Veterans Affairs
Handbook

A Guide for Veterans and the RMCAD Application Process
800.888.ARTS | rmcad.edu
1600 Pierce St.
Lakewood, CO 80214
Applying for Veterans GI Bill Education Benefits

Start the application process by visiting www.gibill.va.gov. Click on “Apply for Benefits” near the center of the screen; go to “Apply Online (VONAPP).” Be sure to complete the application in one sitting. If you exit, you must start over again which will delay processing. Please retain confirmation number.

Either attach a digital version of your Member-4 or Service-2 DD214 to the VONAPP or submit the VONAPP online and then mail a copy of your Member-4 or Service-2 DD214 to: The Department of Veterans Affairs, Attention: RPO P.O. Box 100022, Decatur, GA 30031-7022. Always retain your original Member-4 or Service-2 DD214. Active Duty: Contact your Command Educational Officer.

Please note that it takes 60-120 days for the VA Regional Processing Office to handle claims for benefits. The earlier you prepare and submit the paperwork, the more likely you are to receive your benefits in a timely manner.

Once the VA determines your eligibility, a copy of the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) will be mailed to you. This is your final confirmation that you can use your benefits. To verify certifications, payments and eligibility, call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-442-4551. If you have misplaced any required documentation for initiating the process of using VA benefits, your record can be requested at: http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html.

Print and send a copy of your Member-4 or Service-2 DD214, VONAPP, and current COE to RMCAD via mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design awards Previous Training Credit when applicable. A veteran student must submit transcripts so that RMCAD can determine if previous education and training are appropriate for transfer. If eligible, both the VA and the veteran student will be notified that training time and tuition will be reduced proportionately. Several transfer credits can affect some students’ VA entitlements and financial aid.

Contact your RMCAD Admissions Counselor to confirm the use of your benefits. Please contact your Military Representative or Admissions Counselor if you have any questions or concerns.
Transferring Benefits

TO DEPENDENTS OF ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER T.E.B CHPT 33


Active Duty Contributor: Log on to the Department of Defense Transfer Education Benefits website at http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/ (compatible only with Internet Explorer). Submit the Transferability Application to request transfer of benefits to dependent.

- Dependent must go to VONAPP website and complete the VONAPP VA Form 22-1990e
- Applicant will receive a copy of the COE

▸ Send copies of the VONAPP and current COE to RMCAD via mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

TRANSFERRING BENEFITS FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL

Veterans and Transfer of Eligibility students: Complete Change of Program/Place of Training (COP/P) VA Form 22-1995

Chapter 35 & JDF recipients: Complete VA Form 22-5495.

▸ Send copies of Member-4 or Service-2 DD214, COP/P, and current COE to RMCAD via mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

From Chapter 30 to Chapter 33

To use these benefits, fill out the VONAPP VA Form 22-1990 and note those individuals transferring from the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30) will have a proportional amount of their basic $1,200.00 contribution refunded in the last monthly housing allowance payment when entitlement exhausts. Individuals who do not exhaust entitlement under the Montgomery GI Bill will not receive a refund. A refund of the $600.00 additional contribution is not authorized.

For your reference, a comparison chart for the Post-9/11 Bill (Chapter 33) vs. the GI Bill (Chapter 30) can be found at: http://gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/benefit_comparison_tools.html

Send copies of VONAPP VA Form 22-1990 to RMCAD via mail:
ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.
Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty
- Chapter 30

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Chapter 30 version of the Montgomery GI Bill requires active duty service members to contribute $100.00 per month for the first 12 months of their enlistment. MGIB may also be used while on active duty. However, each service has additional educational benefit programs for active duty members, and most delay using MGIB benefits until after separation, discharge, or retirement.

MGIB benefits may be used up to 10 years from the date of last discharge or release from active duty. The 10-year period can be extended by the amount of time a service member was prevented from training during that period because of a disability or because he/she was held by a foreign government or power. The 10-year period can also be extended if one re-enters active duty for 90 days or more after becoming eligible. The extension ends 10 years from the date of separation from the later period. Periods of active duty of less than 90 days qualify for extensions only if one was separated for a service-connected disability, a medical condition existing before active duty, or hardship.

BENEFITS

The Buy-Up option allows active duty members to contribute up to $600.00 more toward their MGIB. For every dollar the service member contributes, the federal government contributes $8.00. Those who contribute the maximum ($600.00) will receive $5,400.00 in additional funds, but not until after leaving active duty. The additional contribution must be made while still on active duty.

* Amount is reviewed annually by the Department of Veterans Affairs and is subject to change without notice

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

Member-4 or Service-2 DD214

Copy of current COE

Copy of VONAPP VA Form 22-1990

COP/P VA Form 22-1995 (if applicable)

▶ RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

Visit www.gibill.va.gov for more information.
Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve  
- Chapter 1606

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
The Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve provides up to 36 months of education benefits to members of the Selected Reserve. This includes the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reserves, as well as the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. It is the first program that doesn’t require a person to serve on active duty in the regular Armed Forces to qualify.

BENEFITS
Please reference www.gibill.va.gov for current amounts.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

Copy of Notice of Basic Eligibility (N.O.B.E) forms 2384 or 2384-1 from the Command’s Educational Officer. The VA Department cannot certify the student without the N.O.B.E.

Copy of current COE

Copy of VONAPP VA Form 22-1990

COP/P VA Form 22-1995 (if applicable)

▶ RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

Visit www.gibill.va.gov for more information.
Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Chapter 33

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a new education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Only active duty service performed after September 10, 2001 may be considered for determining eligibility. A service member or veteran must have served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty. However, individuals honorably discharged for a service-connected disability who served 30 days after September 10, 2001, may also establish eligibility. Active duty for training does not qualify as eligible active duty.

Per the COE, student must be 100% eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill in order to receive Yellow Ribbon.* Anyone less than 100% eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill will NOT be eligible for Yellow Ribbon, this includes dependents using transfer benefits.

*See Yellow Ribbon section

**BENEFITS**

Cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher learning in the state you are attending school. As of August 1, 2011, the Department of Veterans Affairs initiated a new national limit for private school funding. The 100% tier level will pay a maximum of $17,500.00 per VA Award Year, August 1-July 31, toward tuition and fees. This limit will be in effect for veterans, veteran dependents, and active duty service members. Beginning August 1, 2011, break (or interval pay) will no longer be payable under MGIB-AD except during periods your school is closed as a result of an Executive Order of the President or an emergency (such as a natural disaster or strike). For example, if your classes end on December 15th and your classes resume on January 10th, your January housing allowance will cover 15 days in December and your February housing allowance will cover 21 days in January.

On-campus and/or Hybrid are 100% eligible according to the COE

- Basic Allowance for Housing at a maximum of $1,410.00 per month. The Veterans Administration has determined that the monthly housing allowance be equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to an E-5 with dependents in the same zip code as the school.

- Yearly Books and Supplies Stipend of up to $1,000.00 maximum paid directly to student per VA Award Year, August 1-July 31.

Online students

- Effective October 1, 2011, Online (Distance Learning) students will receive the Basic Allowance for Housing. Payment will be equal to half the national average for an E-5 with dependents, which is currently $673.50.

- Yearly Books and Supplies Stipend of up to $1,000.00 maximum paid directly to student per VA Award Year, August 1-July 31.
Active Duty

• Effective March 5, 2011, the Department of Veterans Affairs instituted a tier system for the Post-9/11 GI Bill similar to that used for determining a veteran’s eligibility for benefit award amounts. Tuition and fees will be covered at a percentage equal to the tier rating (100%, 90%, etc.).

• The maximum basic benefit is earned after serving an aggregate of 36 months of active duty service or after 30 days of continuous service for those individuals who are discharged for a service connected disability. Individuals serving between 90 days and 36 months of aggregate active duty service will be eligible for a percentage of the maximum benefit.

• The percentage level ranges from 40% to 100% of the basic benefit. For example, an individual with five months of qualifying service could receive 40% of the monthly housing allowance, and a maximum of $400.00 Books and Supplies Stipend per VA Award Year, August 1-July 31.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGGREGATE PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY AFTER SEPT. 10, 2001</th>
<th>INCLUDES ENTRY LEVEL AND SKILL TRAINING?</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE OF MAXIMUM BENEFIT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 36 months</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 continuous days on active duty</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Discharge due to service-connected disability)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 30 months, but less than 36 months</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 24 months, but less than 30 months</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 18 months, but less than 24 months</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 12 months, but less than 18 months</td>
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<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 6 months, but less than 12 months</td>
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<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 90 days, but less than 6 months</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: Keith M. Wilson, Director, VA Education Service

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

Chapter 33 Packaging Policy (signed)
Copy of Member-4 or Service-2 DD214
Copy of current COE
Copy of VONAPP VA Form 22-1990
COP/P VA Form 22-1995 (if applicable)

RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

The Yellow Ribbon Program
- Chapter 33

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Only students entitled to the 100% tier rate of Chapter 33 GI Bill benefits (based on service requirements) may receive this funding. Therefore, you may be eligible if you:

- Served an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of at least 36 months
- Were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability and you served 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001
- Are a dependent eligible for Transfer of Entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on a veteran’s service under the eligibility criteria listed above

BENEFITS

For the 2012 and 2013 school years, up to 1,500 military students can take advantage of the Yellow Ribbon program. The Yellow Ribbon program may pay for all educational-based fees that are not covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill such as tuition, seat deposit, application fee, and all other institutional fees for eligible students.

This amount is reviewed annually and is subject to change at any time without notice.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

Copy of current COE denoting 100% eligibility

► RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.
John David Fry Scholarship
- Chapter 33
Chapter 33 at 100% without Yellow Ribbon

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry (JDF) Scholarship amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) to include the children of service members who have died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, with children being able to use the benefits until they reach age 33. Every child will receive 36 months of benefits. Eligible children have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on his/her 18th birthday, cannot use the benefit before age 18, even if he/she has completed high school, and are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Rules for eligible children serving, or who have served, in the Armed Forces:
- If the child is eligible under the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve, and/or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), then he or she must relinquish eligibility under one of those programs to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- A child’s character of discharge from his or her own service does not impact eligibility resulting from death in the line of duty of a parent.
- A child on active duty will receive benefits at the active duty benefit rate (eligible for unlimited tuition and fees but not eligible for monthly housing allowance or books and supplies stipend).

Children who have used or wish to use entitlement under Dependents Educational Assistance (Chapter 35) refer to that section in this handbook for more information:
- If a child is eligible for the John David Fry Scholarship, he or she may be eligible for VA’s Dependents Educational Assistance Program (DEA). Although the benefits cannot be used at the same time, a child may be eligible for up to 45 months of benefits between the two programs. Find out more about DEA at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/dea.html
- If a child already used DEA anytime from August 1, 2009 - July 31, 2010, he or she may retroactively use the JDF Scholarship instead. Apply using VA Form 22-5490, Dependents Application for VA Education Benefits. Select the Chapter 33 option on question 18B.

BENEFITS
While eligible children attending public school may receive up to the highest in-state (Colorado) undergraduate tuition and fees, as of August 1, 2011, the Department of Veterans Affairs initiated a new national limit for private school funding. The 100% tier level will pay a maximum of $17,500.00 per VA Award Year, August 1-July 31, toward tuition and fees. This limit will be in effect for veterans, veteran dependents, and active duty service members. Benefits are retroactive to August 1, 2009.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

Copy of current COE
Same VONAPP used as Chapter 35 (VA Form 22-5490)
COP/P VA Form 22-5495 (if applicable)

▶ RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.
Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
- Chapter 1607

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

REAP is a Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. This program makes certain Reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001 are either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

$600 Buy-up Program

Some Reservists may contribute up to an additional $600.00 to the GI Bill to receive increased monthly benefits. For an additional $600.00 contribution, the service member may receive up to $5,400.00 in additional GI Bill benefits. The Reservist must be a member of a Ready Reserve component (Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, or Inactive National Guard) to pay into the “Buy-Up” program.

BENEFITS

Please reference www.gibill.va.gov for current amounts.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

- Copy of Member-4 or Service-2 - DD214
- Copy of current COE
- Copy of VONAPP VA Form 22-1990
- COP/P VA Form 22-1995 (if applicable)

RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.
Veterans Educational Assistance Overview (VEAP)

- Chapter 32

Pre-Montgomery GI Bill

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) applies to those who served during the Vietnam Era and entered active duty between January 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985. Veterans who qualify for VEAP would have made contributions from their military pay to participate in this education benefit program.

BENEFITS

VEAP pays out to the student at a 2:1 ratio of what was paid into it during the student’s service. The exact amount can only be determined by contacting the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-442-4551 or www.gibill.va.gov/contact/

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

- Member-4 or Service-2 DD214
- Copy of current COE
- VONAPP VA Form 22-1990

► RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.
Survivors and Dependents Education Assistance (DEA)

- Chapter 35

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program (DEA) provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition. The veteran must be 100% disabled as determined by the VA, as benefits will be applied to the survivor/dependents. Death must be due to service-connected injuries/conditions.

BENEFITS

Please reference www.gibill.va.gov for current amounts.

*Amount is reviewed annually by the Department of VA and is subject to change without notice.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

- VA File # (veteran’s Social Security Number plus the suffix code) assigned by the VA after processing the VONAPP
- Copy of current COE
- VONAPP VA Form 22-5490
- COP/P VA Form 22-5495

➤ RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.
VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Voc Rehab)  
- Chapter 31

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 31 is a vocational rehabilitation program that serves eligible active duty service members and veterans with service-connected disability with a rating of 10% or greater and who apply for vocational rehabilitation services within 12 years of the separation of active duty or from when the veteran was first notified of a service-connected disability. Those qualifying as “veterans” must have received, or eventually receive, an honorable or other-than-dishonorable discharge.

Employment Handicap vs. Serious Employment Handicap

An Employment Handicap is an impairment of the individual’s ability to prepare for, obtain or retain employment consistent with his or her abilities, aptitudes, and interests. A Serious Employment Handicap is a significant impairment of the individual’s ability to prepare for, obtain or retain employment consistent with his or her abilities, aptitudes, and interests.

BENEFITS

Student must be enrolled at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design in order to use these benefits. Cannot be used in conjunction with Chapter 30 or Chapter 33. Participants have 48 months of program entitlement to complete an individual vocational rehabilitation plan.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

VA Form 28-1905 from Voc Rehab Counselor - Authorization and certification of entrance or re-entrance into rehabilitation and certification of status.


Contact your Admissions Counselor at RMCAD to request your class schedule for your Voc Rehab counselor.

The counselor will submit VA Form 28-1905 to RMCAD’s Financial Aid department, which will be certified and forwarded to RMCAD’s Business Office for invoicing.

► RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

On-campus students: Contact Colorado’s VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at 800-827-1000 and ask for instructions.

Online students: Contact the nearest Veterans Affairs office to obtain the number for your local Voc Rehab office.

Visit www.vetsuccess.gov for more information.
MyCAA – Military Spouse Career Advance Accounts Program

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
The Department of Defense has recently reactivated the Military Spouse Career Advance Accounts (MyCAA) Program. Guidelines provided by the Department of Defense:

• Spouse of an active duty Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine service member, or activated Reserve member in pay grades E1-E5, W1-W2, or O1-O2.

• If the spouse of National Guard and/or AGR member, the sponsor must be on federal Title 10 active duty orders as reported in D.E.E.R.S.

• Spouses of Guard/Reserve members in an Alert, Transition Assistance, or Post-Deployment status are not eligible.

• Spouses must finish their program of study within three years from the start date of the first course.

• Funding is limited to Associate’s degrees, certifications and licensure programs.

BENEFITS
Eligible spouses of Active Duty service members can receive a scholarship totaling $4,000.00 toward their tuition. MyCAA accounts will be limited to the new $4,000.00 maximum benefit with a $2,000.00 fiscal year cap. Waivers to the fiscal year cap will be available for spouses pursuing licensure or credentials with a cost that exceeds the $2,000.00 up to the total maximum assistance of $4,000.00.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT
Contact your Admissions Counselor at RMCAD to request your class schedule for your MyCAA counselor.

► RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

Colorado National Guard Benefits

Any member of the Colorado National Guard is eligible for state tuition assistance, up to 100% tuition paid at any Colorado state-funded school depending on funding available. State funding can be used in conjunction with Federal Tuition Assistance. Deadline for Spring Semester is Dec. 1. Deadline for Fall Semester is July 1. Summer deadline is May 1 (if funding is available).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

• Colorado National Guard member must serve 2 years for each year granted.

• As of July 1, 2000, any new member of the Colorado National Guard eligible for State Tuition Assistance must have a minimum of 6 months of service in the Colorado National Guard. Interstate Transfer (ISTs) and In-Service Recruits (ISRs) are waived from this requirement.

• As of July 1, 2005, the State Tuition Assistance (TA) program is no longer a payback program; to get TA the member must be in drilling status with the Colorado National Guard. If the member leaves drilling status, during the semester/quarter for which they are receiving TA, the member must reimburse the Department for the whole amount of TA received for that semester. For those members who received TA prior to July 1, 2005 (to include Summer 2005) the service requirement of 1 year for each semester sponsored PRIOR to July 1, 2005 still applies.

• Must maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average

BENEFITS

Pays a prorated per-credit hour amount toward tuition at a private university. Amounts determined by EDD Director. While EDD will pay 100% tuition (for undergraduates only) at Colorado public community colleges/universities, RMCAD is a private university and this stipulation does not apply.

Service member is required to sign an agreement prior to using this program, with an understanding that the service member has five years to use benefit from date of eligibility and has a three-year service obligation after completing the degree or from the last semester the funds were used.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

Provide all documentation from Education Services Officer to your RMCAD Admissions Counselor. RMCAD’s Financial Aid Department will review and forward the forms to RMCAD’s Business Office for invoicing.

Contact your Unit’s Education Services Officer for more information.
Military Tuition Assistance (MTA)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Armed Forces Tuition Assistance (TA) is a benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to 100% for the tuition expenses of its members. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application process and restrictions. This money is usually paid directly to the institution by the individual services. Active duty members may elect to use the MGIB “Top-Up” in addition to their service provided TA to cover high-cost courses. TA is not a loan; it should be viewed as money you have earned just like your base pay. In accordance with Department of Veterans Affairs instructions, TA benefits cannot be used in conjunction with GI Bill benefits for same month of classes. Please visit your particular service’s website and start taking advantage of this opportunity:


Army Tuition Assistance - http://www.goarmyed.com/

Navy Tuition Assistance - https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/

Marines Tuition Assistance - https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/

Coast Guard Tuition Assistance - http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/

National Guard Tuition Assistance - http://www.goarmyed.com/

Reserve Guard Tuition Assistance - http://www.armyreserve.army.mil

BENEFITS

MTA pays $250.00 per credit hour and a maximum of $4,500.00 per fiscal year and is paid by the Department of Defense (DOD). In order to qualify for this assistance, the service member must inform the Admissions Counselor at RMCAD of their intent to use TA. Once enrolled in school, Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design will draft a degree plan detailing your courses, cost per credit hour, and start/end dates.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

The student will need to upload the degree plan to the online education portal and also send the plan to their Education Services Officer (ESO).

The ESO will give the student the Tuition Assistance Authorization form to forward to RMCAD’s Financial Aid Department. This process must be completed for every month of class(es).

RMCAD’s Financial Aid Department will forward the form to RMCAD’s Business Office for invoicing.

Send copies of your Tuition Assistance Authorization form to RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.
Tuition Assistance Top-Up (TATU)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (Active Duty)

This assistance is only for Online students at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design and has the same attributes and follows the same rules as MTA, but works in conjunction with the Montgomery GI Bill to fully cover a student’s tuition. Chapter 30 active duty recipients who are also being paid tuition assistance by DOD are eligible.

There is no Top-Up provision for Chapter 1606 Guard/Reserve or Chapter 32 VEAP participants.

BENEFITS

TA contributes the $250.00 per credit hour and $4,500.00 maximum per fiscal year, and then tops off the tuition coverage by taking from the monthly GI Bill payments to cover what the TA doesn’t. The student is required to cover financial aid up front due to differing payment methods between different branches of service.

You must first apply for MGIB benefits with VA Form 1990 and establish eligibility. TATU benefits will only be paid to eligible Chapter 30 individuals. You should submit a copy of the DOD TA form directly to The Department of Veterans Affairs.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

Tuition Assistance Authorization form

➤ Send copies of your Tuition Assistance Authorization form to RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Beginning with the 2010-11 award year, a student who is not eligible for a Pell Grant but whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and died as a result of service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001 may be eligible to receive the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant. Student must be under 24 years old or enrolled at least part-time in college at the time of parent’s or guardian’s death.

BENEFITS

The grant award is equal to the amount of a maximum Pell Grant for the year, not to exceed the cost of attendance for that award year.

DOCUMENTS RMCAD NEEDS FROM STUDENT

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) www.fafsa.ed.gov

► You can choose to send a hard copy of your FAFSA to RMCAD mail: ATTN: Military Benefits, 1600 Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80214 or email your Admissions Counselor.

Visit www.iava.org for more information.
VA Frequently Asked Questions

1. Am I eligible for VA benefits, and what program would work best for me?
   Please visit http://www.gibill.va.gov to determine eligibility, preview and compare programs.

2. Are you a Yellow Ribbon school?
   Yes, Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design is an unlimited Yellow Ribbon participant.

3. Are there GPA or attendance requirements to receive my benefits?
   You must maintain at least a 1.0 GPA and at least 90% overall attendance. Benefits will be terminated until the GPA and/or attendance meet the requirements.

4. Will the VA pay for classes that I have failed?
   It depends on the reason for failing. The VA will pay for classes that you have failed, providing you failed for grades. They will not pay if you failed a class for attendance.

5. How long before a claim correction reflects on my VA file?
   Once the RMCAD Financial Aid Department submits corrections to your file, it will take the VA at least eight weeks from the date of submission to post the correction to your file.

6. Does RMCAD’s Financial Aid Department work for the Department of Veterans Affairs?
   No. We are RMCAD’s liaison to the VA. Should you have any questions regarding your application status, pay delays or requesting documents, you will need to contact the Department of Veterans Affairs directly.

7. Are VA Benefits taxable?
   No. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA benefits are not taxable. If you need a statement of benefits paid, call 1.800.827.1000 to locate the nearest VA Regional Processing Office.

VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTACT NUMBERS

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>VA Support</td>
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<td>Colorado Department of Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>GI Bill Hotline</td>
<td>1-888-442-4551</td>
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<td>Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW, Colorado Branch)</td>
<td>1-303-421-1630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Auxiliary</td>
<td>1-317-569-4500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reference and Financial Aid Websites

GENERAL INFORMATION

Air Force Aid Society
http://www.afas.org/index.cfm

Armed Forces Foundation
http://www.armedforcesfoundation.org

American Legion
http://www.legion.org

Army Emergency Relief Society
http://www.aerhq.org

D.E.E.R.S. Enrollment
http://www.dmhc.osd.mil/appj/address/login/SelectLogin.do

Department of Defense - Transferring Chapter 33 Benefits (Internet Explorer only)
http://www.dmhc.osd.mil/TEB

First Command Educational Foundation
http://www.fcef.com

Colorado Department of Veterans Affairs
http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DepartmentOfMilitaryAndVeteransAffairs/CBON/1251622369147

Department of Veterans Affairs
http://www.va.gov

GI Bill (Benefits Questions)
https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/home

GI Bill (Verify Benefits) Chapter 30, Chapter 1606, and Chapter 1607 only
http://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
http://iava.org/

Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society
http://www.nmcrs.org/index.html

Veterans of Foreign Wars
http://www.vfw.org

VONAPP
http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/application/

VA Archives
https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/home
> Cont. Reference and Financial Aid Websites

**GRANTS**

Grants for Veterans
http://college-grants1.com/veteran/

**LOANS**

Credit Union Student Loans
http://www.custudentloans.org

Loans for Active Duty and Veterans
http://www.vailarmedforces.com

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

American Legion Auxiliary
http://www.legion-aux.org

Dolphin Scholarship Foundation
http://www.dolphinscholarship.org

Fast Web
http://www.fastweb.com

John David Fry Scholarship
http://www.gibill.va.gov/community/announcements/general.html

Military.com Scholarship Finder (must be a member)

MilitaryTA.com

Purple Hearts Association

VA Mortgage Center
http://www.vamortgagecenter.com/

Veteran Scholarships
http://www.finaid.org/military/veterans.phtml

http://dodvets.cpms.osd.mil/

Scholarships for Military Children
http://www.militaryscholar.org
ACRONYMS

VONAPP: Veterans Online Application
COE: Certificate of Eligibility
TOE: Transfer of Entitlement Application
VA: Department of Veterans Affairs
COP/P: Request for Change of Program/Place of Training
PP: Packaging Policy Agreement (Chapter 33)
DEA: Survivors & Dependents Educational Assistance Program
B&SS: Book and Supply Stipend
BAH: Basic Allowance for Housing
N.O.B.E.: Notice of Basic Eligibility
TA: Tuition Assistance
VEAP: Veterans Educational Assistance Program
DOD: Department of Defense
ESO: Educational Service Officer
MTA: Military Tuition Assistance
TATU: Tuition Assistance Top-Up
IAVA: Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
EDD: Educational Dollars for Duty
STEP: State Tuition Exemption Program

VA FORM NUMBERS/NAMES

When contacting the Department of Veterans Affairs, the representative may refer to a form number rather than the form name. The form number and the associated name are listed below.

22-1990: Veterans Online Application (VONAPP)
22-1990E: Application to Use Transferred Benefits (VONAPP)
22-5490: Dependent Application to Use VA Education Benefits (VONAPP)
22-1995: Veteran Change of Program/Place of Training (COP/P)
22-5495: Dependent Change of Program/Place of Training
22-1999: Enrollment Certification
22-1999B: Notice of Change in Enrollment (Amendment, Adjustment, and/or Termination)