



Green Zone

Supplemental Documents

Spring 2019



What is Green Zone? History, Context, and Outcomes

“The premise of the Green Zone program is that knowledgeable and supportive contacts throughout the institution will create a more veteran-friendly environment, which in turn will have a positive effect on the success of...military students.”

Nichols-Casebolt, 2012

History and Context:

- Conceived at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010
- Modeled after Safe Zone program
- “Guided by three key requirements:
 - (1) Willingness to work with military students needing assistance;
 - (2) Attendance at a training session; and
 - (3) Agreement to publicly acknowledge they are military student-friendly”

Source: Nichols-Bolt, Ann. (2012) “The Green Zone: A Program to Support Military Students on Campus”. About Campus, Volume 17, Issue 1, pp. 16-29

Outcomes:

- An overview to the military experience and its impact
- An introduction to the potential challenges and issues facing undergraduate and graduate military-connected students at UWG
- An exposure to the many resources available to military-connected students on campus, in the community, and beyond
- Becoming a “military friendly” faculty/staff member and/or department/office

Core Vocabulary

Below are some key terms you could hear a lot today. You can find additional vocabulary in the back of your packet.

- **Active Duty** - Active duty is full-time duty in the Armed Forces. This does not include duty for training (see Supplemental Vocabulary). The five branches, in order of creation are Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.
- **Dependent** – A spouse or legal dependent of a member of the armed forces.
- **National Guard** - Serves in both a state and federal capacity. May be call on to assist in community support, disaster relief, and other local emergencies. During national emergencies, units are called on to support their active counterparts, the Army and Air Force.
- **Reserves** - People in the military who are not on full-time, active duty. May be called up in a national emergency to serve on active duty. During peacetime, they support the active duty forces in our country's defense. All five branches of the US Armed Forces have reserves.
- **Veteran** - Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines a veteran as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.”
- **Veteran, combat** - Most broadly, combat veterans are veterans—including activated Reservists and members of the National Guard—who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Sources:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *School Certifying Official Handbook*. Fourth Edition, February 2015

CAREERwise Glossary of Military Terms <https://www.careerwise.mnscu.edu/careers/militaryglossary.html>

The Challenges and Needs of Military-Connected Students: A Summary

- Military students face all the typical challenges of traditional students:
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Financial Need
 - Academics
 - Time Management
 - Social Pressures
- In addition to the challenges above, they also encounter their own unique challenges:
 - Readjustment to Civilian Life
 - Family Support
 - Work-related (Full-time/Part-time; job searches)
 - Isolation from Peers and/or Campus (e.g., age, lifestyle, politics)
 - Emotional/Physical
 - Post-Traumatic Stress
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Military Sexual Trauma
 - Physical Limitations due to Injury



*reported by Community College Resource Center, May 2016

The Role of the Center for Adult Learners and Veterans in Addressing the Challenges of Military-Connected Students

The needs of Veterans and Military-Connected students are both the same and different from the needs of traditional students. The Center for Adult Learners and Veterans (CALV), located in the University Community Center on the 3rd floor in room 311, helps to answer those more unique needs by providing or assisting with the following services:

CALV Support for Student Veteran Transitions

To Being a Student	As a Student	From Being a Student
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GI Bill Certification & Training • Assisting with Admissions Processes • Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)/Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Options • Joint Service Transcript Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA Certification • Priority Registration • Military Scholarships • Technology-related training • Support of UWG Student Veteran Association (SVA) • Veterans Day Celebration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Career Workshops • Financial Literacy

UWG Military Student Profile



Top 10 Majors

of Veterans/Military-Connected Students

1. Psychology 25 (7.7%)
2. Criminology 24 (7.4%)
3. Management 22 (6.8%)
Nursing 22 (6.8%)
5. Biology 20 (6.2%)
6. Computer Science 16 (5.0%)
7. Health and Community Wellness 15 (4.6%)
8. Elementary Education 14 (4.3%)
Nursing 14 (4.3%)
10. Art 13 (4.0%)

Total 185 (57.2%)



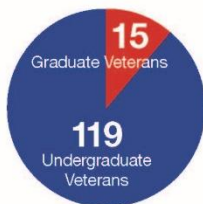
Military-Connected Students
Using VA and DoD Education Benefits

134

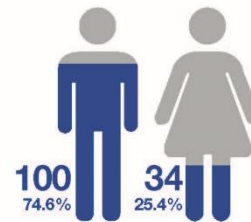
of those are veterans

189

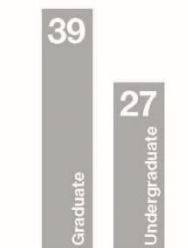
are military dependents using their spouse/parents' benefits



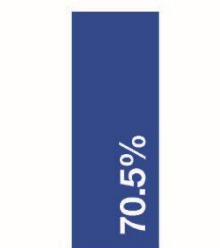
Sex of Overall Military-Connected Population



Sex of Veteran Students



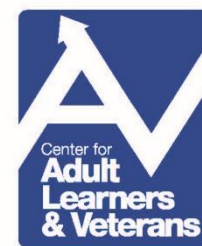
Average Age of Veterans



Retention Rate of Military-Connected Students



Graduation Rate of Military-Connected Students

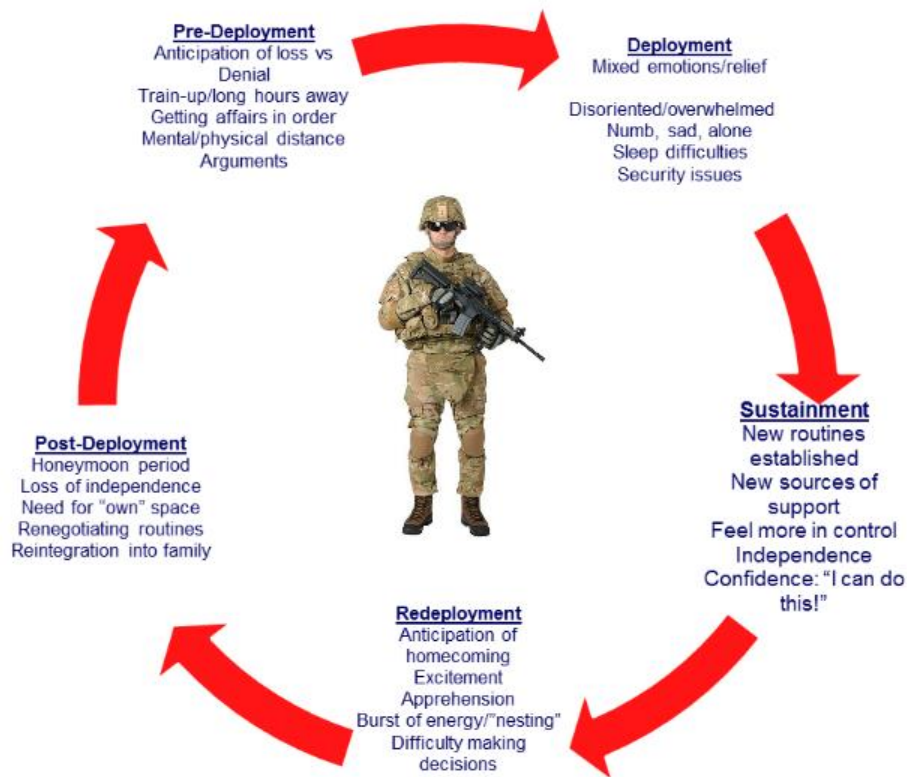


*The information above is primarily based on Fall 2018 data with the Retention Rates and Graduation Rates based on 2017-2018 data.

Servicemembers Transitions

Cycle of Deployment

The image below illustrates the emotional impact of a military deployment cycle and how an individual may adjust through that cycle.



Source: Franklin, K. (2009). Understanding the challenges of marriage, parenting, and family life for returning veterans and military families: The Deployment Cycle and Reintegration Challenges.

Transitioning From Military Service to Civilian Life to Higher Education

MISSING PERSPECTIVES: SERVICEMEMBERS' TRANSITION FROM SERVICE TO CIVILIAN LIFE

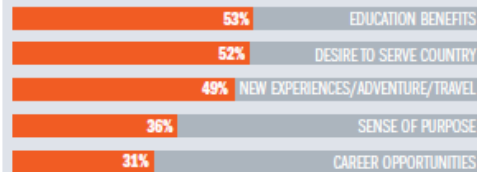
POPULATION



MILITARY SERVICE

MOTIVATION FOR SERVICE

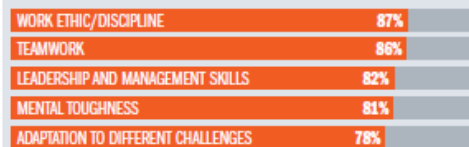
TOP REASONS FOR JOINING



88% REPORTED THAT JOINING THE MILITARY WAS A **GOOD DECISION**

MILITARY SKILLS

SKILLS DEVELOPED DURING SERVICE



81% indicated that their military specialty (MOS, AFSC, Rating, or designator) accurately described the military jobs that they performed during service

43% STEM RELATED MILITARY SPECIALIZATIONS/JOB report that their military specialization, job, or training is science, technology, engineering, or mathematics related

HIGHER EDUCATION

MOTIVATORS FOR PURSUING EDUCATION

- 86% CAREER/JOB OPPORTUNITIES
- 71% SELF-IMPROVEMENT
- 69% POTENTIAL FOR MAKING MONEY
- 56% PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT
- 51% TO USE BENEFITS



PROBLEMS OR BARRIERS THAT HINDERED PURSUIT OF EDUCATION

- 56% LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES
- 28% PERSONAL/FAMILY OBLIGATIONS
- 25% GI BILL BENEFITS EXPIRED
- 23% HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES
- 22% CONFLICT BETWEEN JOB AND SCHOOL

PROBLEMS FACED WHILE PURSUING EDUCATION

- 37% AGE DIFFERENCES
- 32% LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES
- 32% WORKING FULL TIME JOB
- 29% FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES
- 26% FEW VETERAN RESOURCES ON CAMPUS



84% felt there was a place for veterans' leadership, achievement, and/or excellence on campus at colleges/universities

YET ONLY 53%

felt that colleges/universities recognize the specific strengths and skills veterans bring to campus

GI BILL

1,088,411 TOTAL NUMBER OF GI BILL USERS NATIONALLY AS OF 2014

—a number that represents about 12 billion dollars per year and covers higher education and training, licensing, and credentialing programs—but includes

LESS THAN HALF OF ELIGIBLE VETERANS

MILITARY SERVICE

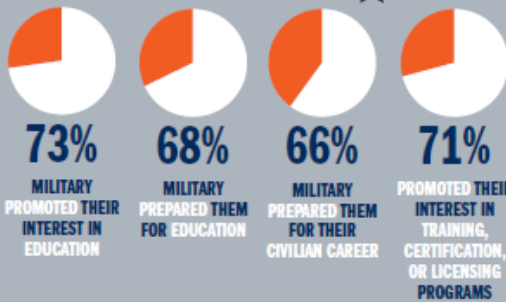
LASTING IMPRESSIONS

FROM THE MILITARY ON SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

71% REPORTED THE MILITARY LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION IN DEVELOPING SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES THAT WILL HELP SUCCEED IN EDUCATION

82% REPORTED THAT THE MILITARY LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON THEIR LIVES

MILITARY INFLUENCES



TRANSITION

TOP TRANSITIONAL CHALLENGES



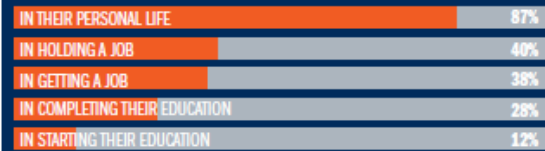
92% INDICATED THAT EDUCATION SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN THEIR POST-SERVICE TRANSITION

DISABILITIES

OVER **3.9 MILLION** DISABLED VETERANS ARE CATEGORIZED BY THE VA AS HAVING A DISABILITY. OF THOSE, 43% ARE OF GULF WAR AND POST-9/11 VETERANS



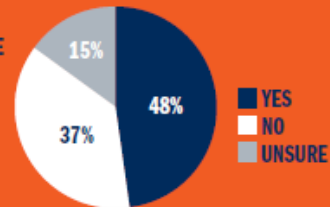
OF THOSE THAT HAVE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES, 79% INDICATED THAT IT CREATES OBSTACLES:



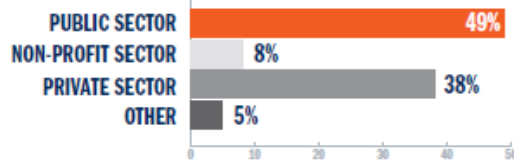
POST-MILITARY CAREER

55% OF SERVICEMEMBERS SAID THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO PURSUE A DIFFERENT CAREER THAN THEIR MILITARY SPECIALIZATION

VETERANS' PREFERENCE INFLUENCES THEIR POST SERVICE JOB CHOICE

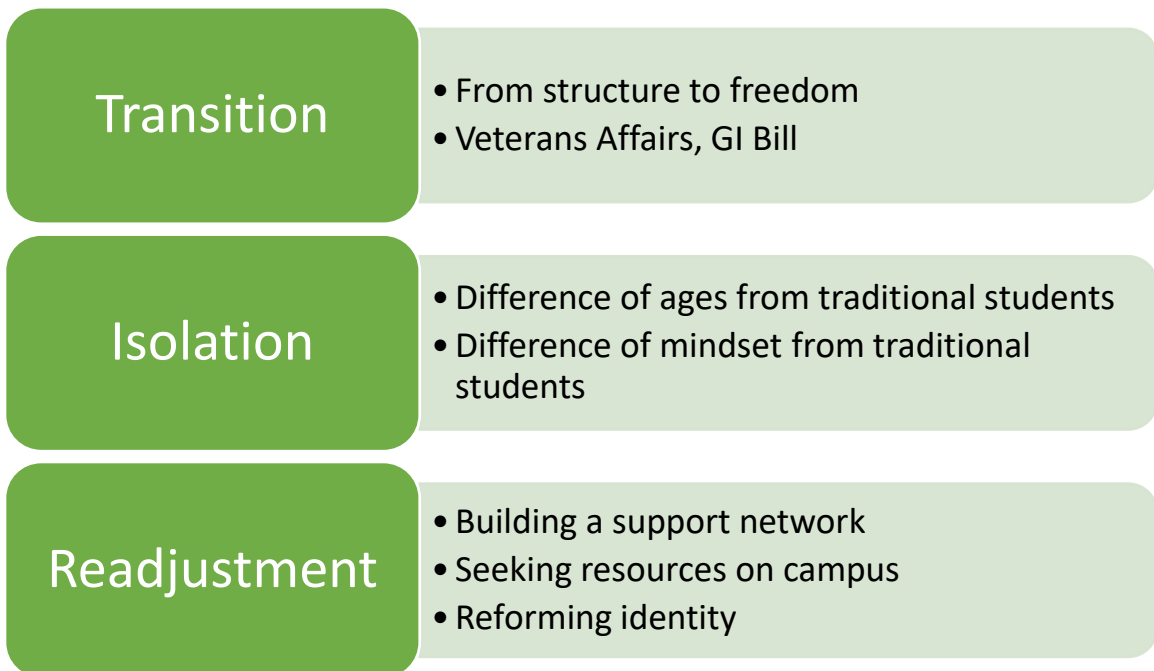
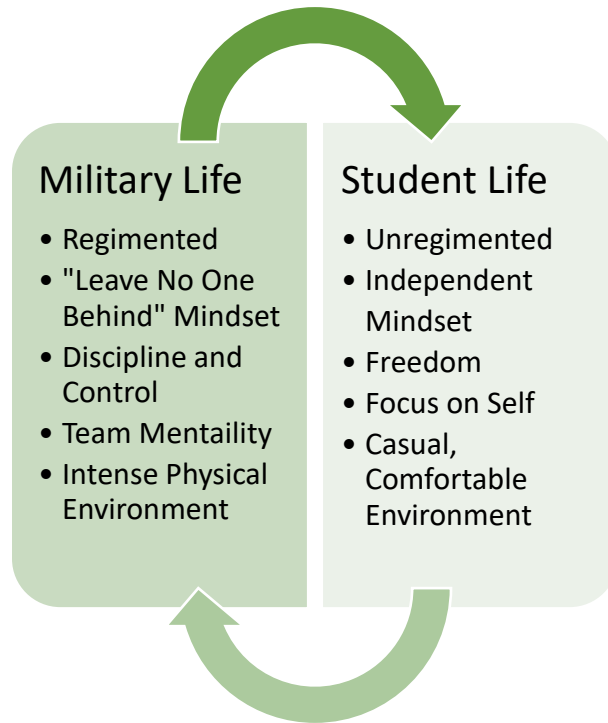


WHERE RESPONDENTS ARE WORKING POST SERVICE



79% INDICATED THAT THE MILITARY PLAYED A ROLE IN THEIR SUCCESS

Transitioning From Military Service to Higher Education: An Overview



Supplemental Vocabulary

Active Duty for Training - Active duty for training in the Reserves or National Guard. This includes reservists on full-time duty for training purposes in the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard or Air National Guard of any state, performing full-time training duty.

Advance Payment - The monetary allowance which may be payable to students for the first (fractional or full) and second full month of enrollment. (**NOTE: UWG does not participate in the Advance Payment program.**)

Award Letter - The official written notice from the Department of Veterans Affairs to a student of his or her monthly rate of payment, the inclusive dates of payment, and remaining entitlement at the end of the award period. The award letter is a good source of information for financial aid purposes.

Certificate of Eligibility (COE) - Letter issued to an applicant showing approval to pursue a stated program of education at a particular institution, the remaining entitlement of the student, and the ending date of the student's eligibility.

Certifying Official - The person(s) designated to sign enrollment certifications and other documents relating to VA benefits for a specific institution. Also referred to as the Veterans Certifying Official (VCO) or School Certifying Official (SCO).

Change of Program - A change of program is a change in a student's program and curriculum. This includes any change that results in a loss of credit or lengthens the time necessary to complete the student's program.

Change of School - There is no limit or restriction on change of schools for continued pursuit of the same course or program provided the veteran or eligible person is making satisfactory progress and there is no material loss of credit.

Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill for Veterans/Active Duty) - an education benefit that provides up to 36 months of full-time payments to eligible veterans and service members for approved education and training programs. Also referred to "MGIB" or "MGIB-AD".

Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation) – a program whose primary function is to help veterans with service-connected disabilities become suitably employed, maintain employment, or achieve independence in daily living. The program offers a number of services to help each eligible disabled veteran reach her/his rehabilitation goal. These services include vocational and personal counseling, education and training, financial aid, job assistance, and, if needed, medical and dental treatment. Services generally last up to 48 months, but can be extended in certain instances.

Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 GI Bill) - an education benefit program specifically for military members who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Depending on an individual's situation, provisions of the program may include coverage of tuition and fees, a monthly housing allowance, a books and supplies stipend, Yellow Ribbon payments, college fund or "kicker", rural benefit payments and transferability to eligible immediate family members (spouse and/or children).

Chapter 35 (Survivors' and Dependents Educational Assistance - DEA) – a program that offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Chapter 1606 (Montgomery GI Selected Reserve - MGIB-SR) - a program that provides education and training benefits to eligible members of the Selected Reserve, including the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. Eligibility for this program is determined by the Selected Reserve components.

Chapter 1607 (Reserve Educational Assistance Program - REAP) – a program that provides educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency declared by the president or Congress. **Note:** The National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended REAP on November 25, 2015. Some individuals will remain eligible for REAP benefits until November 25, 2019, while others are no longer eligible for REAP benefits.

Compliance Surveys - Law requires that periodic surveys be conducted at approved educational institutions to ensure VA payments to schools and students are correct as furnished by the school to VA and assist schools, training officials, and students in understanding requirements of the law to prevent deficiencies or violations that could develop because of misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the law.

Concurrent Enrollment - A student pursuing a degree at a school may take a course at another school because it is at a more convenient time, it is less expensive, or whatever. If the primary school will accept the secondary school's course as a transfer credit that applies towards completion of the student's degree, then both the primary school and the secondary school can certify the student to VA. The student may pursue courses at a secondary school at the same time, concurrent, or at a different time, supplemental.

DD Form 214 - The Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty that is prepared at the time an individual completes a period of active duty in one of the Armed Forces. Veterans should be advised to submit Member-4 copy of their DD Form 214 with a claim for VA benefits.

Delimiting Date - The first day after a claimant's period of eligibility expires. Benefits are not payable on or after the delimiting date. Delimiting dates vary by Chapter of GI Bill Education Benefits program (e.g., the delimiting date for Chapter 33 Benefits is 15 years from date of discharge/separation while for Chapter 30, it is 10 years.)

Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) – See Chapter 35.

ELR (Education Liaison Representative) - The individual at a VA Regional Office or Regional Processing Office responsible for education liaison and program approval functions. Among other things, the ELR is responsible for promptly informing schools of changes in policies and procedures.

Entitlement - The number of months the student will be eligible for VA education benefits. This is usually expressed in the numbers of months and days the student will be eligible for full-time benefits, or the equivalent in part-time training, but also may be expressed in a dollar amount. Entitlement will vary depending on the education law the individual qualifies under. In no event will entitlement exceed 48 months under any combination of laws.

Inactive Reserve Duty/Individual Ready Reserve – Component of the Armed Forces Reserves former active duty or reserve military personnel.

Independent Study -A course or subject offered without any regularly scheduled, conventional classroom or laboratory sessions. For VA purposes, such courses or subjects must be accredited and lead to a standard college degree and consist of a prescribed program of study with provision for interaction telephone, computer/Internet, or personally between the student and the regularly employed faculty of the university or college. *Specific approval of these courses by the State Approving Agency is required in order for VA benefits to be authorized.*

Job Specialty – identifies a specific job in the Armed Forces (see *Military Occupational Specialty*).

Joint Services Transcript (JST) – a transcript presenting training and occupational information for personnel in the Armed Forces (with the exception of members of US Air Force) that may include military course completions, military occupations, college-level test scores (e.g., CLEP, DSST), and other learning experiences while in the military.

Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) – identifies a specific job in the US Army and US Marines. Referred to as RATE in the US Navy and US Coast Guard and for Air Force members/veterans, as the Air Force Specialty Code (**AFSC**).

Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) – see Chapter 1606

Montgomery GI Bill for Veterans/Active Duty (see Chapter 30)

Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE) - Members of the Selected Reserve are given a Notice of Basic Eligibility (DD Form 2384) by their National Guard or Reserve unit stating they are eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill —Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606/1607).

OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) – Name given to the conflict in Afghanistan, starting in October 2001.

OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) – Name given to the conflict in Iraq that took place from 2003 to 2011.

Persian Gulf War – General term used to describe the conflict that took place from August 1990 to February 1991 that included *Operation Desert Shield* and *Operation Desert Storm*.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – a mental disorder that develops after a person is exposed to a traumatic event, such as the combat service members and veterans experienced in OEF, OIF, and the Persian Gulf War.

Post-9/11 GI Bill (see Chapter 33)

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) – see Chapter 1607

State Approving Agency (SAA) - An agency appointed by the Chief Executive of a state to approve institutional programs of education and training for payment of benefits under the various laws administered by VA.

Survivors' and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) (see Chapter 35)

Tuition Assistance - Military Tuition Assistance is a benefit paid to eligible, active duty members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application processes and restrictions. This money is usually paid directly to the institution by the individual services.

Vocational Rehabilitation Education Program (see Chapter 31)

VONAPP - Veterans Online Application Process to initiated benefits eligibility determination accessed via <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>.

WAVE (Web Automated Verification of Enrollment) - WAVE is an Internet program used by Chapter 30, 1606, and 1607 students to verify their enrollment. *Verification is required monthly*. Students can also use WAVE to change their address and direct deposit information.

Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP) - The Yellow Ribbon Program was established by the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (such as colleges, universities, and other degree-granting schools) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fee expenses that exceed the tuition and fee amounts payable under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. **NOTE:** *UWG began participating in the YRP in the 2018-2019 academic year.*

Sources:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *School Certifying Official Handbook*. Fourth Edition, February 2015

CAREERwise Glossary of Military Terms <https://www.careerwise.mnscu.edu/careers/militaryglossary.html>

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