Texas A&M Resources for Military Affiliated Students

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(Scholarships & Financial Aid)

Serve Well Those Who Have Served!
Topics

• The VSO and VRSC
• Veteran Educational Benefits
• Military Scholarships
• Financial Aid
• Your New Environment
• On-Campus Services & Support
• Getting Connected
VSO & VRSC

The Veteran Services Office (VSO):
• Responsible for veteran educational benefits, and scholarship and financial aid advising.
• Pavilion, Room 205

The Veteran Resource & Support Center (VRSC):
• Identifies, develops & provides uniquely tailored resources for military affiliated students & their families…*Your “one-stop” referral shop!*
• Koldus, Room 112.
The Two Veteran Offices…

The Pavilion  
(Veteran Services Office)

Koldus  
(Veteran Resource & Support Center)
Agenda

- Beginning Attendance
- Return of Title IV Aid
- Cost of Attendance Proration
- Award Proration
- 150% Subsidized Loan Limits
- 600% Pell Limit
- Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Scholarships

Veteran Educational Benefits
Veteran Educational Benefits

Types of Veterans Educational Benefits:

Federal Benefits:
- Chapter Benefits
  - Chapter 33 – Post 9/11 GI Bill
  - Chapter 30 – Montgomery GI Bill
  - Chapter 31 – Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
  - Chapter 1607 – Reserve Educational Assistance Program
  - Chapter 1606 – Selected Reserves
  - Chapter 35 - Dependents’ Educational Assistance
- Tutoring Assistance

State Benefits:
- Hazlewood Exemption
Veteran Educational Benefits

**VA Chapter Benefits for Veterans:**
Pays tuition and fees, books, and a housing stipend:
   - Chapter 33 – Post 9/11 GI Bill
   - Chapter 31 – Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

Pays a monthly stipend directly to the student:
   - Chapter 30 – Montgomery GI Bill
   - Chapter 1606 – Selected Reserve
   - Chapter 1607 – Reserve Educational Assistance Program

**Reserves**

**VA Chapter Benefits for Dependents:**
Pays tuition and fees, books, and a housing stipend:
   - Chapter 33 – Post 9/11 GI Bill

Pays a monthly stipend directly to the student:
   - Chapter 35 – Dependents’ Educational Assistance
Veteran Educational Benefits

Non-Resident Tuition & Fees

Military Personnel & Dependents Non-Resident Tuition Exemption
• Must reside in Texas
• Must be receiving VA Chapter benefits or be the spouse/child of an active duty service member
• Must intend on ultimately becoming a Texas resident
• Processed by Student Business Services

Post 9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program
• Must have a 100% VA Chapter Benefit rating
• Fry Scholarship recipients are ineligible
• Active duty and spouses of active duty are ineligible
• Processed by the Veteran Services Office
Tutoring Assistance:

- Students receiving Chapter 30, 33, 35, or 1606.
- The courses the student is receiving tutoring for must be required for their degree plan.
- Students can be reimbursed up to $100 per month.
- Must submit Application for Individualized Tutorial Assistance to receive reimbursement (veterans.tamu.edu).
Veteran Educational Benefits

Hazlewood Exemption

What it Pays For:
- Pays resident tuition and required fees for a total of 150 credit hours*.
- Can be applied to Undergraduate, Graduate, or Professional School.
- Students using Legacy benefits will only be eligible for the hours needed to graduate from their program (maximum degree certified hours).
Veteran Educational Benefits

**Hazlewood Exemption:**

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Meet at least one of the following requirements:
  - Entered service in Texas at time of entry into the military
  - Declared Texas as Home of Record at time of entry into the military
  - Was a Texas resident at the time of entry into the military
- Served at least 181 days on active military duty excluding training
- Honorably Discharged or a General Discharge under Honorable Conditions
- Reside in Texas (new recipients beginning Fall 2011)
- Not in default on state student loan (federal loans will not impact eligibility)
- Not eligible for Post 9-11 Benefits to pay 100% of tuition and fees
- Texas Guaranteed Tuition Fund cannot already be applied to student bill

*Hazlewood is a financial resource and can impact financial aid eligibility.*
Veteran Educational Benefits

How to Apply for Benefits:

- Apply for benefits **every** semester.
- First-time recipients can apply **after being admitted** (don’t have to be registered for courses).
- Renewal recipients can apply **after registering** for courses.
- [Veterans.tamu.edu](http://Veterans.tamu.edu) explains what documents must be submitted for which benefit.
- Put your UIN on each page of every document.
- Documents will only be accepted via document upload on the Status Page in the Financial Aid Portal, via fax, via mail, and in-person. Documents will **NOT** be accepted via email for security reasons.
Veteran Educational Benefits

Benefit Processing:

• The earlier you submit your paperwork, the earlier your benefits will be processed.

• Standard processing time by the Veteran Services Offices is only 5-7 business days, but the VA may take another 1-2 months to send BAH deposits/checks.

• The Status Tab of the Financial Aid Portal will reflect the processing status of your documents (Requested, Missing, Incomplete, Complete, etc.).

• Your benefits will not be processed until after you have registered for courses (see veterans.tamu.edu for details).

• Tuition and fee payment for benefits will not apply to your bill until your bill has been generated by the University.
Veteran Educational Benefits

Reminders:

• Check your Financial Aid Portal for requested documents and processing status of your veterans educational benefits.
• Check your student bill to ensure your benefits have posted.
• Students are responsible for the payment of their bill and any late fees that are incurred.
• Check your student email for notifications and the Veteran Services Monthly Newsletter.
• The General Deposit is not covered under Ch 33, Ch 31, or the Hazlewood Exemption.
Military Scholarships
Military Scholarships

University – Military Affiliated:

• Honored Service Scholarship
• Aggie Ring Scholarship for Veterans
• Faye Leeth Memorial Endowed Scholarship
• Heroes of the War on Terrorism
• Jorge Bermudez
• Association of Former Students

You can apply for most of these through the University Scholarship Application on scholarships.tamu.edu.

Outside – Military Affiliated:

– Folds of Honor Foundation Scholarship
– Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship
– Tillman Military Scholarship
Military Scholarships

**Pat Tillman Scholarship:**
The Pat Tillman Foundation works with University Partners to help identify and select qualified candidates. Scholars represent a diverse set of backgrounds, experiences and ambitions. They exemplify strong leadership and a drive to make a positive impact on our communities and country.

Who can apply to become a Tillman Military Scholar?

**Veteran and active-duty military service members**
- Honorably discharged of pre- and post-9/11 service
- From all branches of the U.S. Military including National Guard and Reserve

**Current spouses of veterans or active-duty service members**
- Including surviving spouses

**Service members or spouses pursuing a degree as a full-time student:**
- Undergraduate (Bachelor’s or above)
- Graduate or post-graduate degree
- At a public or private, U.S.-based accredited institution

The 2016-2017 scholarship application opens February and closes March.

For more information, please email Debbie Shannon at dshannon@tamu.edu and include the information listed below. Debbie will set up a meeting for you to meet with Bridgette Ingram (the Pat Tillman Foundation point person).
- UIN, Campus, Major and current GPA, as well as military branch served.
Agenda

• Beginning Attendance
• Return of Title IV Aid
• Cost of Attendance Proration
• Award Proration
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Financial Aid
Applying for Financial Aid:

• You can receive veterans educational benefits and financial aid.
• Some military scholarships require that a FAFSA be submitted.
• Submit your FAFSA early so that you are considered for as many awards as possible.
VRSC

On-Campus Resources, Services & Support
How does Texas A&M…

Serve Well Those Who Have Served??

It’s all about helping YOU

connect with the right people & resources in a new environment!
### Veteran Mindset

I can fix my own problems...I shouldn’t need help...Asking for help gets me labeled as “weak.”

**Strong ideas about strength & weakness:**
- Those who need help are weak.
- Physical strength is prized & necessary for survival.

**Training:** Repetitive, practical, memorization, a checklist mentality.

### Our TAMU Mindset

Asking for help doesn’t get you “labeled.”

**Strong ideas about strength & weakness:**
- Asking for help is a sign of strength/maturity.
- Mental strength is prized.
- Survival doesn’t depend on physical strength.

**Education:** Reflective, theoretical, synthesis & analysis mentality.

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**Know Your Environment**
## Know Your Environment

### Veteran Mindset

**Used to structure:**
- Schedules/regimentation are critical.
- Taking orders, giving orders & the chain of command make sense.

| 24/7 |

### Our TAMU Mindset

**Uneasy w/ structure:**
- Reglementation inhibits personal freedom & expression.
- Leading by committee works.

| 7/24 |

### “Push” Mentality
- Much is provided & directed to/for you.

### “Pull” Mentality
- You must find & seek what you need.
Student Veteran Challenges

- Isolation or Alienation
- Change of Identity ("Hero to Zero" & Priority of Self)
- Time Management
- PTSD/TBI
  - Anger Management
  - Relationship & Trust Issues
  - Substance Abuse
- The BIG 5: GI Bill benefit processing, Health Care, Insurance, Academic Advising & $$$ (bills, billing cycles, living expenses)
Student Veteran Strengths

- Maturity & Discipline
- Diverse Experiences
- Leadership
- Core Values
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Interpersonal Skills/Team Player
- Focused on Achievement & Success
- You just know how to “get things done!”

Focus on “applying your strengths!”
Ways to Meet & Beat Challenges

• Get Connected
  – Communicate
  – Find your student veteran peers

• Apply your Experience & Strengths
  – Leadership, maturity, & interpersonal skills

• You have a role to play…

• Juggling vs. Balancing

• Seek Resources for Yourself Early!!

• Improve Self-Sufficiency…learn how to “pull!”

• Maintain Your Core Values
Advice from recent student vets…

• Graduation comes faster than you think – be prepared.
• Get involved. Develop a plan early and follow through.
• Ask for help; there are a tremendous amount of people who want to see you succeed.
• Don’t be afraid to experience everything A&M has to offer…Just because you are a vet doesn’t mean you shouldn’t partake in student organizations & activities – you will be glad you did.
• Make sure that you utilize all of the available services. Take advantage of FAFSA from the beginning.
On-Campus Services & Support

- Academic Advisors
- Faculty & Staff
- Peers & Peer Mentors
- VSO/VRSC
- Academic Success Center
- Student Counseling Center
- Disability Services
- Career Center
- Student/Professional Organizations
- Aggie Vet Network
- Military Withdrawal & Readmit Assistance

Just like a military base...at TAMU the resources are available...

You just have to connect!
VRSC Programs (Grad Students)

- PAVE
- Aggie Veteran Network (AVN)
- Vet Camp
- Recognition Programs
- VetConnect Program
- Student Veteran Aggie Ring Program
- Tickets for Aggie Student Veterans Program
- Up-Armoring Relationships
- Equine Services for Heroes Program (Courtney Cares)
- Employment & Career Programs
- Veteran Legal Initiative Program
- Upcoming Events (See Calendar Handout)
Getting Connected

Monthly Veteran Services Newsletter:
• Sent each month to all students using veteran benefits.
• Critical information for veterans/dependents…READ IT!!!
• A resource for unique opportunities…

FACEBOOK:
• SVA: http://www.facebook.com/groups/TAMUveterans/
• VRSC: http://www.facebook.com/groups/TAMUVRSC/

Texas A&M Student Veterans Association:
• Student organization of veterans, dependents, and other students affiliated with current/former military personnel.

T2C Grad Student Rep – Jeff Salem
Transportation Services

• Parking for Veterans
  – 50% or more disabled, DV Plates or Purple Heart recipients, parking pass is free, preferential, and renewable…SEE US FOR DETAILS.
Veteran/Military Related Student Organizations
Final Thoughts

Surveys…turn them in!