



Welcome to North Central Texas College!

The information provided in this packet will help you through the process of setting up your Veteran Educational Benefits at NCTC. Before you can start receiving your benefits you are required to turn in all necessary paperwork to the School Certifying Official for the campus you attend. Please read through the key points outlined below for a smooth college transition.

POST 9/11 – CHAPTER 33

A Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) is paid directly to the student at the beginning of each month for the previous month school attendance. The amount of MHA paid is based on the DOD's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for "E-5 with dependents" and the zip code of the campus or training location where the student physically attends the majority of their courses. [BAH Calculator](#)

Note: The amount payable for the MHA for any academic year (beginning on August 1) will be based upon the BAH rates effective on January 1 of that year.

New Grandfathering Rule: Effective for training beginning on or after August 1, 2018, VA will grandfather the MHA for certain individuals. If housing rates decrease, a student will be paid the same monthly housing allowance rate for as long as he or she remains in receipt of the housing at the same zip code (**NOT same facility code**) without a break longer than 6 months.

Exclusively Online Training (No Classroom Instruction):

"All Online" Training MAH = \$917 (if enrolled full-time).

Rate of Pursuit: Rate of pursuit applies specifically to Chapter 33. It differs from training time, which is used for all other Chapters. Rate of pursuit determines whether a student receives or doesn't receive the housing allowance. The housing allowance is paid only if the student's rate of pursuit is more than 50%. If the rate of pursuit is 50% or less, then the student doesn't receive the housing allowance.

Calculating Rate of Pursuit (RoP): applies specifically to CH33. It differs from training time, which is used for all other Chapters. Schools certify actual credit. VA calculates RoP by dividing the number of credits (or credit hour equivalents) being pursued by the number of credits considered to be full-time by the school. The resulting percentage is the student's rate of pursuit.

Examples: Full-time at NCTC is 12 credits, then the rate of pursuit (RoP) for a student

- Pursuing 6 credits @ NCTC is 50% ($6 \div 12 = 50\%$)
- Pursuing 7 credits @ NCTC is 58% ($7 \div 12 = 58\%$)

Book and Supply Stipend: A Books and Supply Stipend of up to \$1,000 per academic year is paid directly to the student. The books and supply stipend are paid proportionately based on enrollment. The books and supplies stipend pay \$41.67 per credit certified, up to 24 credits for the academic year (08/01/XX-07/31/XX). The start date of an enrollment period determines the academic year the enrollment period belongs to. The maximum stipend is \$1,000 per academic year.

Monthly Verification of Enrollment: Effective December 2021 students will be required to verify their enrollment status through text messages or calling 1-888-442-4551 (GI-BILL1) toll free. Schools cannot verify for the student. Chapter 33 students must respond monthly to verify their enrollment. MHA payments will continue to be released until two consecutive months have elapsed without any verification.

Fulltime Post 911 MAH	
Gainesville	\$1,413
Corinth	\$1,968
Denton	\$1,968
Flower Mound	\$1,968
Bowie	\$1,413
Graham	\$1,206
All Online	\$917



Active Duty Post 9/11: Active duty personnel (including those on terminal leave) and their spouses utilizing transferred entitlement are not eligible for the housing allowance. Once separated from active duty, students (and their spouses) will become eligible to receive the monthly housing allowance on the first day of the month following separation.

Effective October 1, 2011: Individuals enrolled in a degree program while on active duty became eligible for the Books & Supplies stipend.

Transfer of Entitlement: The Department of Defense (DoD) offers members of the Armed Forces the opportunity to transfer Post 9/11 - Chapter 33 benefits to spouse or dependent children. If a member of the Armed Forces (active duty or Selected Reserve) serves at least six years and commits to serve an additional 4 years. After separating from the Armed Forces individuals cannot designate new dependents to receive transferred entitlement or amend the effective date of the initial transfer of entitlement to an earlier date, except for cases involving death. Request to modify transferred benefits must be made through the Department of Defense (DoD). Spouses and Dependents must apply online through VETS.gov to receive a Certificate of Eligibility.

FRY Scholarship: The Fry Scholarship provides Post 9/11 – Chapter 33 benefits to the children and surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10, 2001. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level. Effective August 1, 2021, children and spouses of members of the Selected Reserves are also eligible under the Fry Scholarship. To see if you are eligible review the information sheet about the [FRY Scholarship](#).

CHAPTERS 30, 1606, 1607 AND 35

Standard benefit amounts can be found on the [VA website](#) in the monthly rate tables. An additional kicker may be paid to some Chapter 30, 33, 1606, and 1607 students. Students are also eligible for retroactive benefits.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS FOR ALL CHAPTERS

VA issues monthly payments on the first of each month for training that occurred during the month. For example, assuming timely certification of enrollment by the school and timely processing by VA, payments for training taken in January will be issued by VA in February. The school must submit a student's enrollment information to VA in order to start the payments.

Chapter	Full-time Training Monthly Rate*
MGIB – CH30	\$ 2,150.00
MGIB –SR – CH1606	\$ 407.00
DEA – CH35	1,298.00
<i>*Effective Date: October 1, 2021</i>	

WHY IS MY PAYMENT LESS THAN EXPECTED?

The most common reason for a smaller than expected MHA payment is due to the payment being prorated based on the number of days in the month that a student is enrolled. Payments are made in arrears and only for the days actually attended, so if the term starts in the middle of January, the payment received at the beginning of February will be pro-rated accordingly. The first full payment will be issued in March for the month of February.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT (GUEST STUDENT)

An eligible individual pursuing a degree at a school may take a course at another school because it's at a more convenient time; less expensive, etc. The school that will grant the degree is the student's "primary" school. All other schools are "secondary" schools. As long as the primary school accepts the secondary school's course transfer credit the primary school provides a letter ("primary school letter" or PIL) addressed to the VA Certifying Official at the secondary school.



If the student is enrolled at the primary school and the secondary school at the same time (concurrent enrollment), VA will pay for the combined credit, taking overlapping enrollment dates into account. If the student is only enrolled at the secondary school (supplemental enrollment), VA will pay for the credits taken at the secondary school.

PRIOR CREDIT: TRANSCRIPT EVALUATIONS

Transcripts from all prior colleges, including military transcripts, must be submitted to the school for the purpose of credit evaluation before attendance can be certified for VA purposes. Only courses that satisfy requirements outlined by the degree plan or graduation evaluation form can be certified. If a student takes a course that does not fulfill a program requirement, it cannot be certified for VA purposes.

Excessive free electives, for example, cannot be certified.

REMEDIAL/DEFICIENCY COURSEWORK

Generally, veteran students are exempt from meeting the Admissions Office Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirement. To be considered for an exemption the veteran must turn in a copy of their DD Form 214-Member 4 and sign a TSI Waiver at the Admissions Office. Remedial coursework are courses designed to correct deficiencies in basic mathematics, English, and reading at the elementary or secondary level. These courses can be certified as part of an approved program, but only for students for whom a verifiable need has been established. ***Remedial/deficiency courses offered as online (independent study) and cannot be approved and or certified to VA.***

REPEATED COURSES

Courses that are successfully completed may not be certified for VA purposes if they are repeated. However, if a student fails a class, or if a program requires a higher grade than achieved, that course may be repeated and certified to VA again. For example, if Nursing requires a "B" or better in Biology, then that course may be repeated if a "B" was not earned.

REDUCTIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The law prohibits payment of VA educational benefits for a course from which the student withdraws or completes and receives a grade that is not used in computing the grade point average (a non-punitive grade, i.e. "W"). The School Certifying Official (SCO) is required to notify the Department of Veteran Affairs when changes occur to a student's school schedule. A decrease in training time (i.e. drop classes, stop attending, leave school, etc.) will create an overpayment to the student account. In addition, a decrease in credit hours can also change both prior and future payments to the basic housing allowance, book stipend, and/or the monthly benefits amount. If VA has issued a payment to either the student or the school for the term in which a student drops, students will owe money back to the Department of Veteran Affairs. In some cases, the VA is willing to forgive an overpayment due to acceptable mitigating circumstances.

Mitigating Circumstance: Mitigating circumstances beyond the student's control that prevent the student from continuing in school or that cause the student to reduce credits. Examples are:

- An illness or death in the student's immediate family.
- An illness or injury afflicting the student during the enrollment period.
- An unavoidable change in the student's conditions of employment.
- An unavoidable geographical transfer resulting from the student's employment.
- Immediate family or financial obligations beyond the control of the claimant that require him or her to suspend pursuit of the program of education to obtain employment.
- Discontinuance of the course by the school.
- Unanticipated active military service, including active duty for training.
- Unanticipated difficulties with childcare arrangements the student have made for the period during which he or she is attending classes.



6 CREDIT HOUR EXCLUSION

VA automatically grants a **one-time** mitigating circumstance for up to 6 credits the first time a student reduces or terminates and mitigating circumstances must be considered. The 6-credit hour exclusion cannot be granted if the student completes the term and receives non-punitive grades.

TEXAS HAZLEWOOD EXEMPTION

The Hazlewood Act is a State of Texas benefit that provides qualified Veterans, spouses, and dependent children with an education benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition exemption, including most fee charges, at public institutions of higher education in Texas. This does NOT include living expenses, books, or supply fees.

At the time of entry into active duty the U.S. Armed Forces, designated Texas as Home of Record; or entered the service in Texas; or was a Texas resident; have received an honorable discharge or separation or a general discharge under honorable conditions as indicated on the Veteran's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214); served at least 181 days of active duty service (excluding training); currently reside in Texas; have no federal Veteran's education benefits, or have no federal Veterans education benefits dedicated to the payment of tuition and fees only (such as Chapter 33 or 31; for term or semester enrolled that do not exceed the value of Hazlewood benefits; not be in default on a student loan made or guaranteed by the State of Texas; enroll in classes for which the college receives tax support (i.e., a course that does not depend solely on student tuition and fees to cover its cost), unless the college's governing board has ruled to let Veterans receive the benefit while taking non-funded courses; and meet the GPA requirement of the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy in a degree or certificate program as determined by the institution's financial aid policy and, as an undergraduate student, not be considered to have attempted an excessive amount of credit hours.

Veterans or dependents must provide proof of eligibility or ineligibility for VA education benefits. Applications and all supporting documentation must be received by the institution no later than the last day of class in order to be evaluated for the semester or term. For more information about the Hazlewood Act and education benefits for Texas veterans call 1-877-898-3833 or email hazlewood@tvc.texas.gov.

Gainesville, Graham, and Bowie Campuses

SCO: Hannah Cooley
 NCTC Gainesville Campus
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Corinth, Denton and Flower Mound Campuses

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If you have questions, please feel free to contact the School Certifying Official at the campus you attend.