



Veteran Talon

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA |
VETERAN MILITARY & FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTER

Veteran Parade

Saturday, November 9, 2019 - 2 p.m.
Franklin Street, Evansville, Indiana

Priority Registration Begins for VA Students November 4 at Noon

If you are a VA Education Benefit recipient, you qualify for priority registration for Fall 2019.

This will begin on **Monday, November 4, 2019 at noon** and is available to students based on the number of earned and attempted hours.

Students given permission to register early through group affiliation will be able to sign up for classes via myUSI beginning on at noon. This will not be available until that time.

Please do not submit inquiries until after

the start of the PR time period.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please contact the VMFRC.

Please check your account and make sure the only hold you see is the "Veterans Administrative Hold". If you have other holds, please see those departments before priority registration so you have no issues at the time of your registration.

YOUR VETERAN HOLD WILL COME OFF FOR REGISTRATION FOR SPRING AND SUMMER ONLY! (see Page 2 for

Details)

You will not be able to change your current semester. This is your time to register, please take advantage of it. The VA hold will not be a factor during this time period.

This option of priority registration puts you in the front of the line for your classes. Please do not let this pass.

Because your time with VA benefits is limited, this ensures you get your classes unless you have additional holds at that time.

VETERAN HOLDS—Veteran holds are placed on the Monday following the 100% drop/add period and run until priority registration. They are reestablished after the PR period ends and will come off during finals. See Page 2.

Other great reads in this issue:

2019 Veterans parade Float Open to Families - 2

Annual Veteran Dental Days Announced - 3

Looking for Scholarships?- 4

USI Veteran Program Welcomes New Services Supervisor



In April of 2019, the University of Southern Indiana's Veteran Military and Family Resource Center welcomed Ms. Ashley Wright to the veteran services team in the Veteran and Military Services Supervisor role.

She replaces Mrs. Debra Mabern who served in that position since 2015 until her retirement on June 1, 2019.

"We were very fortunate to have Mrs. Mabern on our staff with her many years experience and wish her the very best in her retirement", said Joel Matherly, Assistant Director of the USI Veteran Military and Family Resource Center.

"We are also extremely excited about the new chapter in our department under Ms. Wright who has worked alongside of Mrs. Mabern over the past few months. She will be able to take us into the next phase as the Department of Veteran Affairs adds new concepts and regulations under the Colmery Act or Forever GI Bill."

Ashley comes into the program with various business and customer service skills. She has already made an impact on the operational roles of the department and has attended the Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials conference in July of 2019.

Ms. Wright has assumed the office located in ED 0114 and can be contacted at 812-464-1857 or anwright3@usi.edu.

Understanding Your 'Veteran Hold' Administrative - Protection Ensures VA Compliance

If you have tried to drop or add a course, you may have been told that your account has a "Veterans Hold" and wondered what exactly is this?

Why is this important?

Part of your responsibility as a VA Education beneficiary is to keep our office informed of any changes to program or classes – either drop or add. In the past, we found a majority of our students were dropping, adding classes or changing their program (Major) without informing our office which causes an under payment or debt to the student.

Another issue is when students mobilize or feel they are getting ready to mobilize. This hold ensures they are coming through our office so they can out process from the University and offices (such as Financial Assistance, Bursar, Registrar and Advisor) completely to ensure a smooth transition back when they decide to return.

To combat this, we have placed holds on our student Veteran accounts so that you come to us and inform our office of the changes you need to make.

It is not our intent to prevent any change; it is only a means to keep your account with the VA current and to advise you of any payment changes as a result.

We want you to be informed at all times. This is the same type of hold our University uses with its athletes.

Will this effect my Priority Registration?

This hold will not affect your priority registration. This hold will be placed each semester on the Monday after the 100% drop/add period (typically the first full week of class) and extend until the Friday before Priority Registration begins.

Can I have it removed if I don't want it?

In an effort to keep or your individual account and the university in compliance, this administrative hold must be in place if you are receiving educational benefits under the Department of Veteran Affairs.

If you need your hold temporarily removed to perform maintenance on your account, please contact our office during business hours and it will be lifted temporarily.

Student Veterans & Families needed to Ride the Annual Veterans Parade Float

The USI Student Veteran Association and American Legion Post 324 will participate in the Four Freedoms Veterans Day Parade again this year.

The parade will be on Saturday, November 9th and will proceed down Franklin Street.

The time of the parade is 2:00 p.m. and line up will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Student Veteran riders and their families

should plan to arrive by 1:00p.m. to find the float and avoid traffic.

We need Student Veterans to ride or walk behind the float. No candy is allowed this year. Seating is first come, first served and sign up sheets are located in the veteran lounge.

For more information, please contact Mr. Alfonso Aldana in the Veteran Office in the Education Center 0114.



VETERANS

★ 10TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION ★

NOVEMBER 9 - 2 P.M.

★ WEST FRANKLIN STREET, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ★

REGISTER YOUR ORGANIZATION WWW.USI.EDU/FFVP

PARADE

USI Veteran Dental Days Offer FREE Hygiene for Veterans of All Eras

The University of Southern Indiana Dental Hygiene Clinic will provide free dental cleaning, fluoride and X-rays for military veterans on November 4-8.

The USI Dental Hygiene Program has expanded its schedule to include morning, afternoon and evening hours to serve more veterans.

"In the past, these dental cleaning appointments have booked very quickly," said Joel Matherly, manager of the Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center at USI. "The huge response points to the need in our community for veterans to have access to this type of care. We appreciate how the USI Dental Hygiene

Clinic has responded to the veterans."

The USI Dental Hygiene Program collaborates with Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (SWI-AHEC) and USI's Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center to offer the special clinic hours for veterans. USI Dental Hygiene faculty will supervise the students who will be working in the clinic.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling 812-464-1706. Proof of military affiliation and a picture identification is required.

The USI Dental Hygiene Clinic is located on the USI campus in the Health Professions Center Room 1040.

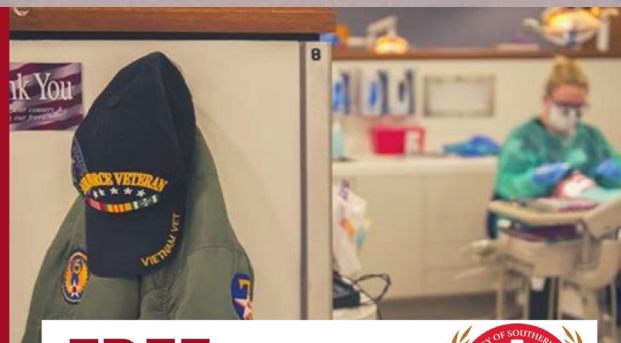
Veterans Groups Release Statement on the Higher Education Reauthorization Act (HEA)- By Ryan Raback, Student Veterans of America, media@studentveterans.org

Today, Chairman Alexander's statement to pursue a piecemeal approach to a reauthorized Higher Education Act (HEA) is a disappointing departure from the comprehensive negotiations many military and veteran serving organizations have repeatedly asked for on HEA reauthorization. Our disappointment is compounded by his statements ignoring our long-standing, repeated requests to close the 90-10 loophole.

Closing the 90-10 loophole must be included in any HEA efforts, a priority shared in a letter earlier this year signed by 37 organizations. Ignoring such a long-standing and widely supported request to close the 90-10 loophole and bring parity to student protections for military-connected students hurts service members, veterans, and their families. Not closing the 90-10 loophole is a deal-breaker for military and veteran serving organizations.

While we appreciate Chairman Alexander communicating a willingness to continue conversations surrounding HEA, we hope he will indeed work across the aisle to develop a bipartisan, comprehensive HEA that puts the needs

and interests of students at the center of policy. We have made continued efforts to meet with Chairman Alexander and his staff to work collaboratively on this process and hope those requests are accepted soon.



FREE DENTAL FOR VETERANS

November 4-8

morning, afternoon and evening sessions available



CALL FOR DETAILS.
APPOINTMENTS
REQUIRED.

812-464-1706

University of Southern Indiana Dental Hygiene Clinic
Health Professions Center, Room 1040
8600 University Boulevard Evansville IN 47712



VETERAN HOLDS—Veteran holds are placed on the Monday following the 100% drop/add period and run until priority registration. They are reestablished after the PR period ends and will come off during finals.

PRIORITY REGISTRATION—If you are currently using VA Benefits (GI Bill), you qualify for priority registration regardless your academic alignment (Freshman—Senior). Plan your next semester before this date and schedule an appointment with your advisor.

VA CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT FORM DUE EACH SEMESTER you plan to use benefits. Find this form at <http://www.usi.edu/reg/ssl/vaformlogin.asp>. Complete yours as soon as you register for classes.

VFW 1114 Dining Room Open to Public—Friday, Saturday, Sunday Brunch
Breakfast \$6.00 1st/3rd
Saturday
Prime Rib 1st/3rd Saturday
Buffet Friday Night \$9.95

File Your DD214 for FREE:
Vanderburgh County Chief Deputy Recorder at 1 NW Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Rm 231
Evansville IN 47708
812.435.5215



Mr. Joel Matherly
Assistant Director
(812) 461-5302
jsmatherly@usi.edu



Ms. Ashley Wright
Veteran and Military Services Supervisor
(812) 461-1857
anwright3@usi.edu

Local Veterans for Peace Chapter Scholarship Applications Accepted

The Evansville Chapter of Veterans for Peace is accepting applications for their annual scholarship.

Application packets can be picked up in the Veteran Military and Family Resource Center Office. These packets will outline the steps you will need to take to apply.

AWARD & NOTIFICATION:

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one student for their original video that answers the question: *Why choose peace?* If your submission is selected for an award, you will be notified on or before Armistice day, November 11, 2019.

WHO MAY APPLY:

Eligibility extends to:
High school seniors in Vanderburgh, Warrick, Posey and Gibson counties in Indiana;
Henderson and Daviess Counties in Kentucky.

College students enrolled at the University of Southern Indiana, University of Evansville, Oakland City University, Ivy Tech Southwest, Brescia University, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Owensboro Community & Technical College, Western Kentucky University (Owensboro) and Henderson Community College.

JUDGING:

Judging is based solely on the merits of the video and how well it:

1. Helps the viewer understand: *Why choose peace?*
2. Holds viewer interest and evokes feelings that strengthen the desire to seek peace.

All submissions need to be received by October 29, 2019 at vfpevansville.org. Our office can not accept submissions for this program.

Google Student Veterans of America Scholarship - Financial support and community building with your fellow veterans in tech - *Student Veterans of America* |

As part of our commitment to military veterans, Google established the Google SVA Scholarship in partnership with Student Veterans of America. The scholarship provides assistance to student veterans who are pursuing university degrees in the field of computer science in the U.S. Selected students will receive 10,000 USD for the upcoming school year and will be invited to attend the Google Scholars' Retreat in the summer.

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

Be currently enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student at a college or university

Intend to be enrolled in or accepted as a full-time student at a university in the United States for the following academic year

Maintain a strong academic performance

Pursuing a Computer Science or Computer Engineering degree, or a degree in a closely related technical field

A current student veteran (includes members of the National Guard or Reserve) as proven by a DD-214 and transcript, or a student on Active Duty as proven by submission of Active Duty orders and a Memorandum of Understanding from your commanding officer indicating that you are currently in good standing with your unit and transcript

Has received an honorable discharge, or is in good standing with his/her branch of service

Apply today at: https://buildyourfuture.withgoogle.com/scholarships/google-student-veterans-of-america-scholarship/#!?detail-content-tabby_activeEl=overview

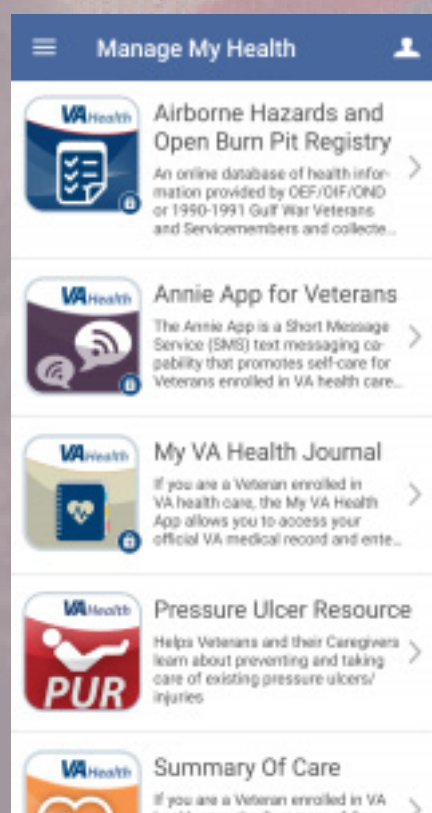
VA releases free mobile app to streamline health care access for Veterans and caregivers - Schedule appointments online, lose weight, quit smoking, download VA health records

VA Launchpad for Veterans is a new mobile app that simplifies and organizes several existing tools and resources into one convenient location to help manage health care needs.

"VA has developed dozens of apps for Veterans to take charge of their health care," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "VA Launchpad makes it easier to have these important tools available at your fingertips."

Download VA Launchpad

VA Launchpad arranges all of VA's apps into five categories for Veterans: health management, health care team communication, vital health information sharing, mental health improvement, and quality of life improvement. Some of the apps include:



Long Description

The VA Launchpad connects all VA apps into a single login environment.

Airborne Hazards and Open burn Pit Registry

Annie App for Veterans (set up reminders for self-care and health tracking)

My VA Health Journal (track and record military and health history)

Pressure Ulcer Resource (resources to help prevent ulcer injuries)

Summary of Care (access your official medical record)

VA Online Scheduling (if you are already enrolled, you can schedule primary care appointments)

NetResponse Mobile (answer health questions and update with biometric inputs)

Secure Messaging (ask your VA care team non-urgent personal health questions)

VA Health Chat (ask VA staff minor health questions)

VA Video Connect (connect with your health care team from anywhere)

MobileKidney (track and enter kidney health information)

REVAMP (Connect with positive airway pressure machine)

ACT Coach (works with mental health professional during acceptance and commitment therapy)

Anger and Irritability Management Skills

CBT-i Coach (Get the most out of cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia)

Concussion Coach (support for physical, cognitive, and emotional symptoms related to traumatic brain injury)

PE Coach (for therapy with a prolonged exposure therapy health professional)

PTSD Coach (for those who, or may have, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD))

PTSD Family Coach (for family members of those living with PTSD)

MOVE! Coach (weight loss app for Veterans, service members and their families)

Stay Quit Coach (resources and tools to help with quitting smoking)

The new app enables Veterans to access all the features with a single secure login.

The mobile app also includes many mental health care and personal improvement tools for individuals who are not enrolled in VA health care services. These tools are free and do not require secure logins to use.

VA Launchpad for Veterans is available for download in the Apple App Store and Google Play. To access VA's secure apps within VA Launchpad, users must be a VA patient and have one of the following accounts: Premium My HealtheVet, DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) or ID.me.

University of Southern Indiana Veteran Talon

Volume 6, Issue 1

Your Benefits Now - New 6-16 Rule to Effect Transferability of Chapter 33 Benefits

Questions and Answers from the VA

On March 8, 2019, the VA announced changes to Chapter 33 / Post 9/11 benefits that effect the service requirements to transfer your benefits to your dependents.

The new 6 to 16 year rule contained in the latest OUSD (P&R) Post 9/11 GI Bill program guidance, DoDI 1341.13 (published on 12 Jul 2018), will go into effect on 12 July 2019.

How does the 6-16 Rule effect me if I am still serving?

When implemented, Soldiers must have at least 6 years but not more than 16 years of total creditable military service (active duty and/or Selected Reserve service) to be eligible to transfer Post 9/11 GI Bill education benefits to their TEB eligible dependents.

A Soldier's total years of creditable military service is calculated based on the date of the transfer request, not the date the transfer request was processed.

Additionally, submission of a transfer request within the new eligibility parameters does not guarantee approval. Soldiers are highly encouraged to submit a transfer request via milconnect as soon as they reach six creditable years of military service - do not wait! The earlier eligible Soldiers submit and receive approval for TEB, the earlier they will start fulfilling the TEB four-year additional duty service obligation.

Can I be exempt from this rule?

Soldiers who have received a Purple Heart on/after 11 September 2001 are exempt from the 6 to 16 year rule and may submit a transfer request regardless of their total years of creditable service.

How do I prove I transferred benefits in time?

Once you complete the transfer request on milconnect, you are highly encouraged to print off the confirmation page which also shows

the date.

You will need to retain this printout for your records.

The biggest issue we see in the office is when service members believe they transferred benefits prior to their ETS, but there is no record and no proof that a transfer ever occurred.

Get more information

To get more information, please see the following and select the best option:

Regular Army or U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers with questions can call toll-free 1-800-872-8272.

Army National Guard Soldiers with questions can call toll-free 1-866-628-5999.

Call 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (ET) or TDD/TTY 1-800-877-8339.

Chapter 33 - Post 9/11 - How do I transfer my benefits to my dependents?

Can I transfer benefits?

You can transfer benefits if you're on active duty or in the Selected Reserve and you meet the requirements listed below.

At least one of these must be true:

1. You have completed at least 6 years of service on the date your request is approved and you agree to add 4 more years of service, or
2. You have completed at least 10 years of service on the date your request is approved, can't commit to add 4 more years of service because of either a policy or statute, but agree to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed
3. And this must also be true:
The person getting benefits has enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

Who's covered?

Qualified dependents

What benefits can my qualified dependents get?

If the DoD approves the Transfer of Entitlement (TOE), your spouse or dependent children can apply for up to 36 months of benefits, and may be able to get money for:

Tuition
Housing
Books and supplies

How do I transfer the benefit?

While you're still on active duty, you'll request to transfer, change, or revoke a Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) through milConnect.

For more information, please visit <https://www.va.gov/education/transfer-post-9-11-gi-bill-benefits/>.