



Department of Veterans Affairs

**VA DATE STAMP**  
(For VA Use Only)

## DEPENDENTS' APPLICATION FOR VA EDUCATION BENEFITS

(Under Provisions of chapters 33 and 35, of title 38, U.S.C.)

INTERNET VERSION AVAILABLE - You may complete and submit your application online at: [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill).

### PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	2. SEX OF APPLICANT <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	3. DATE OF BIRTH
4. NAME (First name, middle initial, last name)		
5. CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., State and ZIP Code)		
6. TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) (Including Area Code)		
HOME	CELL	
7. E-MAIL ADDRESS (If applicable)		
8. DIRECT DEPOSIT (Attach a voided personal check <u>or</u> deposit slip to match the information entered below. See Instructions for additional information.)		
ROUTING OR TRANSIT NUMBER	ACCOUNT TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> CHECKING <input type="checkbox"/> SAVINGS	ACCOUNT NUMBER
9. PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF SOMEONE WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED		
A. NAME	B. ADDRESS	C. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

### PART II - QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION

10. NAME OF QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL (PARENT OR SPOUSE) ON WHOSE ACCOUNT BENEFITS ARE BEING CLAIMED (First name, middle initial, last name)		
11. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR VA FILE NUMBER	12. BRANCH OF SERVICE	13. DATE OF BIRTH
14A. DID PARENT OR SPOUSE DIE WHILE SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (If "Yes," is checked complete Item 14B) (If "No," is checked then you <b>do not</b> qualify for the Fry Scholarship)	14B. DATE OF DEATH	14C. DATE LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION OR P.O.W.
15. IS QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL (PARENT OR SPOUSE) ON ACTIVE DUTY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
16. DO YOU (APPLICANT) OR THE QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL (PARENT OR SPOUSE) HAVE AN OUTSTANDING FELONY AND/OR WARRANT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

### PART III - RELATIONSHIP AND BENEFIT INFORMATION

17. YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL (Check only one) <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE/SURVIVING SPOUSE (Please complete only <b>Section I</b> on page 2, and then proceed to <b>Part V</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD/STEPCHILD/ADOPTED CHILD (Please complete only <b>Section II</b> on page 2, and then proceed to <b>Part V</b> )	
<b>SECTION I - SPOUSE/SURVIVING SPOUSE</b>	
18. IS A DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT PENDING TO THE QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	19. IF YOU ARE THE SURVIVING SPOUSE, HAVE YOU REMARRIED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (If "Yes," please provide date of remarriage) _____

**SECTION I - SPOUSE/SURVIVING SPOUSE (Continued)**

20. SPOUSE/SURVIVING SPOUSE SELECT THE BENEFIT THAT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR BELOW:

**IMPORTANT ►**

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 5, ITEM 20 BEFORE SELECTING BOX "A" OR "B" BELOW REGARDING THE BENEFIT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR. THE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 5 ALSO PROVIDE LINKS TO VA WEBSITES WHERE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO COMPARE "DEA" AND "FRY" BENEFITS. YOU WILL ALSO FIND OTHER ELIGIBILITY RELATED INFORMATION THERE.

- ☐ **A.** AS A SPOUSE OR SURVIVING SPOUSE BASED ON 100% PERMANENT AND TOTAL DISABILITY, SERVICE CONNECTED OR LINE OF DUTY DEATH, I AM APPLYING FOR CHAPTER 35 - DEA BENEFITS.

- ☐ **B.** AS A SURVIVING SPOUSE BASED ON LINE OF DUTY DEATH AFTER SEPTEMBER 10, 2001, I AM APPLYING FOR CHAPTER 33 - FRY SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS.

**NOTE** - BY CHECKING THIS BOX I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I UNDERSTAND THIS ELECTION IS **IRREVOCABLE** AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED.

**NOTE** - BY CHECKING THIS BOX I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I UNDERSTAND THIS ELECTION IS **IRREVOCABLE** AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED.

**SECTION II - CHILD/STEPCHILD/ADOPTED CHILD**

21. CHILD/STEPCHILD/ADOPTED CHILD SELECT THE BENEFIT THAT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR BELOW:

**IMPORTANT ►**

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 6, ITEM 21 BEFORE SELECTING BOX "A" OR "B" BELOW REGARDING THE BENEFIT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR. THE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 5 ALSO PROVIDE LINKS TO VA WEBSITES WHERE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO COMPARE "DEA" AND "FRY" BENEFITS. YOU WILL ALSO FIND OTHER ELIGIBILITY RELATED INFORMATION THERE.

- ☐ **A.** I AM APPLYING FOR CHAPTER 35 - DEA BENEFITS.

- ☐ **B.** I AM APPLYING FOR CHAPTER 33 - FRY SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS.

**NOTE** - BY CHECKING THIS BOX I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I UNDERSTAND THIS ELECTION IS **IRREVOCABLE** AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED.

**NOTE** - BY CHECKING THIS BOX I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I UNDERSTAND THIS ELECTION IS **IRREVOCABLE** AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED.

**Important** - If your parent died in the line of duty prior to August 1, 2011, you may apply for **both** DEA and Fry Scholarship benefits. If you are eligible for both Chapter 35 (DEA) and Chapter 33 (Fry Scholarship) benefits and you would like to use the Chapter 35 benefit first, check the box below.

**Important** - If your parent died in the line of duty prior to August 1, 2011, you may apply for **both** DEA and Fry Scholarship benefits. If you are eligible for both Chapter 35 (DEA) and Chapter 33 (Fry Scholarship) benefits and you would like to use the Chapter 33 benefit first, check the box below.

☐ CHAPTER 35 - DEA

☐ CHAPTER 33 - FRY SCHOLARSHIP

**IMPORTANT:** If you are over the age of 18 once you receive either the DEA or FRY SCHOLARSHIP benefits, you will no longer receive payments of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) or Pension and you may no longer be claimed as a dependent in a Compensation claim. If you are under the age of 18, on your 18th birthday you will lose eligibility for DIC or Pension payments and you will no longer be claimed as a dependent in a Compensation claim.

**CAREFULLY READ THE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 6, ITEM 22 BEFORE COMPLETING THE ELECTION BOX BELOW. YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO DISCUSS YOUR ELECTION WITH A VA COUNSELOR.**

22. I CERTIFY THAT I UNDERSTAND THE EFFECTS THAT THIS ELECTION TO RECEIVE DEA OR FRY SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS WILL HAVE ON MY ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE **DIC OR PENSION** BENEFITS (*Please read Information and Instructions Page 6 for additional information*)

☐ YES ☐ NO

**PART IV - BENEFIT AND TYPE OF EDUCATION OR TRAINING INFORMATION**23A. DATE YOU WILL BEGIN SCHOOL OR TRAINING (*MM/DD/YYYY*)23B. TYPE OF EDUCATION OR TRAINING (*Check ONE box*)

- ☐ COLLEGE OR OTHER SCHOOL
- ☐ FARM COOPERATIVE
- ☐ LICENSING OR CERTIFICATION TEST
- ☐ APPRENTICESHIP OR OTHER ON-THE-JOB TRAINING
- ☐ NATIONAL ADMISSION EXAMS OR NATIONAL EXAMS FOR CREDIT
- ☐ CORRESPONDENCE COURSE
- ☐ FLIGHT TRAINING (*Fry Scholarship only*)

23C. [**DEA ONLY**] DO YOU HAVE A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY FOR WHICH YOU ARE SEEKING SPECIAL RESTORATIVE TRAINING? (*See Information and Instructions, Page 6, for details regarding restorative training*)

☐ YES

☐ NO

23D. [**DEA ONLY**] DO YOU HAVE A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY FOR WHICH YOU ARE SEEKING SPECIAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING? (*See Information and Instructions, Page 6, for details regarding special vocational training*)

☐ YES

☐ NO

24. NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL OR TRAINING FACILITY (*Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., State and ZIP Code*)25. SPECIFY YOUR EDUCATION OR CAREER OBJECTIVE, IF KNOWN (*e.g., Bachelor of Arts in Accounting, Welding Certificate, Police Officer*)26. WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING? (*See Information and Instructions, Item 26 for more information regarding vocational and educational counseling*)☐ YES ☐ NO**PART V - APPLICATION HISTORY**27. PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION, HAVE YOU EVER APPLIED FOR OR RECEIVED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING VA BENEFITS? (*Check all appropriate boxes*)A. ☐ DISABILITY COMPENSATION OR PENSIONB. ☐ DEPENDENTS' INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (*DIC*)C. ☐ VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (*Chapter 31*)D. ☐ VETERANS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE BASED ON YOUR OWN SERVICE (*Specify benefit(s):* \_\_\_\_\_)E. ☐ VETERANS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE BASED ON SOMEONE ELSE'S SERVICE  
SPECIFY BENEFIT(S) BY CHECKING APPLICABLE BOX BELOW AND COMPLETE ITEMS 28 AND 29☐ TRANSFERRED ENTITLEMENT☐ CHAPTER 35 - SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (*DEA*)☐ CHAPTER 33 - POST-9/11 GI BILL MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIPF. ☐ NONEG. ☐ OTHER (*Specify benefit(s):* \_\_\_\_\_)**IMPORTANT:** Complete Items 28 and 29 *only* if you checked the box for Item 27E above.28. NAME OF INDIVIDUAL ON WHOSE ACCOUNT YOU PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED BENEFITS (*First, Middle, Last*)

29. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ON WHOSE ACCOUNT YOU PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED BENEFITS

**PART VI - APPLICANT'S MILITARY SERVICE INFORMATION****(NOTE: Chapter 35 benefits are not payable while an eligible person is on active duty)**30. HAVE YOU EVER SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES? (*If "No," skip to Part VII*)☐ YES ☐ NO31. INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PERIOD(S) OF ACTIVE DUTY (*If you need additional space use Item 37, Remarks*)

A. DATE ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY	B. DATE SEPARATED FROM ACTIVE DUTY	C. BRANCH OF SERVICE OR RESERVE OR GUARD COMPONENT	D. CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE

**PART VII - EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT****SECTION I - EDUCATION & TRAINING**

32. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX AND ENTER THE DATE IN ITEM 33

☐ GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL☐ DISCONTINUED HIGH SCHOOL☐ NEVER ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL☐ EXPECT TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL☐ AWARDED GED

33. DATE

34A. TYPE OF SCHOOL	34B. NAME AND LOCATION OF SCHOOL ( <i>City and State</i> )	34C. DATES OF TRAINING		34D. NUMBER OF SEMESTER, QUARTER, OR CLOCK HOURS COMPLETED	34E. DEGREE, DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE RECEIVED	34F. MAJOR FIELD OR COURSE OF STUDY
		FROM	TO			
HIGH SCHOOL						
COLLEGE						
VOCATIONAL OR TRADE						
OTHER ( <i>Specify</i> )						
_____						
_____						
_____						



(Please retain these Information and Instructions Pages for future reference)

**INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE  
DEPENDENTS' APPLICATION FOR VA EDUCATION BENEFITS  
(VA FORM 22-5490)**

Do **not** use this form to apply for Veterans' education assistance based on your own service (chapters 30, 32, 33, or 1606) or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits (chapter 31). To apply for veterans' education assistance based on your own service, use VA Form 22-1990. To apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits, use VA Form 28-1900. VA forms are available at [www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms).

**INTERNET VERSION AVAILABLE** - You may complete and submit this application on-line at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill). Click on "GI Bill: Apply for Benefits."

**NOTE:** The numbers on these Information and Instructions pages match the item numbers on this application. Items not mentioned are self-explanatory.

**ITEM 8.** The Department of the Treasury requires all Federal benefit payments be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT), also called direct deposit. To enroll in direct deposit, please attach a voided personal check **or** deposit slip, **and** provide the information requested in Item 8. If you **do not** have a bank account, please visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/banking.asp>. This website provides information about the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP), and a link to banks and credit unions that may fit your needs. You may also call 1-800-827-1000. If you elect not to enroll, you must contact representatives handling waiver requests for the Department of the Treasury at 1-888-224-2950. They will encourage your participation in EFT and address any questions or concerns you may have.

**ITEM 16.** You will not be eligible to receive benefits for any period for which you or the qualifying individual on whose account you are claiming benefits has an outstanding felony warrant. Any benefits paid to you for such period will result in an overpayment and be subject to collection.

**ITEM 17.** If you are certifying that you are married for the purpose of VA benefits, your marriage must be recognized by the place where you and/or your spouse resided at the time of marriage or where you and/or your spouse resided when you filed your claim (or a later date when you became eligible for benefits) (38 U.S.C. § 103(3)). Additional guidance on when VA recognizes marriages is available at <http://www.va.gov/opa/marriage/>.

**ITEM 20. IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW BEFORE MAKING YOUR SELECTION IN ITEM 20A OR 20B REGARDING THE BENEFIT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR.**

- To qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, you must be the surviving spouse of an individual who died in the line of duty while serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces after September 10, 2001.
- To qualify for Survivor's and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) you must be either:
  - (1) The spouse of a veteran who is permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service-connected disability, **OR**
  - (2) The spouse of an individual on active duty who has been listed as missing in action, captured in the line of duty by hostile force, forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power for more than 90 days, **OR**
  - (3) The surviving spouse **or** child of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability or who dies while a service-connected disability was rated permanent and total in nature, **OR**
  - (4) The surviving spouse of an individual on active duty for which the evidence shows that the individual is hospitalized for receiving outpatient medical care services or treatment; has a total disability permanent in nature incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service; and the service person is likely to be discharged or released from such service for such disability.

**NOTE: If you are eligible for both Chapter 35 Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA) and Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) benefits, you must relinquish/give up entitlement to one or the other benefit for which you are eligible, **even if entitlement arises from separate events**. In other words, you must forfeit eligibility to the other benefit even if your eligibility is due to:**

- A separate Period of Service (POS) other than the one for which the death of the spouse is associated; **OR**
- A separate POS other than the one for which your spouse has a total disability permanent in nature resulting from a service-connected disability; **OR**
- A separate POS based on any other criteria as listed in 38 U.S.C. § 3501(a)(1); **OR**
- Death of any other individual identified in Item 10 of this application.

**IMPORTANT:** You cannot retain eligibility for both programs simultaneously. Therefore, by checking either box "A" or box "B" in Item 20, you agree and understand that you are making an **irrevocable** election to receive the selected benefit and your election may not be changed.

**IMPORTANT:** Eligibility for (DEA) will be terminated in the event that VA determines that the individual on whose account benefits are claimed is no longer totally disabled or VA is notified that the individual is no longer listed as captured, missing in action, or forcibly detained.

**Note:** Before making your election selection, you can compare the differences between (DEA) and (FRY), and the benefits each provide in order to help you make the best choice that suits your needs. This benefit comparison information can be found on the VA website at: [https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/fry\\_scholarship.pdf](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/fry_scholarship.pdf). You can also find additional information about each program by visiting the GI Bill website at: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/> and using the comparison tool.

## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

### ITEM 21. IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW BEFORE MAKING YOUR SELECTION IN ITEM 21A OR 21B REGARDING THE BENEFIT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR.

- To qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, you must be the dependent child of an individual who died in the line of duty while serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces after September 10, 2001.
- To qualify for Survivor's and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) you must be either:
  - (1) The child of a veteran who is permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service-connected disability; **OR**
  - (2) The child of an individual on active duty who has been listed as missing in action, captured in the line of duty by hostile force, forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power for more than 90 days, **OR**
  - (3) The child of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability or who dies while a service-connected disability was rated permanent and total in nature, **OR**
  - (4) The child of an individual on active duty for which the evidence shows that the individual is hospitalized for receiving outpatient medical care services or treatment; has a total disability permanent in nature incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service; and the service person is likely to be discharged or released from such service for such disability.

#### **PARENT'S DEATH PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 2011 -**

- The election you choose in Item 21 **does not** eliminate your eligibility for the alternate education benefit (either Survivor's and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) and the Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship)) based on the same event (i.e., your parent's line of duty death that occurred prior to August 1, 2011).

#### **PARENT'S DEATH ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 2011 -**

- The election you choose in Item 21 **does** eliminate your eligibility for the alternate education benefit (either Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA) and the Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Marine Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship)), based on the same event (i.e., your parent's line of duty death that occurred on or after August 1, 2011). Therefore, you must relinquish/give up eligibility entitlement to the benefit that you are **not** applying for **but only with regard to the entitlement arising from the same event** (i.e., your parent's line of duty death that occurred on or after August 1, 2011). By checking either box "A" or box "B" in Item 21, you agree and understand that you are making an **irrevocable** election to receive the selected benefit and your election may not be changed.

**IMPORTANT:** Unlike spouses, children may be able to retain eligibility for both programs simultaneously if they qualify under different events and individuals (i.e., a separate parent's line of duty death that occurred on or after August 1, 2011).

**IMPORTANT:** Eligibility for (DEA) will be terminated in the event that VA determines that the individual on whose account benefits are claimed is no longer totally disabled or VA is notified that the individual is no longer listed as captured, missing in action, or forcibly detained.

**NOTE:** Before making your election selection, you can compare the differences between (DEA) and (FRY), and the benefits each provide in order to help you make the best choice that suits your needs. This benefit comparison information can be found on the VA website at: [https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/fry\\_scholarship.pdf](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/fry_scholarship.pdf). You can also find additional information about each program by visiting the GI Bill website at <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/> and using the comparison tool.

**ITEM 22.** Your election to receive Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance (DEA) or Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) in lieu of payments of compensation, pension, and Dependents' Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is final and cannot be changed. This means that if you are 18 years old, payments of compensation, pension, and Dependents' Indemnity Compensation (DIC) will be terminated upon issuance of a DEA or Fry Scholarship benefit payment. If you are under the age of 18, these benefits will be terminated on your 18th birthday. If you are planning to pursue a program of education for more than 36 months, you should consider deferring receipt of DEA or Fry Scholarship benefits. We strongly recommend that you discuss your education or training plans with a VA counselor before making a decision.

**ITEM 23B.** Types of education or training programs are self-explanatory, except for the following:

**"Licensing or Certification Test"** - A "licensing test" is a test offered by a state, local, or federal agency that is required by law to practice an occupation. A "certification test" is a test designed to provide affirmation of an individual's qualifications in a specific occupation.

**"National Admission Exams or National Exams for Credit"** - You may be reimbursed for the cost of approved tests for admission to or credit at institutions of higher learning.

**"Correspondence Course"** - You may receive benefits for correspondence training. Payments for correspondence courses are made quarterly after VA receives a certification showing the number of lessons completed. For more information on correspondence courses, you can go to the VA website at: [https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/correspondence\\_training.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/correspondence_training.asp).

**"Flight Training"** - You must already have a private pilot's license. If you are taking an Airline Transport Pilot course, you must have a valid first-class medical certificate on the date that you enter training. For all other flight courses, you must have a valid second-class medical certificate on the date that you enter training.

**ITEMS 23C AND 23D** - Any individual eligible under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program may receive Special Restorative Training or Specialized Vocational Training if a VA counselor determines that a specialized program is needed to overcome the effects of a physical or mental handicap. To be eligible for receipt of specialized training, the disability must prevent you from pursuing an educational program. Examples of Special Restorative Training include speech and voice correction, language retraining, lip reading, and Braille reading and writing. Specialized Vocational Training consists of specialized courses leading to a suitable vocational objective.

**ITEM 26 - VA VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING HELP AVAILABLE:** VA offers a wide range of services to assist you in planning your educational and/or career goals. Services include educational and vocational guidance and testing to develop a greater understanding of your skills, talents and interests. For more information on VA counseling, call VA toll-free at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or if you use the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal Relay number is 711.

## HOW TO FILE YOUR CLAIM

You may complete and submit your application online at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill) or be sure to do the following:

**(A) If you have selected a school or training establishment:**

**Step 1:** Mail the completed application to the VA Regional Processing Office for the region of that school's physical address. See page 8 for addresses of the VA Regional Processing Offices.

**Step 2:** Tell the veterans certifying official at your school or training establishment that you have applied for VA education benefits. Ask him or her to submit your enrollment information using VA Form 22-1999, Enrollment Certification, or its electronic version.

**Step 3:** Wait for VA to process your application and notify you of its decision concerning your eligibility for education benefits.

**(B) If you have not selected a school or training establishment:**

**Step 1:** Mail the completed application to the VA Regional Processing Office for the region of your home address. Check page 8 for addresses of the VA Regional Processing Offices.

**Step 2:** Wait for VA to process your application and notify you of its decision concerning your eligibility for education benefits.

## ADDITIONAL HELP COMPLETING APPLICATION

If you need additional help completing this application or you want information about the work-study program, call VA toll-free at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). If you use the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal Relay number is 711. You can also get more information about education assistance from our education Internet site at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill).

## CONTACT VA FROM OVERSEAS

Students and School Certifying Officials calling from outside the United States can contact VA by phone at: 001-918-781-5678 during business hours, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST, Monday - Friday. This is not a toll-free number but the caller will be routed to the next available customer service representative. Non-overseas customers should call the toll-free number shown in "Additional Help Completing Application".

<b>Eastern Region:</b> <b>VA Regional Office</b> <b>P.O. Box 4616</b> <b>Buffalo, NY 14240-4616</b>									
SERVES THE FOLLOWING STATES									
CO	CT	DC	DE	IA	IL	IN	KS	KY	MA
MD	ME	MI	MN	MO	MT	NC	ND	NE	NH
NJ	NY	OH	PA	RI	SD	TN	VA	VT	WI
WV	WY	APO / FPO AA		FOREIGN SCHOOLS			US VIRGIN ISLANDS		

<b>Western Region:</b> <b>VA Regional Office</b> <b>P.O. Box 8888</b> <b>Muskogee, OK 74402-8888</b>									
SERVES THE FOLLOWING STATES									
AK	AL	AR	AZ	CA	FL	GA	HI	ID	LA
MS	NM	NV	OK	OR	PR	SC	TX	UT	WA
APO / FPO AP			GUAM			PHILIPPINES			

### REQUEST TO OPT OUT OF INFORMATION SHARING WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48), also known as the "Forever GI Bill," requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to make available to educational institutions information about the amount of educational assistance to which a veteran or other eligible individual is entitled. If you are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30), Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606), or the Survivors' and Dependents Educational Assistance Program (DEA) (Chapter 35), you may elect to "opt-out" of these disclosures and have VA withhold this information instead. To request an opt-out, or for information about how to opt-out, please refer to our website at [va.gov](http://va.gov), or click <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/> to complete the VA Form 22-0993, *Request to Opt-Out of Information Sharing with Educational Institutions*.

**PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION:** VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., awards of benefits) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required to obtain education benefits. Giving us your SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide your SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by a Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine the maximum benefits allowable under the law. While you do not have to respond, VA cannot process your claim for benefits unless the information is furnished as required by existing law (38 U.S.C. 3513). The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** We need this information to determine your eligibility for education benefits (38 U.S.C. 3513). Title 38 U.S.C. allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 45 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. If desired, you can call 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.