



ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

May 2014

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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 in each county of our 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) be 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 20% or more due to his/her service-connected disability(ies).

STATE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

The veteran must have been a permanent civilian resident of the State of Alabama for at least one year immediately prior to the initial entry into active federal military service. If the veteran has any subsequent period of military service in which a break in service occurred, the one-year civilian permanent residency must have been established prior to reentry into active federal military service.

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 of this state for at least five years immediately prior to the filing of the

application for this program or immediately prior to his/her death, if the veteran is deceased.

DEPENDENT

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

ENTITLEMENTS

As of Fall 2009, 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 school without payment of any tuition, mandatory textbooks or instructional fees.

Additionally, eligible spouses and un-remarried widow(er)s of a qualified veteran rated as 100% permanently and totally disabled may also 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 school without payment of any tuition, mandatory textbooks or instructional fees.

Exception: As of Fall 2009, a spouse or un-remarried widow(er) of a veteran rated 20% to 90% disabled is entitled to three standard academic years (6 semesters) without payment of tuition, mandatory textbooks, and instructional fees or completion of the duration of one prescribed technical course not to exceed 18 months.

Participants in the program prior to Fall 2009 are eligible for four standard academic years (8 semesters) or two standard academic years (4 semesters), respectively.

Note: Applicants applying for benefits under the scholarship program beginning on or after August 1, 2014 (Fall Semester) will be eligible for benefits at the in-state tuition rate for undergraduate courses only.

Note: Applicants who were previously denied benefits based solely on the veteran's peacetime status may re-apply and receive benefits under the scholarship program to include graduate courses if applicable. Applications for previously denied applicants must be resubmitted and received at ADVA Headquarters prior to August 1, 2015 in order to receive benefits at this capacity.

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.

Note: This deadline may be extended for previously denied applicants who were denied based solely on the veteran's peacetime status. In order to receive this extension, applications must be resubmitted and received at ADVA Headquarters prior to August 1, 2015.

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.

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. Please contact the ADVA Veterans Service Office nearest you.

Out-of-state applicants may receive additional information by contacting:

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs
Alabama G.I. Dependents Scholarship Program
P.O. Box 1509
Montgomery, AL 36102-1509

Phone: (334) 242-5077

ALABAMA STATE SUPPORTED SCHOOLS

- Alabama A & M University – Normal
- Alabama Southern Community College – Monroeville and Thomasville
- 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
- 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
- James H. Faulkner State Community College – Bay Minette, Fairhope, and Gulf Shores
- Jefferson Davis Community College – Brewton
- 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.