

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)

What you need to know

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program, also known as Chapter 35, pays educational expenses for the spouses and dependents of certain veterans disabled, captured, killed, or missing in action.

What is the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)?

The DEA program, also known as Chapter 35, provides educational financial assistance to eligible dependents of veterans who died from a service connected disability, developed a service-connected disability, were captured, or declared missing in action.

What does this benefit pay for?

Up to 45 months of education benefits to be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training.

How much does this benefit pay?

The benefit is based on your enrollment status. View current payment rates at the VA Web site: www.gibill.va.gov/resources/?benefits-resources/rates-tables.html

How do I know if I'm eligible?

To be eligible, you must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:

- A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability (or a veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence).
- A servicemember missing in action or captured in the line of duty.

- A servicemember forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power.
- A servicemember who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service-connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability.

How long does eligibility last?

- If you are the spouse of a veteran, benefits end 10 years from the date the VA finds you eligible or from the date of your spouse's death. If the VA rated your spouse permanently and totally disabled with an effective date of 3 years from discharge, you will remain eligible for 20 years from the effective date of the rating.
- If you are the spouse of a servicemember who died while on active duty, benefits end 20 years from the date of your spouse's death.
- If you are a dependent, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26 to receive benefits (the age range may be extended in some cases). If you are in the Armed Forces, you may not receive this benefit while on active duty.

How do I apply for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program?

Complete the appropriate VA form at www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov (see bullet points below) or submit a paper copy to the VA Regional Processing Office with jurisdiction over the state where you will train (for Capella, submit forms to the St. Louis office of the VA: PO Box 66830, St. Louis, MO 63166-6830).

- If you have never used your benefits before, complete VA form 22-5490.
- If you have used your benefits before and are transferring to another educational institution or changing educational programs within an institution, complete VA form 22-5495.

How do I use this benefit at Capella?

1. Send a copy of your completed VA form 22-5490 or VA form 22-5495 to Capella.
2. Capella will certify your enrollment to the VA Regional Processing Office in St. Louis.

Do payments go to my educational institution, or to me?

Payments will go to you, and you will be responsible for meeting your payment obligations with your educational institution.

Where can I get more information on the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)?

Visit the VA Web site at www.gibill.va.gov or call 1.888.GIBILL.1 (442.4551).

Opening doors of possibility for servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

An accredited*, online university and a leader in higher education for working adults, Capella offers more than 125 graduate and undergraduate specializations—in disciplines relevant to both military and civilian careers: leadership, public safety, information technology, health care, mental health, public administration, business management, and more.

Capella Commitment and Recognition

- Dedicated support services team for servicemembers, veterans, and their families.
- Selected as one of the Top Military Friendly Colleges and Universities by *Military Advanced Education* magazine—for three consecutive years.
- Selected as a Military Friendly School for 2010 by *G.I. Jobs* magazine.
- Designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

To learn more about your educational benefits and degree program options at Capella, visit www.capella.edu.

*ACCREDITATION

Capella University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), www.ncahlc.org.

CAPELLA UNIVERSITY

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