



U.S. Public Health Service Nursing
Tip of the Month
September 2014
Educational Benefits

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Dear Commissioned Officers,

To transfer Post 9/11 education benefits to your dependents(s), you agree to a 4-year service obligation. You can visit the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Education and Training website for additional information:

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_transfer.asp

Once your request to transfer Post-9/11 education benefits to your dependent(s) is approved, your dependent(s) should take the following steps:

Each family member must first apply for a certificate of eligibility (COE) from the DVA before they can use their transferred benefits. Once the DVA receives the requested data and DVA Form 22-1990E, they will be able to process your family member's requests to use their benefits.

The application for the COE (DVA Form 22-1990E) can be found through the Veterans On-Line Application website:

<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.

A paper form is also available at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1990e-ARE.pdf>. Or you can call the DVA for Education Benefits information at 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

If you have transferred benefits to your spouse, he or she may use the benefits immediately.

If you have transferred benefits to your child, you must have served ten years of active duty before the child can use the benefit. However, the child does not have to complete the form until she/he is ready to actually use the benefits.

After receiving their COE from the DVA, your family members must provide the certificates to the school.

If your family member(s) do not receive their COE from the DVA before they enroll in school, they should ask the veterans' certifying official at the school to submit to the DVA an enrollment certification for the academic term.

Tuition funds will be sent direct from the DVA to the school. Children are eligible for the monthly living stipend, books and supplies stipend while you are serving on active duty. Your spouse is eligible for the books and supplies stipend, but because both you and your spouse are already receiving the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), your spouse will not receive the monthly living stipend. If you are not currently serving on active duty, then both your spouse and children are eligible for the monthly living stipend, and the books and supplies stipend.

Note: For the service member, you and your spouse can continue to use the benefit for up to 15 years after you are last released (discharged or retired) from active duty. Children can use their benefits until their 26th birthday.

The DVA administers the Post-9/11 program. Therefore, your dependent(s) should contact the DVA Education Benefits Coordinator/Counselor or DVA Certifying Official at their College or University for further guidance. They can also speak to a DVA Representative at 1-888-442-4551.

Source: Mary Boone PHS DEERS Project Officer, PHS Education Benefits Coordinator

PHS-NURSING LIST SERVE

<http://list.nih.gov/archives/phsnursing-l.html>

The road to promotion is always under construction.



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