

VETERANS INFORMATION

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Veterans Administration (VA) Mission Statement:

To assist our nation's veterans and their eligible dependents in accessing their VA education benefits, while safeguarding the G.I. Bill® resources available for those educational programs. Provide consistent service, share knowledge, promote individual growth and support opportunities to access higher education.

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 website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

Under Title 38 U.S.C. 3679(c) Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, the following individuals shall be charged a rate of tuition not to exceed the in-state rate for tuition and fees purposes:

- A Veteran using educational assistance under either Chapter 30 (Montgomery G.I. Bill® - Active Duty Program) or Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 G.I. Bill®), of title 38, United States Code, who lives in the state of Oregon while attending Southwestern Oregon Community College (regardless of his/her formal state of residence).
- Anyone using transferred Post-9/11 G.I. Bill® benefits (38 U.S.C. § 3319) who lives in the state of Oregon while attending Southwestern Oregon Community College (regardless of his/her formal state of residence).
- Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (38 U.S.C. § 3311 (b)(9)) who lives in the state of Oregon while attending Southwestern Oregon Community College (regardless of his/her formal state of residence).
- Anyone using educational assistance under Chapter 31, Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E), who lives in the state of Oregon while attending Southwestern Oregon Community College (regardless of his/her formal state of residence).
- Anyone using educational assistance under Chapter 35 (Dependents' Educational Assistance G.I. Bill®) who lives in the state of Oregon while attending Southwestern Oregon Community College (regardless of his/her formal state of residence).
- Anyone described above while he or she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters, or terms) at Southwestern Oregon Community College.

SUCCESSFUL ENROLLMENT AT SOUTHWESTERN

The following steps are provided as a guide to ensure veterans have a smooth transition into the academic life here at Southwestern.

- Fill out an online application for veterans benefits: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill> and bring a printed copy to the

Southwestern Oregon Community College Veterans Office along with a copy of your DD-214 (Member 4) and Disability letter (only for Chapter 31 benefits).

- Apply for admission to Southwestern Oregon Community College.
- Any student receiving G.I. Bill® education benefits while attending Southwestern Oregon Community College is required to obtain transcripts from military training and all previously attended schools and submit them to the school for evaluation of prior credit and shortening of the program proportionately.
- Talk with the Veteran's/Financial Aid staff located in Randolph Hall, or email, to receive all necessary applications and paperwork for processing your financial aid requests.
- Go to the Student Success Center (SSC) in Stensland Hall, to the Student Success Center on our Curry Campus, to complete the placement process and meet with a veterans counselor to schedule your classes.
- Once registered for classes, return to the Veterans Office with a printed schedule so your registration can be verified in the Veterans education database.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e), this school adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation and

Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA. This school will not:

- Prevent the students' enrollment
- Assess a late penalty fee to
- Require student secure alternative or additional funding
- Deny their access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution. However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:
 - Produce the Certificate of Eligibility by the first day of class
 - Provide written request to be certified
 - Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Federal regulations require approved schools to have written standards of academic progress for students receiving VA educational benefits. The following are standards for the Southwestern Oregon Community College "Satisfactory Academic Policy," which is defined as maintaining a minimum 2.0 term GPA. Students who fail to meet the criteria for two quarters will go on "Aid Withheld Status" and failure to meet the criteria for three quarters will result in being placed on "Aid Suspension Status."

AID WITHHELD STATUS

If a student has an Aid Withheld Status, they must come to the Veterans Office in person, after the fourth week of the term, to receive a Blue Book for documenting progress in current classes. Students must have instructors sign and document their current grades before returning it to the Veterans Office. If students have a 'C' or better in all classes, the student may be retroactively certified to receive benefits.

AID SUSPENSION STATUS

Students will only be retroactively certified to receive veterans education benefits after grades are released at the end of the term and have successfully passed all classes with a term GPA of 2.0 or better. Upon successfully passing three or more continuous terms, students may request to return to the standard certification process. Blue books are not applicable if students are on Aid Suspension Status.

DROPPED CLASS POLICY

Students receiving VA education benefits must assume responsibility for notifying the Veterans Office of any changes in their schedule. Students are cautioned that a reduction in credits during the term may result in a reduction of benefit payments and possible debt to the student.

Students must have instructors' signatures on add/drop forms or instructor authorizations on myLakerLink to add courses after the first Wednesday of the term. Students may withdraw from a course or from all courses through the end of the second Wednesday of the term or within the course's refund period without responsibility for a grade. Dropping after the refund period will result in "W" grades on transcripts. Students may drop courses until the Wednesday before finals week. Students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor and their academic advisor before dropping to ascertain their status in the course.

TRAINING TIME MANAGEMENT

Full Time – (12 or More Credits)

Three Quarter Time – (9-11 Credits)

Half Time – (6-8 Credits)

Less than Half Time – (6 Credits or Less)