



ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

November 2017

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This academic scholarship program is administrated by the State of Alabama, Department of Veterans Affairs, and applies to the dependents of Alabama's disabled veterans.

This pamphlet was prepared to give a brief summary of these benefits. If full and comprehensive treatment of the law is desired, it may be found in the Section 31-6-1, *et seq.*, Code of Alabama (1975).

Representatives of this Department, known as Veterans Service Officers, are located throughout the state. Their offices are normally located in the county courthouse or in the immediate vicinity. They will be happy to assist applicants with these educational benefits. Their services are entirely free.

For additional information about the services of our Department, please visit our website at www.va.alabama.gov

“SIGNED”

W. Clyde Marsh
Commissioner

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The veteran must meet the following qualifications to establish eligibility of his/her dependents:

MILITARY SERVICE

An honorable discharge or other proof of honorable termination of service of the veteran or serviceman in the armed forces for a period of at least 90 consecutive days of active duty service or service less than 90 consecutive days of active duty service if the veteran or serviceman was discharged or released by reason of service-connected disability.

DISABILITY REQUIREMENT

The veteran must meet one of the following service-connected disability conditions established by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (formerly the Veterans Administration) or the appropriate military service department:

- a) A former prisoner of war (POW); or
- b) Declared missing in action (MIA); or
- c) Died as the result of a service-connected disability; or
- d) Died while on active military service in the line of duty; or
- e) rated 40% or more due to his/her service-connected disability(ies).

Veterans with a disability rating of 20-30% may qualify if the effective date of their disability rating is on or before July 31, 2017. This provision will expire on July 31, 2023.

Veterans whose disability rating is less than 20% prior to May 23, 2017 but who had a claim for compensation pending prior to that date which resulted in a final award by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs of at least 20% may be eligible if the dependent applies for benefits within six months of that final adjudication.

STATE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

1. The veteran must have been a permanent civilian resident of the State of Alabama for at least one year immediately prior to their initial entry into active federal military service. Initial entry into federal active military service or any subsequent entry into federal active military service where a 12 month break in service occurred

AND one of the following:

- a) Current resident for at least two years immediately prior to the date of this application or date of veteran's death; **or**
- b) Current resident who was discharged within the last 12 months; **or**
- c) Filed a resident Alabama income tax return for the past 10 consecutive years.

Permanently service-connected veterans rated at 100% who do not meet the above residency requirements may qualify after establishing proof that they have been a bona fide resident for at least five years immediately prior to the date of this application or the date of the veteran's death. Applies to 100% permanent and total ratings only.

DEPENDENT

A dependent is defined under our program as a child, stepchild, spouse or un-remarried widow(er).

DEPENDENT STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

As of July 31, 2017, Students applying for benefits for the first time must meet all of the following:

1. Must be a current resident of the state of Alabama at the time of application and maintain that residency while receiving the benefit; **and**.
2. Must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each year that they are covered under the Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program; **and**
3. Must comply with Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by their education institution; **and**

4. Must complete a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release form for each educational institution that they attend to authorize the release of personally identifiable information required to determine continued eligibility and as required for necessary reporting.

ENTITLEMENTS

Children and stepchildren of qualified veterans may receive five standard academic years (10 semesters) at any Alabama State-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any state-supported technical college to be used for undergraduate courses of study at the in-state tuition rate.

Spouses or un-remarried widow (er)s of a veteran rated as 100% permanently and totally disabled may also received five standard academic years (10 semesters) at any Alabama State-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any state-supported technical college to be used for undergraduate courses of study at the in-state tuition rate.

Spouses or un-remarried widow (er)s of a veteran rated 40-90% disabled are entitled to three standard academic years (6 semesters) at any Alabama State-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any state-supported technical college to be used for undergraduate courses of study at the in-state tuition rate.

Beginning with applications received at the Alabama Department Headquarters office with a postmark dated on or after July 31, 2017, tuition will be limited to the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Cap (currently \$250 per semester hour) and required textbooks and applicable fees will be limited to a combined \$1,000 total per student for each semester. Schools may waive any overages of these charges at their discretion. All scholarships and grants must be applied to education expenses first (unless otherwise prescribed by state law) and the Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program will be applied for any permissible remaining charges pursuant to current state law.

Please note: Students who made application prior to Fall 2009 received a lower amount of awarded semesters and students who made application prior to Fall 2014 were not required to utilize benefits for undergraduate courses of study.

NUMBER OF AWARDS

There is no restriction on the number of eligible dependents under the veteran; however, each dependent may only receive the benefit once, regardless of changes in their future dependency status.

AGE DEADLINE

The child or stepchild must initiate training under our program prior to his/her 26th birthday. In certain situations, a child or stepchild may be eligible for our program up to the age of 30. If the applicant is a stepchild, the veteran and the stepchild's parent must be legally married prior to the child's 19th birthday.

UNAUTHORIZED COURSES

Our program does not pay for noncredit courses, remedial courses, placement testing, GED preparation, continuing educational courses, pre-technical courses, or state board examinations or any classes beyond undergraduate courses of study.

SUPPLIES

Our scholarship program does not pay for supplies such as pens, paper, notebooks, tools, art supplies, uniforms, computer software products, etc.

BOOK PURCHASES

The G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program will only pay for those textbooks that are required for the courses in which the student is officially enrolled. Our program **does not** pay for the purchase of reference manuals, access codes, suggested reading materials, study guides, or recommended workbooks, etc. Reimbursement will not be made.

ELIGIBILITY LIMITATIONS AND TERMINATION

Dependents are eligible to participate in the program only as long as they remain the legal dependent of the veteran from which they derive their eligibility. In the event of a divorce action, the former spouse or stepchild will be ineligible to participate effective the date of the divorce. Any educational financial obligations entered into after the divorce date will be the responsibility of the former spouse or stepchild.

Widow(er) forfeits all entitlements upon remarriage without further consideration of reinstatement.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

Applications may be obtained at any Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Office. To find the county office closest to you, please visit our website at: www.va.alabama.gov

ALABAMA STATE SUPPORTED SCHOOLS

- Alabama A & M University – Normal
- Alabama State University – Montgomery
- Athens State College – Athens
- Auburn University – Auburn, and Montgomery
- Beville State Community College – Fayette, Hamilton, Sumiton, and Jasper
- Bishop State Community College - Main, Carver, and Southwest
- Central Alabama Community College – Alexander City and Childersburg
- Chattahoochee Valley Community College – Phenix City
- Coastal Alabama Community College-Atmore, Bay Minette, Brewton, Fairhope, Gilbertown, Gulf Shores, Jackson, Monroeville, Thomasville
- Enterprise State Community College-Albertville, Andalusia, Decatur, Enterprise, Fort Rucker, Mobile, and Ozark
- Gadsden State Community College – Gadsden, Anniston, and Centre
- George C. Wallace Community College – Selma, Dothan, Sparks, and Hanceville
- J.F. Drake State Technical College - Huntsville
- Jacksonville State University – Jacksonville
- Jefferson State Community College – Birmingham, Pell City, and Clanton
- John C. Calhoun Community College – Decatur, and Huntsville
- Lawson State Community College – Birmingham and Bessemer
- Lurleen B. Wallace State Jr. College – Andalusia, Greenville, Luverne, and Opp
- Marion Military Institute- Marion
- Northeast Alabama State Jr. College – Rainsville

- Northwest Shoals Community College – Muscle Shoals and Phil Campbell
- Reid State Technical College - Evergreen
- Shelton State Community College – Tuscaloosa
- Snead State Jr. College – Boaz
- Southern Union Community College – Wadley and Opelika
- Trenholm State Technical College - Montgomery
- Troy University - Troy, Montgomery, Dothan, and Phenix City
- University of Alabama – Birmingham, Huntsville, and Tuscaloosa
- University of Montevallo – Montevallo
- University of North Alabama – Florence
- University of South Alabama – Mobile
- University of West Alabama – Livingston

*Online courses are covered under this program if offered through the schools listed above.