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# How to apply for the GI Bill and other education benefits

Find out how to apply for VA education benefits as a Veteran, service member, or qualified family member.

## How do I prepare before starting my application?

- [Find out if you're eligible for VA education benefits](#)
- Gather the documents and information listed below that you'll need to apply for education benefits.
- See what benefits you'll get at the school you want to attend.  
[Use the GI Bill Comparison Tool](#)

**Note:** To apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (also called Chapter 31) or educational and career counseling (also called Chapter 36) benefits and services, you'll need to use a different application.

[Find out how to apply for Vocational Rehab and Employment](#)  
[Learn more about Educational and Career Counseling](#)

## What documents and information do I need to apply?

- Social Security number
- Bank account direct deposit information
- Education and military history

You can't make changes to your application, but if you have questions about VA education benefits, please call 888-GI-BILL-1 ([888-442-4551](tel:888-442-4551)), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET.

If we've asked you for documents, please upload them through the GI Bill website.

[Go to the GI Bill Website](#)

## How long does it take VA to make a decision?

### 30 days

Average time to process education claims

## Other VA benefits you may want to explore

### Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)

If you have a service-connected disability that limits your ability to work or prevents you from working, find out if you can get VR&E benefits and services—like help exploring employment options and getting more training if required.

### Educational and Career Counseling

If you're leaving active service soon, find out how to get free Educational and Career Counseling (also called Chapter 36).

### Register your Veteran-Owned Small Business