



## Post 9/11 GI Bill ®

Campuses: Searcy, Rogers, International Programs  
School Year: 2023-2024

The Post 9/11 GI Bill ® is not the only educational benefit available to servicemembers, dependents and, spouses for use at Harding University. For more information, please visit [va.gov/education](https://va.gov/education) or contact the SCO.

Harding's School Certifying Official (SCO) Contact Information:

Name: Kelley Cox

E-mail: [veterans@harding.edu](mailto:veterans@harding.edu)

Phone: 501-279-4404

Campus location: Administration Building 106 (Registrar's Office)

Mailing address: 915 E. Market Ave, HU 10766, Searcy, AR 72149

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**All active duty and Veteran servicemembers are welcome to utilize the Veterans Break Room found in the Holland-Waller Center room 103.**

*Any dollar amounts are reflective of 100% eligibility. If your eligibility level is less than 100%, you will be eligible for your percentage of the full amount of tuition/fees, housing, and book stipends.*

### How do I know if I have any benefits available?

- Soldiers – Go to [va.gov/education](https://va.gov/education) and apply for benefits or you can apply through your eBenefits account. It will be helpful to have your DD214 (discharge papers) with you while you fill out your application. It may take 20-30 minutes to complete this application and 4-6 weeks to find out the results. The VA will mail you a letter stating whether or not you are eligible. This letter (Certificate of Eligibility) will also let you know what level of benefits are available to you if you are eligible.
- Dependents and Spouses – The soldier who is a spouse or legal guardian must be eligible for benefits themselves and then they must meet the requirements to transfer their entitlement to you. Requirements for transferring a soldier's entitlement can be found online at the GI Bill ® website. If the transfer of entitlement is approved, you will then need to go through [va.gov/education](https://va.gov/education) and apply to use those benefits. If approved, you will be eligible under the same rate as the soldier and the VA will release a Certificate of Eligibility to you. The soldier can choose to revoke the transfer of unused benefits at any time.

### What will this benefit cover?

- Harding is a private university. Therefore, the VA will set a cap on the amount of funds they will make available per student and per school year. This cap changes yearly, so check with either the VA or the SCO for exact amounts. The cap for the 2023-2024 school year is \$27,120.05 for those at the 100% eligibility level.
  - If you are an undergraduate student and the VA approves you for the 100% rate, you will also qualify for the Yellow Ribbon Program.
  - Graduate students are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program at Harding.
- Harding is currently allowed to submit the following charges to the VA to go towards that fee cap (these funds are sent directly to the school):
  - Tuition

- Class fees (most, but not all fees)
  - Many class fees include “travel” charges, which are not certifiable to the VA.
- Technology Fee
- Graduation Fee (one-time fee)
- Any other charges (meal plan, room and board, books, etc) will be the responsibility of the student to pay.
  - All students, including Veterans, are encouraged to fill out the FASFA each year. Students may qualify for scholarships, loans, or grants that can go towards the remainder of their bill each semester.
  - Please note: If you qualify for a scholarship or discount that is to be used to offset the cost of tuition and fees only (generally called a “discount” at HU) the SCO is required to deduct the amount of that scholarship from the total tuition/fees charges that are submitted to the VA.

### What is the Yellow Ribbon Program?

- For private schools, Yellow Ribbon funds are paid out when the student surpasses the yearly fee cap. The VA and school will split the cost of the difference and each pay their portion.
  - Only undergraduate students who are receiving the Post 9/11 GI Bill ® and Fry Scholarship benefits at the 100% level are eligible for these funds at Harding.

### Will I receive any other funds from the VA while using the Post 9/11 GI Bill ®?

- You could be eligible for a housing and book stipend while using this benefit. You can choose to use these funds to help pay the remainder of your bill, but you are not required to do so.
  - Book Stipend (sent to the student): The VA should send you \$41.67 per credit hour and up to \$1,000 per school year if you are 100% eligible. If you’re less than 100%, that \$1,000 will be prorated by your percentage amount.
  - Housing Stipend (sent to the student):
    - If you are considered ½ time or less the VA will release no monthly BAH.
    - All Post 9/11 GI Bill ® students are required to verify their monthly enrollment with the VA before the VA will release their BAH.
      - Text Verification: Ensure the VA has a valid cell phone number for the student that can receive text messages. The text will come from 44354.
      - Email Verification: If the VA does not have a correct cell phone number, they will automatically enroll you in email verification.
      - Phone Verification: The student can call the Education Call Center (888-442-4551).
    - Active Duty Soldiers: The VA will not send you two housing stipends if you choose to go to school while still on active duty. The VA will determine which payment you receive.
    - Veterans/Spouses/Dependents: As long as you are registered in enough hours for you to be more than half-time, you should receive a housing stipend. This stipend is based on the E-5 level with dependents for the 72143 zip code.
    - Due to the changes made in the Colmery Act (August 2017), as of August 1, 2018, the VA will pay your housing stipend based on where you take the majority of your courses that semester.
      - If you’re on the Searcy campus, you should qualify for up to \$1,600/month.
      - If your classes are online, you should qualify for half the national average. Currently around \$1,054/month.
      - If you’re taking a combination of traditional lecture and online courses, the VA will determine which rate you qualify for.

### Is my major approved for VA benefits?

- Most are approved. Please check with the SCO to ensure eligibility.

- Undergraduate students may be listed as an “Undeclared/Exploratory Studies” major for your first two years, but then must declare a major for the VA to continue to pay. The VA will only pay for Liberal Arts requirements during this time.
- The VA will only pay for courses that are required for your major. For most majors, elective hours will be satisfied by your remaining bible requirements.
- Minors can only be certified if your major requires a minor.

### Practical Training

- Most internship, practicum courses, and some Physical Therapy courses are required to be certified as a “Distance Learning” course even if that course is coded as a traditional “Lecture” course. Depending on your situation, this may affect your housing stipend.

### Will my VA benefits cover International Programs?

- Yes. However, the VA will not pay any extra charges associated with your time overseas. They will only pay for tuition, class fees, and the Technology Fee for courses satisfying a graduation requirement. All other charges are the student’s responsibility.
  - The VA will only pay for one Bible class per semester unless your major requires both courses.
  - The BAH stipend may be more or less than what you receive while on the main campus. The VA decides how much you qualify for each month.

### Can I use my benefits at more than one school?

- First time transfer: Contact Harding’s SCO. They will need a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility and your VA Certification Form found on your Harding Pipeline account (see previous question).
- Transfer and Concurrent Enrollment: All transfer work must first be approved by the Registrar’s Office. If the Registrar’s Office approves the transfer, and the student wants to use VA benefits at the other school, the SCO will then check to see if the requested classes meet a graduation requirement. If they do, the SCO will contact the other school to let them know they can certify those transfer hours with the VA.
  - Students will need to make sure they are in contact with the other school’s SCO to ensure they are certified through their institution.

### Will I receive transfer credit for my time in service?

- Probably.
  - When you provide a copy of your military transcript (Joint Services Transcript, Community College of the Air Force, etc), we should be able to grant you credit for:
    - KINS 1010: Wellness and KINS 1330: Recreational Activities
    - Other transfer hours may be awarded based on what you did while in service and how it relates to your major.
  - These hours will not help or hurt your GPA, but you will receive hours towards graduation.

### Section 103

In accordance with the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 (Section 103), students utilizing either Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill® or Chapter 31: Veteran’s Readiness and Employment benefits will not be financially or academically penalized due to late payments made by the VA.

To ensure no interest is accrued, the student is required to submit the following documentation:

1. Approved documentation provided by the VA:
  - a. Certificate of Eligibility (Chapter 33)
    - i. Submitted during the first semester the student is utilizing benefits.
  - b. Statement of Benefits (Chapter 33)
    - i. Submitted during the first semester the student is utilizing benefits.
  - c. Emailed approval from the student's Case Manager (Chapter 31)
    - i. Submitted by the student's Case Manager on a semester or yearly basis.
2. Documentation required by Harding University:
  - a. VA Certification Form (found on Harding's student portal)
    - i. Submitted every semester until the student's benefits exhaust or the student graduates.

Once both forms of documentation is received by the VA School Certifying Official, the VA Account Manager will place the student on deferred billing so no interest is automatically accrued.

### **Does Harding have a Veteran's group on campus?**

- Yes. The Harding University Veteran's Association (HUVA) is active every semester and represents all branches of service. You can find them on Facebook or contact the Faculty Sponsor or SCO for more information.
  - Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Shawn Fisher
    - Email: [sfisher@harding.edu](mailto:sfisher@harding.edu)
    - Office: Holland-Waller Center 101A