarter and runs through the end of summer session C. A CalVet approval letter identified as 2022-2023 works for fall 2022, winter 2023, spring 2023, and summer 2023 quarters.

UCLA automatically processes CalVet benefits on behalf of students for regular quarters (fall, winter, spring). However, to use benefits for a summer session, the student must contact the Veterans Benefits Coordinator once the summer session schedule is **finalized and listed on student's study list**.

The CalVet waiver specifically waives charges for tuition, the student services fee, and the professional school fee for graduate students. It does not cover any campus-based fees, UCSHIP student health insurance, books, rent, meals, etc. As UCLA charges tuition on a flat-rate basis (instead of by the unit), the CalVet fee waiver can be used no matter how many units a student enrolls in, completes, drops, withdraws from, etc.

Students must apply for an updated CalVet waiver each year. This can be done through a county veterans service office. A copy of the updated approval letter must be submitted to the UCLA Veterans Benefits Coordinator before the start of every academic year.

### Nonresident of California

A student coded as nonresident of California is charged nonresident supplemental tuition on top of regular (California resident) tuition and fees. The VA does not cover nonresident tuition. Options for nonresident tuition exemption or waiver are

### Petition for Residence Classification

The UCLA Registrar's Office has detailed information about [residence for tuition purposes](#). Residence Deputies can also provide information about petitioning for resident status. [Residence deputies](#) can be reached by e-mail, or through the MyUCLA [Message Center](#).

### Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (VACAA)

To be eligible, students must be using the Post-9/11 GI Bill. You must also fall into one of these categories for the UCLA Specific Non-Resident waiver:

- A veteran that lives in the state of California (regardless of previous residence).
- An individual receiving transferred benefits who lives in state of California (Regardless of previous residence).
- You must remain continuously enrolled (excludes regularly scheduled breaks between courses and terms).
- Anyone who is using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, who also lives in the state of California (regardless of previous residence).

As of August 1, 2021 public institutions are mandated to provide in state tuition to GI Bill students regardless of when they separated from the military. If you feel that you have met these criteria, submit the student GI Bill Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and the veteran or service member's verification of status (DD-214 for veterans; Leave and Earnings Statement or Enlisted Record Brief for active duty military members) to the Veterans Benefits Coordinator.



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### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q *Who is the Veterans Benefits Coordinator? Who is the Veterans Resource Program Director?***

**A** [Gloria Perez](#) is the UCLA Veterans Benefits Coordinator. She handles all areas of VA education benefits. Her office is located in the Registrar's Office (1113 Murphy Hall). The best way to contact the Veterans Benefits Coordinator or submit documents is by e-mail. **Include the 9-digit UCLA student ID number on all correspondence.**

Emily Ives is the Veterans Program Director. She works with student veterans on all areas that fall outside of benefits—resources, events, outreach, counseling, and special issues. Her office is located in 132 Kerckhoff Hall.

**Q *How do VA benefits affect a financial aid package?***

**A** It is critical to inform UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships as early as possible about upcoming VA funding, so the financial aid offer can be properly adjusted. VA funding can be easily reported on the student eFAN. After logging in to the MyUCLA account, find the Financial Aid tab and access the Self-Reported Awards section.

Failure to report VA funding may result in the student receiving an over-award. Such discrepancies would be revealed by Financial Aid and Scholarships term-end reports. Any excess funding that the student has already been spent must be returned.

**Q *What financial aid awards can be received in addition to VA benefits? Which ones cannot?***

**A** The UC systemwide rule of thumb is that financial awards specifically designated as being tuition and fee specific (Cal Grants, University grants, UCSHIP grants, UCSHIP waivers) cannot be used on top of Chapter 33, 31, or CalVet waiver funding. However, students of any VA benefit can use any financial aid awards that are considered general in nature (Pell grants, student loans, outside scholarships).

**Q *Can more than one VA benefit be used at a time?***

**A** No more than one chapter benefit can be used at a time. A CalVet fee waiver can be used in conjunction with Chapter 33 or 35 benefits.

**Q *Will the VA reimburse for fees to take national tests (LSAT, GMAT, etc.)?***

**A** Yes. Contact the UCLA certifying official, or see VA form 22-0810.



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### **Q Do veterans benefits cover nonresident tuition?**

**A** No. However, nonresident tuition can be waived for eligible Veterans Choice Act students.

### **Q Do veterans benefits cover the UCSHIP (health insurance) fee?**

**A** Benefits for CalVet, Ch.30, 1606, 35, and 31 Vocational Rehabilitation recipients *do not* cover the UCSHIP fee.

Benefits for Ch.33 Post-9/11 GI Bill recipients cover the percentage of this fee that corresponds to the GI Bill eligibility percentage found on the student's Certificate of Eligibility from the VA.

*Example 1:* If the eligibility percentage is 100%, the UCSHIP fee is fully covered by VA benefits; there is no need to waive UCSHIP.

*Example 2:* If the eligibility percentage is 40%, 40% of the UCSHIP fee is covered. 60% of the fee is not covered by VA benefits.

All VA benefit recipients who have existing health care coverage can contact the UCLA Ashe Center about the possibility and requirements for waiving UCSHIP coverage and fees.

Some financial aid packages may include a grant for the UCSHIP fee. Aid recipients should check their eFAN for details; find it through the MyUCLA account under the Financial Aid tab.

### **Q For what period is the monthly housing allowance (BAH) or stipend issued?**

**A** BAH/stipend funds are paid by the VA for periods in which the student is enrolled in courses. There is no VA funding for times during the year when the student is not enrolled, such as during the optional summer quarter.

Funds generally arrive by direct deposit to the student account on or about the first of the month, and pay based on the previous month's enrollment. For example, if a quarter starts on 09/29/19 and ends on 12/19/19, payment amounts and schedule would look like this

10/01/19: Prorated for two days of September  
11/01/19: Full payment  
12/01/19: Full payment  
01/01/20: Prorated for nineteen days of December

### **Q Can VA benefits be used toward a study abroad program?**

**A** With very few exceptions, yes. Contact the Veterans Benefits Coordinator to discuss details of the specific program to verify that it qualifies.



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### **Q *Can the VA reimburse students for payments made to a tutor?***

**A** Yes. The VA will pay up to \$100 per month for tutorial assistance. Inquire with the school certifying official, or print VA form 22-1990t.

### **Q *Is a veteran or service member eligible for priority enrollment?***

**A** Yes. By law, active or former members of the U.S. armed forces who have left military service (with any discharge other than dishonorable or bad conduct) are eligible for priority enrollment. GI Bill recipients are automatically assigned a priority enrollment. Those who do not currently receive GI Bill benefits must present proof of their military service (DD Form 214 or military ID) to the Veterans Benefits Coordinator. Only students that are veterans or active-duty service members are eligible for priority enrollment; dependents are not.

### **Q *Is a veteran or service member eligible for priority housing?***

**A** Yes. Priority housing is a benefit given to all student veterans and active-duty service members. Contact Emily Ives in the Veterans Resource Office for more information.

### **Q *For general questions about VA educational benefit eligibility, or status of an enrollment certification that has already been submitted, who should be contacted?***

**A** Contact a live representative on the VA education benefits line at 1-888-442-4551, or see the [GI Bill support home page](#) and click on the Ask a Question button. Students who want to use Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation benefits can call 510-637-6128, or contact a counselor if already enrolled in the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

### **Q *How are VA benefits affected when using a chapter benefit and enrolled in fewer than full-time units?***

**A** Generally, UCLA students receiving veteran education benefits are enrolled full-time. However, certification at a less than full-time course load can be done on request. For Chapter 33 benefits, this does not affect the amount sent by the VA to UCLA towards tuition and fees.

For chapters 33, 35, 30, 31, and 1606/1607, BAH/monthly stipend amounts are reduced according to the student rate-of-pursuit that the VA calculates. For example, if an undergraduate student requests certification for just 6 units, this is considered half-time enrollment; the student will receive only 50% of the BAH/monthly stipend.

CalVet students are not affected.



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### **Q How does a student know that the Chapter 33 or 31, or CalVet tuition, funding has processed and posted?**

**A** Chapter 33 students see a “Ch.33 Fee Deferral” on the BruinBill account on the day the enrollment is certified to the VA for that quarter. This ensures that the student is placed in paid-in-full status so that classes aren’t dropped at the tuition-payment deadline, even as UCLA waits for the VA to send funding. In addition to the "Ch.33 Fee Deferral", an advanced credit is placed on your Bruinbill to expedite the disbursement of funds if you are entitled to any. The advanced credit is listed as "Ch.33 VA Advanced" on your Bruinbill. Once we receive payment from the VA that advance credit will removed, so an over award is not applied.

When the actual funding arrives and posts, it appears on the BruinBill as

*Chapter 33 funding:* Chapter 33 VA payment

*Chapter 31 funding:* Veteran’s Affairs

*CalVet waiver:* Veteran’s Dependent, displaying exact amount of charges covered: student services fee; tuition; and graduate professional school fee, if applicable.

### **Q How are VA benefits affected if classes are dropped, an NP or F grade is received, or the student withdraws?**

**A** The Veterans Benefits Coordinator runs a report at the end of each quarter and must inform the VA whenever a student doesn’t complete the number of units for which they were certified, or drops below full-time status. The VA determines how or if it will bill the student for a portion of the tuition, BAH, or stipend funding.

*Example 1:* A student was originally certified for 16 units but drops down to 12 units. Nothing is reported, since that student still completed a full-time course load (12 units or more for undergraduates, 8 units or more for most graduate students).

*Example 2:* A student was originally certified for 15 units; the student withdrew from one class and received an NP (no pass) grade in another class, resulting in the completion of only 4 units. This must be reported to the VA.

The CalVet waiver is not affected by any drops, withdrawals, or F grades.



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### UCLA Campus Contacts

*In compliance with COVID-19-related safer-at-home orders, most UCLA services are available online only. Contact veteran service offices by e-mail, or through the MyUCLA Message Center.*

**Gloria Perez**

UCLA Veterans Benefits Coordinator  
[vabenefit@registrar.ucla.edu](mailto:vabenefit@registrar.ucla.edu)  
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**Melissa Faybik** UCLA

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310-983-3126

### UCLA Campus Resources

**Veterans Resource Center (VRC)**

132 Kerckhoff Hall  
<https://www.veterans.ucla.edu>  
<https://www.brc.ucla.edu>  
310-206-6915

**Counseling and Psychological Services  
(CAPS)**

Contact James Cones, PhD  
John Wooden Center West  
<https://www.counseling.ucla.edu>  
310-825-0768

**Financial Aid**

A-129J Murphy Hall  
<https://www.financialaid.ucla.edu>  
310-206-9317

**Career Center**

501 Strathmore Building  
<https://www.career.ucla.edu>  
310-203-1025

**Registrar's Office**

<https://www.registrar.ucla.edu>  
[reginfo@registrar.ucla.edu](mailto:reginfo@registrar.ucla.edu)  
[Message Center](#)

**Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness  
Center**

<https://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu>  
310-825-7693

**Center for Accessible Education (CAE)**

A-255 Murphy Hall  
<https://www.cae.ucla.edu>  
310-825-1501

**Academic Advancement Program**

1232 Campbell Hall  
<https://www.aap.ucla.edu>  
310-206-1568