



# Veterans Educational Benefits

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## Student Veteran Guide

## Veterans Educational Benefits – Getting Started

Visit [lakelandcc.edu/veterans](http://lakelandcc.edu/veterans) and click the “Veterans Educational Benefits” link for more details on getting started with your education at Lakeland as a student veteran.

### **Apply to Lakeland Community College**

The first step to take is to complete an application form to Lakeland Community College online or in person. Visit [lakelandcc.edu/apply](http://lakelandcc.edu/apply).

### **Apply for your educational benefits**

Apply for your educational benefits through the VA online at [va.gov/education](http://va.gov/education).

\*Retired, separated or discharged veterans - be sure to file a DD214 form in order to your receive GI Bill® benefits. Learn more at [DD214.com](http://DD214.com)\*

### **Choosing which program to file under**

You can get additional information on which program to file under at [vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool](http://vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool).

#### **Post 9/11 GI Bill – Chapter 33**

This program is for student veterans who have served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty beginning on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or who were honorably discharged from active duty due to a service-related disability after serving 30 continuous days beginning on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Active duty time will determine tuition percentage benefit eligibility. Additional benefits include tuition and fee payment to school of choice, money for housing (if you are enrolled more than half-time) and a book stipend of up to \$1,000 per year.

*VA pays school directly.*

#### **Montgomery GI Bill – Chapter 30**

Under Chapter 30, active-duty members enroll and pay \$100 per month for 12 months. They are entitled to receive monthly education benefits once they have completed a minimum service obligation. Eligible veterans have 10 years after leaving the military to use this benefit. *Student pays tuition.*

### **Montgomery GI Bill for Reservists – Chapter 1606**

A reservist soldier must be actively training and have a six-year obligation in the reserve unit to be eligible for this program. This benefit is based on the student's enrolled credit status, meaning full time, part time, or less have prorated amounts paid out to the soldier's direct deposit.

*Student pays tuition.*

### **Survivors and Dependents Assistance – Chapter 35**

Dependents educational assistance provides educational training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans.

*Student pays tuition.*

### **Veteran Readiness and Employment – Chapter 31**

Veterans with a service-related disability rating of at least 20 percent are eligible for this filing. VA pays costs such as tuition and fees, required books, supplies and equipment. VA will also pay a monthly benefit to help with living expenses.

*VA pays school directly.*

### **Federal Tuition Assistance – Active Duty (TA)**

The Federal Tuition Assistance program provides financial assistance for academic programs. The program does not offer assistance for study beyond a master's degree. The semester hour cap is \$250 for tuition assistance with an annual ceiling of \$4,500 for up to 16 semester hours of FTA-funded courses per fiscal year.

*FTA pays school directly in percent of courses completed during the semester.*

### **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program – Active Duty (ONGS)**

Provides 100 percent tuition to eligible Army and Air Force Guard members attending a public college or university. An amount equal to the average state university tuition can be applied toward the costs at a private institution. The scholarship is available for up to eight full time semesters or four years total.

*ONGS pays school directly. Student pays remaining amount. Contact the education liaison on your base.*

## Veterans Educational Benefits – Maintaining Your Benefits

Visit [lakelandcc.edu/veterans](http://lakelandcc.edu/veterans) and click the “Veterans Educational Benefits” link for a full list of requirements needed to continue receiving educational benefits while attending Lakeland.

### **Monthly Attendance Verification for Chapters 33, 30 and 1606**

In order to maintain your GI Bill benefits, you are required to certify your enrollment each month. This can be done by phone. This must be done on the last day of every month or on the last day of the term.

Phone (VA representative): call **1.888.442.4551**.

### **Additional Financial Aid**

Did you know student veterans are eligible for both GI Bill benefits and additional financial aid? Visit [studentaid.gov/fafsa](http://studentaid.gov/fafsa) to apply for additional financial aid.

Contact Lakeland’s Financial Aid department or visit them online at [lakelandcc.edu/financialaid](http://lakelandcc.edu/financialaid) with any questions or help with filing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



## Veterans Services and Lounge



Lakeland's Veterans Center assists military-affiliated students and their family members in making a smooth and successful transition to college. Lakeland's Veterans Center services include:

- Veterans lounge in E-building, room E-117 is equipped with a computer lab and study area where our students can gather in private.
- Transition assistance.
- Military transcript evaluation available at the Lakeland Transfer Center.
- Scholarship application assistance.
- Priority registration for classes.
- Student Accommodation Center for disabled veterans.
- Career Services Center.
- Laketran public transportation pass.
- And many more educational and on-campus services for student veterans.

The Student Veterans of America chapter at Lakeland connects you with other military-affiliated students, non-veteran allies and advocates. Lakeland's SVA is an award-winning program recognized nationally for their excellence.

Lakeland maintains a task force comprised of faculty and staff who are familiar with the unique challenges affecting military-affiliated students. We are here to support your educational, career, family and emergency needs.



## Important Veteran Resources

To learn more about the various local, state and federal resources available for veterans, visit [lakelandcc.edu/veterans](http://lakelandcc.edu/veterans).

### General VA benefits

[va.gov](http://va.gov)  
1.800.827.1000

### VA health benefits

[va.gov/health](http://va.gov/health)  
1.877.222.8387

\*Be sure to file your 10-10EZ to receive benefits. Search [va.gov/vaforms](http://va.gov/vaforms) online.\*

### Cleveland-area VA medical centers

[cleveland.va.gov](http://cleveland.va.gov)  
877.838.8262

### Ohio Department of Veterans Services

[dvs.ohio.gov](http://dvs.ohio.gov)  
877.644.6838

### Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services local office

[jfs.ohio.gov](http://jfs.ohio.gov)  
Michele Stowe-Caya  
440.350.2490  
[Michele.stow-caya@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Michele.stow-caya@jfs.ohio.gov)  
177 Main Street, Painesville, OH 44077

### Veterans of Foreign Wars USA (VFW)

[vfw.org](http://vfw.org)

### American Legion National Site

[legion.org](http://legion.org)

## Students Called to Active Duty

If you are a student veteran called to active duty, be sure to follow these steps to ensure a smooth transition.

### **Before you leave:**

- Notify the veterans benefits certifying specialist, instructors and financial aid office.
- Present your original deployment orders to the student service center. Copies will be made and submitted to the admissions office and veterans benefits certifying specialist.
- Complete the schedule change form to officially withdraw. Forms may be obtained at the student service center.

**\*Important:** do not withdraw from classes until you have deployment orders. Lakeland will refund 100 percent of tuition and fees paid for the semester in which the student withdraws for active duty.

### **Alternate options:**

- Final grade: An instructor may assign an appropriate final grade to a student who has satisfactorily completed a substantial amount of course work and who has demonstrated a sufficient mastery of the course material.
- Incomplete grade: Submit an incomplete grade form to the instructor for consideration. Forms may be obtained at the student service center.

### **Financial aid recipients:**

- Contact the financial aid office at **440.525.7070** or **finaid@lakelandcc.edu**, or speak with an enrollment support specialist at the student service center to ensure all proper steps have been taken.



# Lakeland Veterans Center

**Get started on your new mission – earning a college degree!**

Lakeland Community College is committed to helping active duty personnel, veterans, reservists and dependents attain their personal and professional goals. Our veterans center can help with questions about educational benefits, offer advice on how to complete VA forms and much more.

Contact Lakeland’s veterans benefits certifying specialist with questions about your educational benefits.

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440.525.7529  
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Visit us anytime online at [lakelandcc.edu/veterans](http://lakelandcc.edu/veterans)

