



## Veterans' Education Benefits Information

Welcome to Bellevue College (BC). This office is prepared to help you activate your VA Education Benefits. It is important that a student seeking to use these benefits meet with a Veterans Advisor for direction. There are several different types of VA Education Benefits, each with their own eligibility requirements.



**1**

### STEP ONE:

**Visit [va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits](https://va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits).** This is the official Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits website. Here you can compare benefits and decide which is best for you. Once you decide, use the electronic application on this site to apply.

To speak with a VA education representative call (888) 442-4551.

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### STEP TWO:

**Apply to Bellevue College** and receive a ctcLink ID. You must obtain a ctcLink ID number before we can begin a file for you.

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### STEP THREE:

**Be prepared to provide various documents including but not limited to:** your DD 214 (member-2 or 4), Math and English Assessment scores, Transcripts, Certificate of Eligibility Letter, Notice of Basic Eligibility (for CH 1606 only).

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### STEP FOUR:

**Go to the Veterans Office in U306 (Student Success Center)** or follow the step-by-step instructions on our website under the *Getting Started* tab. [bellevuecollege.edu/veterans/getting-started](https://bellevuecollege.edu/veterans/getting-started)

## Degree Programs

The Department of Veterans Affairs only funds courses that are required for VA approved programs. Each quarter you will need to make sure the classes you register for are required for the VA approved program that you are pursuing. One way you can verify courses fit into your degree is by viewing your degree progress in ctcLink. This can be found by logging into your ctcLink account and selecting the *Academics* menu option. From here you can select from either *Degree Progress* or *What-If*. *Degree Progress* will show what courses you have completed based on your current degree program. The *What-If* option will allow you to see your progress towards any other degree or certificate program. It is highly recommended that you meet with an advisor to gain insight in selecting courses so you can meet your goals most effectively.

An alternative to the Degree Progress website in ctcLink is the *BC Academic Catalog* at [catalog.bellevuecollege.edu](http://catalog.bellevuecollege.edu). Here you can find the most up-to-date degree and certificate requirements for all programs at Bellevue College. You can also download or print Degree Completion Worksheets, allowing you to keep track of your progress on your own.

### You will NOT be able to receive benefits for:

- Repeating a course that you have a grade of "D" or better, unless the course is a prerequisite for other required courses and department policy requires a higher grade.
- Courses which are NOT required for your program of study
- Courses for which you have equivalent transfer credit
- Audit classes
- Remedial courses (below 100 level), when taken online

## Obtaining a copy of your DD-214

If you do not have a copy of your DD-214 here are some ways you can get one:

1. Go to the 1st floor of the Henry M. Jackson Federal Building, 915 2nd AVE in Seattle, WA 98174. Ask for a "Statement of Service" document.
2. National Archives [archives.gov/veterans](http://archives.gov/veterans)
3. Request a *VA Benefit Summary Letter* [va.gov/records/download-va-letters](http://va.gov/records/download-va-letters)

## Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance is available for select service members. Contact your unit's education office to see if you are eligible for tuition assistance. To find general guidance for Tuition Assistance. Visit Tuition Assistance (TA) DECIDE [dodmou.com/TADECIDE](http://dodmou.com/TADECIDE)

## Veterans Discount

Bellevue College offers a 25 percent reduction of in-state tuition for eligible veterans. Veterans must have an Honorable Discharge and be a Washington state resident to be eligible for this discount. If you are not a Washington state resident or have questions about residency, contact the Residency Office at [residency@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:residency@bellevuecollege.edu). Continuing education classes are not covered under the veterans' discount.

## Dependent Waivers

For a child or spouse of an eligible veteran that is totally disabled, POW/MIA or deceased, the college may waive 100% of tuition and fees. Only dependents of veterans who are Washington state residents are eligible for this discount. If you are not a Washington state resident or have questions about residency, contact the Residency Office at [residency@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:residency@bellevuecollege.edu).

## Financial Aid

Aside from your GI Bill benefits, we recommend that all of our students apply for financial aid. GI Bill Benefits are not considered in determining your eligibility for grants (free money). To start the process, log onto the Financial Aid website at [bellevuecollege.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid](http://bellevuecollege.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid). Select *Apply for Aid*. Please follow the application steps as instructed.

We also welcome you to visit the Veterans Office to discuss your Financial Aid application and/or answer any questions you may have.

## College Comparison Information

College Scorecard | [collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard](https://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard)

You can use College Scorecard to find out more about a college's affordability and value so you can make more informed decisions about which college to attend.

College Navigator | [nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)

The College Navigator is a tool that provides school information including tuition and fees, retention and graduation rates, use of financial aid, student loan default rates and features a cost calculator and school comparison tool.

Paying for College | [consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college](https://consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college)

This website can be used to enter the names of up to three schools and receive detailed financial information on each one and to enter actual financial aid award information.

## Credits for Military Service

You may be able to receive college credits towards your degree for prior military training. When requesting prior college transcripts, don't forget to request your Joint Services Transcripts or CCAF transcripts as well.

To request a military transcript go to:

[jst.doded.mil](mailto:jst.doded.mil) for Army, Navy, Marines & Coast Guard

[airuniversity.af.edu/Barnes/CCAF](https://airuniversity.af.edu/Barnes/CCAF) for Community College of the Air Force

## Student Credit Status

For students using Chapter 33 (Post 9-11) benefits, your monthly Basic Housing Allowance (BAH) is prorated based on your enrollment level and term dates. See the table below for details.

BAH%	Fall/Winter/Spring	Summer
0%	1-6 credits	1-3 credits
60%	7 credits	4 credits
70%	8 credits	5 credits
80%	9-10 credits	NA
90%	11 credits	6 credits
100%	12+ credits	7+ credits

For students using other VA benefits, your payment rate is based on your enrollment level. Use this table to determine your enrollment level.

Enrollment Level	Fall/Winter/Spring	Summer
Full Time	12 + credits	7 credits or more
3/4 Time	11 - 9 credits	6 credits
1/2 Time	6 - 8 credits	4-5 credits
Tuition & Fees	1 - 5 credits	1 - 3 credits

## Certifying You for Benefits is not Automatic Each Quarter

When we mention the term Certify we are talking about the action of communicating to the VA that:

- You have registered for classes
- Your courses are approved
- You are not on a waitlist for the courses being submitted

For Post 9-11 students, this is when we tell the VA how much they are to pay for your tuition and fees, as well as how many credits you are taking. We are also relaying this information to the BC Finance Department so that the funds can be accounted for.

For students using the other education benefits, this is where we tell the VA how many credits you are taking so that your monthly payments can be processed.

In order for this important process to be executed properly we need you to communicate with us.

- **As soon as you register**, you must submit an Enrollment Certification Request at **[bellevuecollege.edu/veterans/certify-form](https://bellevuecollege.edu/veterans/certify-form)**.

This will let us know that you have registered and that you would like to use your VA benefits. Your enrollment cannot be submitted to the VA for payment without this form being sent to the BC Veterans Resource Center first.

## Online Resources for Veterans Benefits

**[va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits](https://va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits)**

**[va.gov](https://va.gov)**

**[military.com](https://military.com)**

## A Student's Right to Know

### Public Disclosure

Bellevue College provides extensive data about our graduation rates, policies, voter information, access for students with disabilities and more. To learn more visit us at **[bellevuecollege.edu/legal-information/public-disclosure](https://bellevuecollege.edu/legal-information/public-disclosure)**

## Frequently Called Numbers

Education Benefits Inquiries | 1-888-442-4551

Direct Deposit | 1-800-827-1000 or **[va.gov/change-direct-deposit](https://va.gov/change-direct-deposit)**

Address Changes | **[va.gov/change-address](https://va.gov/change-address)**

Compensation, Pension, Veteran Readiness and Employment, and Other VA Benefits | 1-800-827-1000

## Contact Us

Veterans Office, U306

3000 Landerholm Circle SE

Bellevue, WA 98007-6484

Web | **[bellevuecollege.edu/veterans](https://bellevuecollege.edu/veterans)**

Phone | 425-564-2220

Email | **[veterans@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:veterans@bellevuecollege.edu)**

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The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Title IX Coordinator, 425-564-2641, Office C227, and EEOC/504 Compliance Officer, 425-564-2178, Office B126.