VETERAN SERVICES

Veterans Service Center - University Center, UC 258
7101 University Ave
Texarkana, TX 75503
Phone: 903-334-6602
Fax: 903.223.3140
Email: Veterans@tamut.edu (veterans@tamut.edu)

Hours of Operation
Monday-Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm

The Veteran Services Center (VSC) at Texas A&M University-Texarkana assists United States military members (Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard), veterans, and their eligible dependents in achieving their academic goals through support and services leading to a seamless transition from military to civilian life. Information and benefits counseling are available in the VSC, Room UC258, by visiting the Veteran Services (http://www.tamut.edu/Admissions/Enrollment-Services/Veterans-Services) webpage or by emailing veterans@tamut.edu.

Enrollment is certified to the appropriate agency upon request of the student. Any student enrolled at A&M-Texarkana who is eligible for VA Educational Benefits or State of Texas military education benefits should visit the VSC to determine the documents to validate eligibility for benefits.

Military Education Transcripts
In addition to civilian education transcripts, military students must have their military education transcript sent to the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Office of Admissions for evaluation. Students who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard (Active Duty, Reserve or National Guard) should submit a Joint Service Transcript (https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signin.do.jsessionid=y2ybBEPaPpeRZdwQpMRLK8am7c9i6Gxb975fPXRgSJ2x2el66Zt:70956765) (JST). Students who served in the Air Force (Active Duty, Reserve or National Guard) should submit a Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) (http://www.au.af.mil/au/barnes/ccaf/transcripts.asp) transcript. Please contact the A&M-Texarkana Veteran Services Center at 903-334-6602 or veterans@tamut.edu (Veterans@tamut.edu) for information on requesting these transcripts.

Benefits Certification
Each student using VA or State of Texas education benefits is responsible for providing accurate information and eligibility documents to the Veteran Services Center (VSC). Any changes to your major/minor, academic schedule, address change, or benefits eligibility must be provided to the VSC as soon as possible so they can assist with updating the VA and State of Texas in a timely manner. Such changes have the potential of creating a balance on your student account and/or a debt with the VA.

Federal Veterans Education Benefits through the Department of Veterans Administration (VA):
Eligibility criteria and information for each chapter is available by clicking on the benefit title below. Additional information is available on the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/education_programs.asp) Education and Training website. To calculate your VA benefits while attending and to research approved programs, visit the VA GI Bill Comparison Tool (http://department-of-veterans-affairs.github.io/gi-bill-comparison-tool) website.

- Chapter 30 (http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_ad.asp) (Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty)
- Chapter 1606 (http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_sr.asp) (MGIB-Select Reserves)
- Chapter 33 (http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp) (Post-9/11 GI Bill)
- Chapter 31 (http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab) (Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment)
- Chapter 35 (http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/DEA.asp) (Dependents/Survivors of disabled or deceased Veterans)

Chapter 33 military housing allowance is calculated on the Zip Code of the university (75503) at E-5 with Dependents. To obtain the current rate, use the BAH Calculator on the Defense Travel Management Office (https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm) website. Chapter 33 students who are enrolled less than full-time or only in distance courses will receive a prorated amount. Additionally, it is important to note that Chapter 33 students must be enrolled in greater than half time to receive the housing allowance.

General Forms Requirements:
To ensure your benefits are managed efficiently and accurately with the VA, the following forms need to be provided to the VSC. This is a general list as some benefits will require special documents.

- Certificate of Eligibility: this document is obtained from the VA Education Regional Office. An updated copy is required once a year (fall term) or every term when your benefits remaining is 8 months or less.
- DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty, Member 2 or higher version (not Member 1): this document is required to assess “Covered Individual” status under the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.
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- VA Form 22-1995/5495, Request for Change of Program or Place of Training: this document is required if you used your benefits at another school prior to attending Texas A&M-Texarkana or are currently attending and changing your major.
- Request for Certification: this document is required every semester you want to use your benefits. Your enrollment will not automatically be submitted to the VA.

Contact the VSC for information for specific forms required and assistance with obtaining and completing all documents.

Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 214 (Choice Act):
Texas A&M-Texarkana is compliant with all requirements of Section 702 of the Choice Act. This section requires VA to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty at public institutions of higher learning if the schools charge “covered individuals” tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students for the terms beginning after July 1, 2015.

A Covered Individual is defined in the Choice Act as:
- A Veteran who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- A spouse or child using transferred benefits who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school with 3 years of the transferor’s discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the Service member’s death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

Individuals who initially meet the requirements above will maintain “covered individual” status as long as they remain continuously enrolled at the institution of higher learning, even if they are outside the three year window or enroll in multiple programs. For more information on the Choice Act, visit the VA Education and Training website Choice Act website (http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_residentrerequirements.asp).

Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program
Texas A&M University-Texarkana is a Post-9-11 Yellow Ribbon Program participant. If you are classified as a nonresident student and are not a “covered individual” per the Choice Act 2104, you may be eligible to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Texas A&M-Texarkana has agreed to accept 35 students per year, on a first come-first serve basis, in the Yellow Ribbon program. Visit the VA Education and Training Yellow Ribbon Program website (http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon.asp) for eligibility criteria and additional information. Contact the VSC to sign up for the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Exemptions for Texas Veterans Under the Hazlewood Act
Under the Hazlewood Act, many Texas Military Members and Veterans may be eligible for tuition and fee exemption for up to 150 semester hours. Under certain circumstances, the Hazlewood Exemption may be transferred to the military member’s/veteran’s spouse and/or children. Eligibility criteria are available in the VSC or at the Texas Veterans Commission website (http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Hazlewood-Act.aspx?CFID=23563376&CFTOKEN=59851060). Applications for the exemption are available in the VSC and should be submitted as soon as possible after completing registration for classes every semester.

General Forms Requirements
There are three categories for the Hazlewood Exemption: Veteran, Dependent Spouse, and Child. Each category will require a different set of forms but the main document to determine eligibility is the Veteran’s DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty, member 2 or higher copy. Contact the VSC for other specific requirements.

DOD Tuition Assistance (TA)
Texas A&M University-Texarkana complies with all requirements of the Department of Defense Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding. With the guidelines for use of Military TA managed by each individual military service branch, students wishing to use Military TA should contact their military unit first to determine both eligibility and availability of Military TA funds. Once approved by your unit, contact the Veteran Services Center (VSC) for assistance in submitting the proper documents to the university.

Per DOD TA requirements, Military TA must be requested and approved prior to the start date of the each term. Service members can register for classes prior to securing Military TA but they will be solely responsible for all tuition costs until approval is obtained from their military service branch and the proper documents are submitted to the university. Only courses listed in the service member’s evaluated education plan will be approved for Military TA.

Use of Military TA with Financial Aid and VA Education Benefits:
Military TA can be used concurrently with both financial aid and VA education benefits if eligibility exists. Per DOD rules, Military TA cannot be used with the Montgomery GI Bill®-Selected Reserve Program (CH1606) or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (CH1607). Students should submit their FAFSA to be considered for financial aid and discuss eligibility for VA education benefits with the VSC. Students who qualify for Pell Grants and/or VA education benefits will have their Military TA benefits applied to their account prior to the application of their Pell Grant funds and their VA education benefits.
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Drops/Withdrawals While Using Military TA:
If a student using Military TA drops a class or withdraws from all classes for a term, the university will manage refunds of TA funds as follows:

- Up to the start date for the term, return all Military TA funds to the appropriate military service when the service member does not:
  - Begin attendance at the university or
  - Start a course, regardless of whether the student starts other courses.

- If the Drop occurs prior to the term Census Date, all Military TA funds for the dropped course will be returned to the military service.

- Return any Military TA funds paid for a course that is cancelled by the university.

- For complete withdrawal from a term, the amount of Military TA that is earned is determined on a pro rata basis. For example, if you completed 30% of the period of enrollment, you earned 30% of the approved Military TA so 70% of the Military TA will be returned the military service. Once you have completed more than 60% of the period of enrollment, all approved Military TA is earned and no refund will be made to the military service.

  - To calculate the amount of earned Military TA, the VSC will divide the number of calendar days the student attended classes by the total number of calendar days in the semester (scheduled breaks of 5 days or more will be deducted out of the equation). The resulting percentage is then multiplied by the total amount of Military TA funds that were approved by the military service prior to the beginning of the term. The result of this calculation determines the amount of Military TA earned by the student. Any amount exceeding the earned calculation amount must be returned to the military service. The VSC will notify and instruct any students who owe money because the university has returned the appropriate amount to the military service. Funds returned to the military service may result in a balance on your account, which you are then responsible for paying in accordance with the TAMUT’s refund policy (http://www.tamut.edu/About/Administration/Business-Office/refund.html).