

GI Bill® FAQ

How do I apply for GI bill?

Go to [eBenefits](#) to apply for any VA benefits. For GI bill, follow the links for Education Benefits.

Can I also get Financial Aid?

Yes! GI bill does not affect your eligibility for Financial Aid, and Financial Aid does not prevent you from receiving GI bill. Visit [the FAFSA website](#) to apply.

How can I get a copy of my Certificate of Eligibility?

The VA will send you a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) in the mail when you apply for GI bill. If you no longer have your COE, you can log in to eBenefits and select Manage your Benefits, go to the Education section, and click the Enrollment Status link. Print the page called "Education Enrollment Status."

How do I utilize my GI bill and get the payments started?

Every semester, ACC requires you to submit a [Request for Certification](#) form. You can find this form on the [ACC Veteran's Benefits website](#). We submit the certifications to the VA in the order these forms are received. Earlier is better!

How long will it take for my GI bill payments to start?

The VA takes approximately 4-6 weeks from the date the certification is submitted to them by the school certifying official to issue any payment to the school or to the student. If you are using Post 9/11 GI bill, your housing won't start until at least the first of the month following the first full month of school. For example, for a semester beginning August 15, you would not receive any housing until around October 1. Budget accordingly!

How do I pay for my books?

You will need to pay for your books out of pocket unless you are using Voc Rehab. Post 9/11 GI bill includes a book stipend of up to a \$1000/year maximum, but the money will be issued 4-6 weeks after the certification is filed.

If you are receiving 100% Post 9-11 GI bill and also have financial aid, you *might* qualify for a book voucher- contact the Veteran's Benefits office for details.

Do veterans qualify for in-state tuition?

If you have been honorably discharged (or are the benefit-receiving dependent of a veteran who was honorably discharged), and currently reside in Colorado, ACC may consider you as a resident.

You'll be charged at the resident tuition rate. You must submit your DD-214 to Records & Enrollment Services as proof of honorable discharge.

If you are in the military and have Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders assigning you to a military installation in Colorado, you will need to obtain a Military Waiver from the military installation (contact installation Education Office for guidance). With that waiver along with a copy of your military ID, you will be eligible for Colorado residency for in-state tuition purposes. You will need to submit the military waiver and copy of military ID each semester enrolled.

How do I get credit for prior schooling and military training?

Have your official transcripts submitted directly to ACC. Transcripts delivered to the student will NOT be considered official, even if they are still sealed. More information can be found at the [Records & Enrollment webpage](#). Military transcripts can be requested by visiting the [Joint Services Transcript Website](#) for Army, National Guard, Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard, or the [Community College of the Air Force Website](#) for Air Force.

What is COF and why do I need to apply for/authorize it?

The College Opportunity Fund (COF) is the State's contribution to resident tuition rate. COF eligibility requires a [COF stipend application](#). The rate it pays is set annually by the Colorado General Assembly.

The school must subtract COF from all billing sent to the VA for resident students. If you do not authorize COF, you will be responsible to pay the amount the COF would have covered. GI bill and Voc Rehab will not pay the amount that would have been covered by COF.

Will GI bill benefits affect my disability pay?

No. If you currently receive VA disability payments, they will remain the same.

Can I use Yellow Ribbon at ACC?

Yes! Yellow Ribbon helps cover the difference between resident and nonresident tuition for veterans who are eligible for 100% Post 9/11 GI bill. ACC will contribute up to \$1000 per year and the VA will match the amount ACC pays. You are only eligible for Yellow Ribbon if you don't qualify for the resident tuition exception mentioned above. There are a limited number of recipients each year and it is awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Contact us:

ACC Veteran's Benefits Office
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Littleton, CO 80160
(303) 797-5934 vets@arapahoe.edu

GI BILL® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS 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](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill).