



1. Apply for Your VA Education Benefits

Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA – Chapter 35)

For spouses and children of:

- Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected condition (100% VA disability rating)
- Veterans who died on active duty or from service-connected causes
- Certain other qualifying categories

Apply here:

 <https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/education-and-careers/apply-for-dea-fry-form-22-5490/introduction>

DEA Benefits Include:

- ✓ Up to **36–45 months** of education benefits (depending on category)
- ✓ Monthly payments while enrolled in school
- ✓ Can be used for college, technical training, apprenticeships, and more

2. Using Transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill® Benefits

Some dependents receive Post 9/11 benefits that were **transferred by the servicemember**, which can pay up to 100% of tuition and fees plus a Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) stipend at the E-5 with dependents rate (rates differ for full-time vs part-time enrollment). Current MHA rates for CU campuses (at 100%):

- ❖ Bloomsburg - \$1494
- ❖ Lock Haven - \$1473
- ❖ Mansfield - \$1404

How a Servicemember Transfers Benefits

(For awareness—dependents cannot initiate transfers themselves.)

Servicemembers must request transfer through DoD **before separation from service**.

Learn about the transfer process:

 <https://www.va.gov/education/transfer-post-9-11-gi-bill-benefits/>



Once Benefits Are Transferred

Dependents must:

1. Apply for Post 9/11 benefits using VA Form 22-1990E [here](#)
2. After you apply, The VA will mail or email you a **Certificate of Eligibility (COE)**
Save this document — you must submit it to the point of contact below before your benefits can be certified
 - ❖ Bloomsburg – Amanda Kern – akern@commonwealthu.edu
 - ❖ Lock Haven – Beth Vuocolo – bvuocolo@commonwealthu.edu
 - ❖ Mansfield – Stacie Rosewood-Boyskey – srosewoo@commonwealthu.edu
3. Register for classes and keep contact information up to date with the VA

3. Enrollment Verification (If Using Post-9/11 Benefits)

Dependents using transferred Post 9/11 benefits must verify enrollment **each month** with the VA to continue receiving payments.

Verify here:

 <https://www.va.gov/education/verify-school-enrollment/>

This is important! Failure to verify for two months may pause your payments — so set a calendar reminder!

3. Pennsylvania National Guard Military Family Education Program (MFEP)

The Military Family Education Program (MFEP) provides education benefits to spouses and children of Pennsylvania National Guard members who commit to an additional 6-year service obligation.

MFEP Benefits Include:

- ✓ Tuition assistance for eligible dependents attending Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) schools, including Commonwealth University
- ✓ Covers a portion of tuition after other aid is applied
- ✓ Available for undergraduate study only
- ✓ Student must be admitted and enrolled in a degree-seeking program

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Who Is Eligible:

Spouses and children of PA National Guard members who:

- ✓ Are in good standing with the PA National Guard
- ✓ Commit to a 6-year service obligation with their unit
- ✓ Have dependents properly enrolled in DEERS

How to Apply:

1. The service member applies through the PA National Guard Education Office
2. Once approved, eligible dependents are issued an MFEP authorization each term
3. Submit your authorization to the appropriate campus point of contact:
 - ❖ Bloomsburg – Amanda Kern – akern@commonwealthu.edu
 - ❖ Lock Haven – Beth Vuocolo – [bvucolo@commonwealthu.edu](mailto:bvuocolo@commonwealthu.edu)
 - ❖ Mansfield – Stacie Rosewood-Boyskey – srosewoo@commonwealthu.edu

Important Notes:

- ✓ MFEP is a last-payer program and is applied after federal and state grants
- ✓ Students must remain in good academic standing
- ✓ Benefits must be certified each semester through the university and the PA National Guard

4. Your CommonwealthU Next Steps (Checklist)

- ✓ Apply for DEA or Post-9/11 benefits through the VA or MFEP through the PANG Education Office
- ✓ Receive and submit your **Certificate of Eligibility** (for DEA and Post 9/11)
- ✓ Register for classes
- ✓ Complete monthly verification (DEA and Post 9/11 only)
- ✓ Contact the Military & Veterans Resources Office for support

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We're Here to Support You

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania – Military & Veterans Resources Office

Proudly serving the dependents and families of those who serve.

Gary Goodman – Director - ggoodman@commonwealthu.edu

Chris Shiffer – Assistant Director – cshiffer@commonwealthu.edu