

Veteran Benefits

PTSA is proud to offer financial support to students who are U.S. military veterans. Additionally, the Seminary is a participant of the Department of Defense's Tuition Assistance (TA) program for Active military service members, as outlined in the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 (Section 103).

GI bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. department of veteran's affairs (VA). more information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government web site at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

To apply for Veteran's Administration (VA) benefits under the GI Bill®, students should contact the Veteran's Administration (VA) directly at 1-888-442-455. Student can also apply for benefits by visiting <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/Applying.asp>

The Veteran's Administration determines eligibility and benefit amount.

If eligibility is granted, students will receive a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). After student have applied for admission, they will need to provide COE to the School Certifying Official (SCO) at the PTSA.

Once students have been accepted to the school and registered for classes the SCO will certify enrollment with the VA. Certification automatically takes place 30 days prior to the start of classes. If a student does not wish to use your benefits, he/she notify the SCO in writing prior to the certification. The VA will not pay any benefits until enrollment is certified by the PTSA.

It is recommended that in addition to applying for VA Benefits that students complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by visiting www.studentaid.gov. FAFSA could cover any expenses not covered by the VA.

Progress Policy

Academic Progress will be measured at the end of each semester for all students receiving Veterans benefits. If, at the end of any given semester, the student's cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 for B.Th. and 2.5 for M.Div., the students will be placed on probation for a maximum of two semesters. If, by the end of the probation period, the student's cumulative GPA is not raised to above 2.0 for B.Th. and 2.5 for M.Div., the Veterans Administration will be notified, and benefits will be interrupted. Academic Progress records are maintained by the school and will be furnished to the student upon request.

If the SCO/director determines that the conditions which caused the interruption have been rectified, the student will be eligible to receive benefits from that point forward.

COMPLIANCE WITH 38 U.S.C. § 3679(e)

PTSA permits any covered individual to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the educational institution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 (a “certificate of eligibility” can also include a “Statement of Benefits” obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) website – eBenefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

- 1) The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
- 2) 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

PTSA will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual’s inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

(NOTE: A Covered Individual is any individual who is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation, or chapter 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill® benefits.)

To qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class;
- Provide a written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies

Steps to get started:

- * Apply to Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America
- * Determine your chapter.
- * Apply online for your GI Bill Benefits.
- * Apply online for financial aid by submitting the FAFSA application. (B.Th. student only)
- * Counseling with an Academic Dean
- * Register for Classes
- * Meet the SCO and notify, and turn in request for certification: you must do this every semester to be paid
- * Bring in LETTER OF ELIGIBILITY (as soon as you receive it): This is the letter the VA will send you by mail once you have been approved for your GI Bill. If you change schools, you will receive a new one once the VA approves any changes.

Student Responsibility

Applications for Benefits:

VA students can submit applications online at <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vonapp>. Or they can call 1-888-442-4551 and ask that an application be mailed to them. All VA students must file an application when they first start school.

- * New student: A student who haven't received VA benefits before must file an original application (Veterans VA Form 22-1990: dependents VA Form 22-5490): ToE students VA- Form 22-1990e)
- * Continuing student: A student who has received VA benefits before must file a Request for Change of Program or Place of Training (Veterans and ToE students VA Form 22-1995: dependents VA Form 22-5495). Students applying for Chapter 33 in lieu of (or relinquishing) another benefit should complete a VA Form 22-1990.
- * Change of Address and Direct Deposit

Address and direct deposit information must be kept current.

Monthly Verification Procedure

Currently, CH 30 and CH 1606-1607 recipients must verify attendance monthly by Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) or by interactive Voice Response (IVR). The preferred verification method is WAVE, which includes features not in IVR. Click on the link to the WAVE Program and follow the instructions provided. The earliest students can verify their enrollment is the last calendar day of each month. WAVE allows students to verify their enrollment on the internet.

WAVE is on the Education Service website at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>. Students may :

- * that enrollment has not changed
- * Report a change in enrollment
- * Change mailing address
- * Initiate or change direct deposit information
- * View the enrollment period and monthly benefit amount
- * View the remaining entitlement

* Sign up for a monthly email reminder

Continuation of VA Benefits

The sooner you submit your request for certification to the school, the less likely you are to have a break in your monthly payments. However, Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America cannot guarantee when you will be paid. Multiple schedule changes will cause a delay in processing your certification.

The Certification Process

NON-REQUIRED COURSES

The Veterans Administration will pay only for courses listed on your Student Educational Program Plan. These approved courses must meet the minimum requirements for transfer or graduation established by PTSA.

REPEAT COURSES

The VA will not pay for repeated courses which were successfully completed. Letter grades of "A", "B" or "C" are approved for payment of required courses. Students who repeat a course for the purpose of obtaining Academic Repeats will not be paid.

VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

PTSA is committed to the provision of support services and/or educational accommodations to qualified students with disabilities.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to: fsa@ptsa.edu OR drop into Room 302. Make your appointment to see the certifying official before your registration time if you want your benefits to be distributed in a timely manner.

Office hours: Office hours are subject to change. Monday – Friday,

9:00am - 5:00pm School Certifying Official: Sunny Kim 562-926-1023

(ext.302), fsa@ptsa.edu