

**Western Illinois University
Resource Guide for
Veterans and Service Members**



Our service men and women receive individualized assistance in completing request forms such as educational and military transcripts; and applications for the G.I. Bill, Illinois Veterans Grant, Illinois National Guard Grant, State of Illinois MIA/POW Scholarship, Tuition Assistance, and Federal Student Aid programs. Additional services may include help with periods of military activation and deployment; obtaining appropriate housing accommodations; requesting military records; and acquiring community living information, outreach services and health benefits.

The Veterans Resource Center serves distance learning students and students attending both the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. Additional contact information is listed below.

Macomb Campus

Ronald Pettigrew
Veterans Resource Center
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455
Phone: (309) 298-3505
Fax: (309) 298-3509
VeteransResources@wiu.edu

Quad Cities Campus

Curtis Williams
Director of Student Services
3300 River Drive
Moline, IL 61265
Phone: (309) 762-3999, ext. 62236
Fax: (309) 762-8980
CM-Williams11@wiu.edu

allow a minimum of 6-8 weeks after submitting application for benefits and all supporting documents to the DVA before receiving notification of eligibility.

First Time Applicants for Education Benefits (Chapters 30, 33, 1606, and 1607)

1. Complete and submit VA Form 22-1990, Application for Educational Benefits online at <https://www.vets.gov/education/apply-for-education-benefits/application/1990/introduction>.
2. Complete B/R GI Bill Information page (located on STARS) every semester benefits are to be received.
3. Students receiving Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty), Chapter 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve Program), and Chapter 1607 (Reserve Educational Assistance) benefits must verify their enrollment the last day of each month (or after) with the DVA by calling (877) 823-2378 or online at www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do.

Previous Recipients of Education Benefits (Chapters 30, 33, 1606, and 1607)

1. Complete B/R GI Bill Information page (located on STARS) every semester benefits are to be received.
2. Students receiving Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty), Chapter 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve Program), and Chapter 1607 (Reserve Educational Assistance) benefits must verify their enrollment the last day of each month (or after) with the DVA by calling (877) 823-2378 or online at www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do.

Previous Recipients Transferring to or Re-entering Western (Chapters 30, 33, 1606, and 1607)

1. Complete and submit VA Form 22-1995, Change of Program/Change in Training online at <https://www.vets.gov/education/apply-for-education-benefits/application/1995/introduction>.
2. Complete B/R GI Bill Information page (located on STARS) every semester benefits are to be received.
3. Students receiving Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty), Chapter 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve Program), and Chapter 1607 (Reserve Educational Assistance) benefits must verify their enrollment the last day of each month (or after) with the DVA by calling (877) 823-2378 or online at www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do.

Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty)

Educational assistance is available to individuals who have an honorable discharge and meet additional eligibility criteria as determined by the DVA. This program provides up to 36 months of educational benefits. Generally, benefit entitlement

ends 10 years following the release from active duty. Effective October 1, 2018, the basic monthly rates for institutional training (for those completing an enlistment of three years or more) are as follows:

Full time	\$ 1,994.00
¾ time	\$ 1,495.00
½ time	\$ 997.00
¼ time or less	\$ 498.50*

** Tuition and fees only - payment cannot exceed this amount.*

Chapter 1606 Educational Assistance (Selected Reserve Program)

Educational assistance is available to individuals who are members of the Selected Reserve, which includes the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. This educational assistance is also available to members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard.

Reservists may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of educational benefits. Generally, benefit entitlement ends 14 years from the date of eligibility for the program. Effective October 1, 2018, the basic monthly rates for institutional training are as follows:

Full time	\$ 384.00
¾ time	\$ 287.00
½ time	\$ 191.00
Less than ½ time	\$ 96.00*

** Tuition and fees only - payment cannot exceed this amount.*

Chapter 1607 Reserve Educational Assistance tayo: 2 0: 2 0

Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation

Veterans with a service-connected disability may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services through the DVA. The online application, VA Form 28-1900 is available at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>. Register for an account if needed. Otherwise click log in, check the box under eBenefits Consent to Monitor, underneath the DS Logon, click More DS Logon Options, and select Upgrade My DS Logon. Check the box under eBenefits Consent to Monitor, enter username and password, under Apply select Education and Training, to the right select Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits, look over Personal and Contact information, then click Apply. Applicants must contact their Veterans habilitation and Employment Counselor,

eBenifits Help Line 1-800-983-0937 8am-8pm Mon-Fri ET

Academic Reporting

In addition to certifying the class schedule, the Billings and Receivables Office is required to report changes, such as when a student drops below full-time, three-quarter time, half-time, or one-quarter time, receives an unsatisfactory non punitive grade, is academically dismissed, or is suspended.

Concurrent Enrollment

If a student is obtaining his or her degree at Western and is completing a course at another institution, he or she may be eligible for GI Bill Education Benefits. Consult with the Veterans Resource Center or Billing and Receivables Office to complete the specific procedures for eligibility determination. Completion of a new Application for VA Education Benefits or a Change of Program/Change in Program may cause a delay in receipt of DVA payments.

The Billings and Receivables Office is responsible for submitting class certifications for the GI Bill Education Benefits programs to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Western Illinois University does not make any eligibility determinations as to the receipt or dollar amounts of any funds received by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, or the U.S. Department of Education.

Armed Forces of the United States; or served on federal active duty service in a foreign country during a time of hostilities in that country and were honorably discharged after each period of federal active duty service; and/or are honorably serving may be eligible for the IVG Program.

Any member of the Illinois National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States who meets the eligibility requirements is considered a qualified applicant for the IVG Program. Qualified applicants are encouraged to submit an Illinois Veterans Grant Program Application if they anticipate attending college at any time in the future. While program eligibility can be confirmed for qualified applicants at any time, funds will be disbursed only for terms in which eligible participants are enrolled at an Illinois public college or community college. Applicants are responsible for meeting all deadlines as specified by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The IVG Program pays eligible tuition and mandatory fees.

For additional eligibility criteria, or to apply for the Illinois Veteran Grant, a printed application may be obtained at the Veterans Resource Center, or at http://www.isac.org/students/during-college/applying-for-financial-aid/applications/ivg_applying/index.html. This program is coordinated by the Financial Aid Office.

Illinois National Guard Grant (ING)

Members of the Illinois National Guard may be eligible to receive the Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant. This grant may pay for eligible tuition costs and certain fees for undergraduate or graduate study. The ING grant can be used for a maximum of the equivalent of four academic years of full-time enrollment. Illinois National Guard Members may complete the online application at https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&_Student_WAR_Studentportlet__facesViewIdRender=%2Fviews%2Fing%2Fing.xhtml. Applicants are responsible for meeting all deadlines as specified by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. This program is coordinated by the Financial Aid Office.

Tuition Assistance

Members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard may be eligible for Tuition Assistance. Each branch of the military establishes its respective criteria. Military members must initiate the Tuition Assistance application process. Contact your Education Officer for specific details.

Application guidelines are available at www.military.com/education/money-for-school/tuition-assistance-ta-program-overview.html. Approved Tuition Assistance authorizations must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office at (792) 751-1612. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office at (792) 751-1612.

Western Illinois University