

# Veterans and Service Members

## Veterans Center Military Service connected Benefit Programs

The San Diego Community Colleges have been approved to offer military service connected benefit programs leading to a certificate, an Associate Degree or transfer to a four-year institution. The Veterans Affairs Office staff provides counseling and guidance to veterans and assists them in the selection of educational programs which qualify for veterans benefits. The final responsibility for monitoring the process of qualification for educational benefits resides with the individual. Each veteran must read, understand, and comply with the many rules, regulations, and procedures that influence the benefit process.

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**Failure to take the proper classes can result in an overpayment and the reduction or termination of benefits.**

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### Disabled Veterans

Veterans who qualify for educational benefits as disabled veterans may be entitled to special educational benefits. Veterans should visit the Veterans Administration Regional Office, 8810 Rio San Diego Dr., San Diego, CA 92108, to determine their eligibility for disabled status (Telephone: 1-800-827-1000).

### Veteran Dependent Exemption

Children and spouses of U.S. Veterans with service connected disabilities may be eligible for waiver of college fees and/or for a small monthly payment. For more information see the Veterans Affairs Office on campus.

### Liability

The veteran assumes full liability for any overpayment of veteran benefits. All persons receiving educational benefits must report to the Veterans Affairs Office after enrollment every semester to continue their benefits. In addition, a Student Educational Plan (SEP) must be on file by the end of the first semester; otherwise, certification of VA benefits will be delayed for the second semester. This plan must be developed and reviewed by a counselor. Veterans with disabilities are encouraged to pursue services offered through Disabled Students Programs and Services.

### Number of Units Required

For students enrolled in a degree program, the following number of units is required each semester to qualify for educational and training allowance:

12 units or more	full allowance
9 -11.5 units	three-fourths allowance
6 - 8.5 units	one-half allowance
2 - 5.5 units	one-quarter allowance*

\*Chapters 32 and 106 only. All other chapters are computed proportionately for payment purposes.

### Withdrawal/Change of Classes

Veterans are required to notify the campus Veterans Affairs Office when they stop attending a class, withdraw from the college, or add or drop a class. Such changes should be reported immediately after completing the add/drop procedure through Reg-e. Failure to comply with this regulation will be grounds for decertification.

### **Veterans Academic Progress**

A veteran student on Academic or Lack of Progress probation status will be disqualified when his/her grade point average (GPA) falls below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters. The College Veterans Affairs Office is required to notify the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) of this status. The DVA will terminate benefits unless it can be shown that the student is pursuing an appropriate objective and has a reasonable chance for success in the chosen program. Please contact the Veterans Affairs Office for more information.

### **Repeated Classes**

Veterans may not receive benefits for a repeat of a course in which a grade of "A", "B", "C", "D" or "P" has already been earned. Although District policy allows a student to repeat a course in which a "D" grade has been received; the course may be certified for benefits only if this catalog states that a grade of "C" or better in that course is required to earn a degree or meet a prerequisite.

### **Work Experience**

Veterans may be approved for Work Experience classes only if work experience is required in their major or if they have electives available according to their educational plan. Total work experience may not exceed four units per semester or a total of 16 cumulative units.

### **Transcripts**

All official transcripts of prior college work and military schools, including copies of form DD214, DD295, Smart Transcript or DD2685 covering all periods of military service, must be on file in the Records Office by the end of the first semester of attendance at this college. Certification for benefits for the second semester will be withheld if transcripts are not received. Visit the Veterans' Affairs Office for necessary forms.