



Veteran Student Orientation

Welcome to Palomar College Veteran Service Office!
We are here to help all military affiliated students!

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VA Educational Benefits Breakdown

Forever GI Bill (Chapter 33/33D)

- The “Forever GI Bill” is an extension of the “Post 9/11 Educational Bill”. Veterans that served on or after January 1, 2013 are granted unlimited time limit to utilize their Post 9/11 educational benefits.

Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33/33D)

- CH 33 students receive a monthly housing allowance, a book stipend, tuition and fees paid directly to the school, and tutoring assistance. Additionally, at Palomar, CH 33 students are given a Service Indicator which ensures they will not have to pay tuition and fees upfront. CH 33 dependents are eligible for all the same benefits.
- To know if you are eligible, a student must file a claim for benefits with the VA. The VA is the only entity that can determine eligibility. Post 9/11 GI Bill has a time limit of 15 years from date of EAS.

Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30)

- CH 30 students receive a monthly benefit based on a number of factors (time of service, “kickers”, and type of training a student is taking). To get a clear picture of what a student’s monthly benefit would be, they should call the VA education hotline (888) 442-4551. Note: no tuition/fees are paid directly to the school. The student is responsible for paying their tuition/fees in accordance with Palomar’s policy.
- CH 30 students do not receive a book stipend, but they are eligible to receive tutoring assistance.
- There are many different eligibility requirements, the two most basic are graduated from high school/have a GED, and have received an honorable discharge. To determine eligibility, the student must file a claim for benefits through the VA. Montgomery GI Bill has a time limit of 10 years from date of EAS.

VA Educational Benefits Breakdown Cont.

Dependent Education Assistance Program (Chapter 35)

- CH 35 is a benefit that is afforded to dependents when a service member (their sponsor) is 100% disabled due to service-connected disabilities or they are deceased (KIA or had 100% rating at the time of death). The student must file a claim for benefits with the VA to determine eligibility.
- Children using this benefit generally have to be within the ages of 18-26. Spouses are eligible 10 years after the VA decides eligibility or 10 years after their spouse's death.
- CH 35 students must pay tuition and fees to the school, they receive a monthly allowance, and are eligible to use tutoring assistance. CH 35 students are also allowed to use Veterans Priority Registration while they are using their CH 35 benefits.

Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)

- CH 31 eligibility is determined based on your disability rating. Students have to partner up with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) at the San Diego Regional office to determine eligibility. It's a process to advise the student to start ASAP. Generally speaking, students need at least a 10% service-connected disability. First, the student must apply for CH 31 on the VA's website.
- Once you are approved for Ch. 31, your VocRehab Counselor must upload a Purchase Order (PO) onto a 3rd party website called Tungsten. This PO is required to certify classes at Palomar. Tuition, Fees, Parking and Student Activity cards are paid for using the PO. Books and supplies, purchases at Follett Bookstore, will be paid with a second PO specific to Follett. The student will be required to pay the student government representation fee unless waived. You can find this process [here](#).

Montgomery GI Bill: Selected Reserves (Chapter 1606)

- The Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserves (Chapter 1606) program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, the Coast Guard Reserve, as well as the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard.
- Eligibility for this program is determined by the Selected Reserve components. VA makes the payments for this program. You may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of education benefits.

New/Transfer/Guest Student

New/Transfer Students

- Follow the New Student Checklist, which can be found at [here](#) or at the Veterans Resource Office.
- Take advantage of your Veterans Priority Registration.
- Enroll in classes through eServices:
 - MORE than 6 units of full semester long classes required to receive BAH under Post 9/11.
 - Under Post 9/11 at least one class must be on campus to receive the residence BAH rate. If all classes are considered “*Distance*”, you will only be eligible for “[half of the national average](#)” rate.
- Every semester you’re using your VA educational benefits, you must fill out a Certification Request form in the Veterans Resource Center.
 - Complete ASAP to prevent delays in payments.

Guest Students

- Submit a “[VA Benefit Coding Request](#)” form from your Palomar student email to the VRC.
- Enroll in the required course(s) at Palomar.
- Ensure the parent school (school with your declared major) processes and sends a “Parent Letter” to Palomar College VRC email.
- Submit a “[Request for Certification](#)” at Palomar’s VRC.

Transcripts

ALL TRANSCRIPTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE ON FILE AT TIME OF CERTIFICATION!

When requesting transcripts print/save all receipts.

- **Joint Service Transcript** (Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard)

Request your online transcripts at <https://jst.doded.mil>

(Note: if stopped by your web browser for “Privacy Error” click advance and proceed to site.)

First-time users should register for a JST account. The Palomar Veterans Services Office needs official transcripts via online delivery. If you have problems logging into the JST website, please e-mail the JST operations center at JST@doded.mil.

JST is the Joint Services Transcript that replaces the Coast Guard Institute Transcript, the Army ACE Registry Transcript (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART). JST is an academically accepted document approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to validate a service member’s military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations.

- **Community College of the Air Force** (Air Force)

(Note: Do not purchase the rush order transcripts. Purchase the cheaper order and the VRC will take your receipt as proof.)

Visit this website to request your online transcripts: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp>

- **Accredited/Non-Accredited/Foreign Schools** (Other Schools)

Submit Official transcripts from any other school that you attend to [Palomar College Records](#).

Veteran Counselor

- The Veterans Resource Center's Counselors are available by appointment only. Please contact the [VRC](#) to schedule an appointment.
- Wait times for appointments range throughout the semester. Ensure you schedule an appointment before the semester starts to beat the rush.
- Once you have an appointment please ensure all transcripts are submitted to Palomar College Records. This ensures the counselor has all the required information to create your educational plan.
- Once the appointment is complete, your veteran counselor will give you two forms to turn into the VRC for certification:
 - Declaration of Major
 - Education Plan

Do I need to see a Veterans Counselor?

Use this guide to determine if you need to see a Veterans Counselor before certifying each semester.

Yes

No

New Student - Part of the **New Student Checklist** to establish your major at Palomar College.

Continuing Student - If you know which classes to enroll in you can do so and certify.

Changing Major - if you want to change your major you will need to do so with a Veterans Counselor.

Forgot which classes to enroll in? - There are multiple ways to check for this. You can visit your **Education Plan** from eServices. You can also contact the VRC to see if we can pull your file and email you a copy.

Returning Student over one year away - if you have not attended classes in over a year you will need to establish your catalog rights again.

Guest Student - you do not need to see a Veterans Counselor since your major is at your parent school.

ED Plan Needs Updated - if your current ED plan is outdated call the Veterans office to make an appointment to update it.

Applying for Transfer - you do not need to see a Veterans Counselor but a **Transfer Center Counselor**. (760) 744-1150 Ext. 2552

Enrolling in Classes

- Palomar College Class Schedule: <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/schedule/>
- The VA only approves classes required for your degree. These tools are used to determine approved classes:
 - You should be making regular appointments with a [Veterans Counselor](#) to keep an updated Education Plan by calling the [VRC](#). You can view your “*Educational Plan*” via *palomar.edu* eServices from the “*student center*” tab. Here you can find the General Education guide assigned to your major along with your declared major and external major (if you are transferring).
 - [General Ed Advising Guide](#)
 - [College Catalog](#)
 - [Assist.org](#)
 - You cannot repeat courses that have been successfully completed or courses for an area that have already been satisfied by previous coursework.
- Class Schedule Changes
 - If you have certified for the current semester and you change your schedule, notify the Veterans Office by filling out an “[ADD/DROP](#)” form in person or email the Veterans Office (veterans@palomar.edu) from your student email stating the changes.

Certifying Classes

- Once enrolled in classes, visit the Veterans Resource Center and fill out a “[Certification Request](#)” form.
- The VRC staff will verify classes to ensure each course falls within your declared major(s).
- All transcripts or receipts for order are **REQUIRED** to be on file before certification. We will not process any certification request with missing transcripts. This includes any colleges where VA educational benefits have been utilized. For questions refer to the [Palomar College Records Office](#) on how to submit required transcripts.
- Ensure you certify before or early in the semester to ensure your BAH payments arrive on time.
- The VA processing time is from two weeks to four weeks.

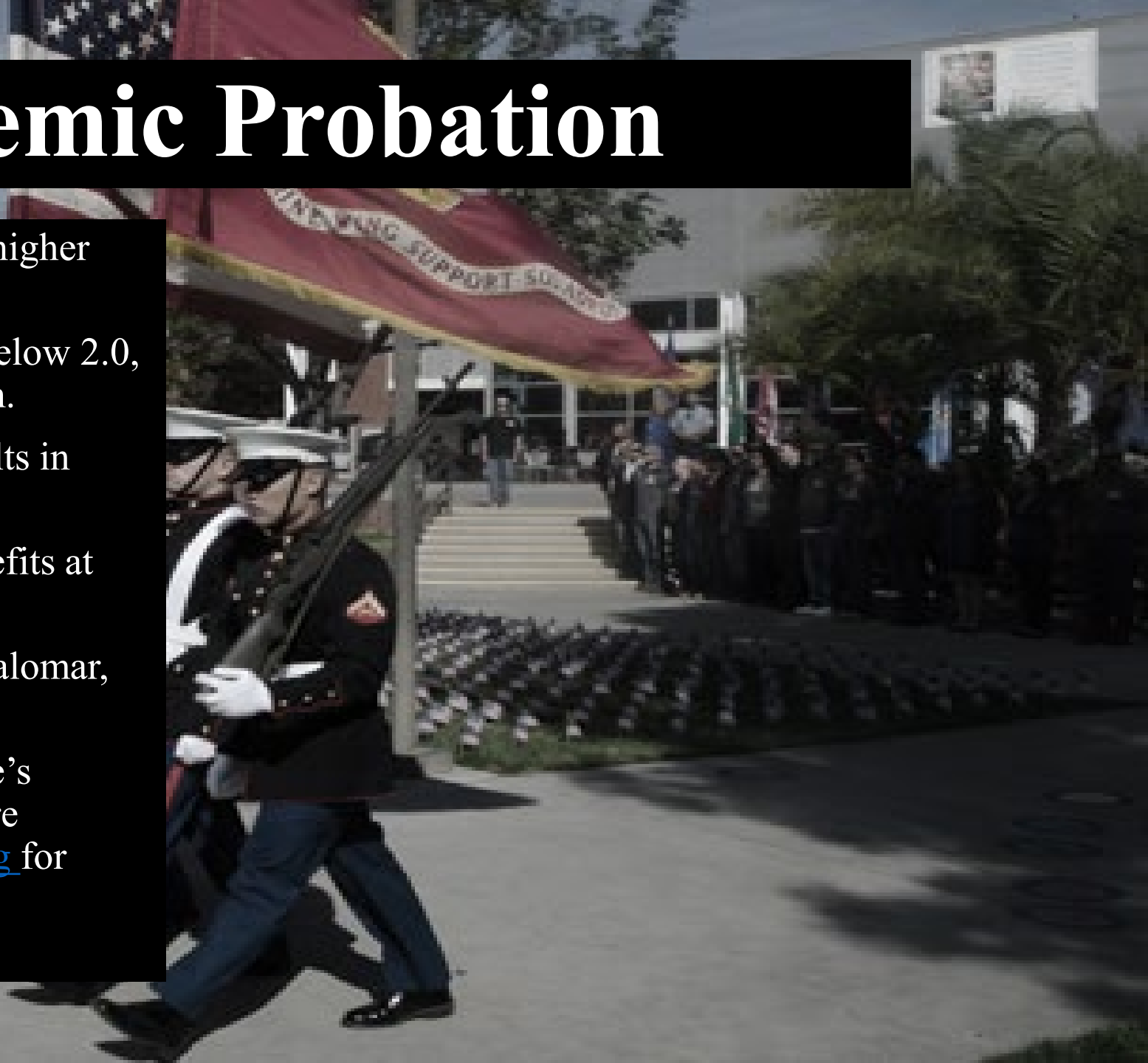
• How many units are considered full time?

	16 week Session	8 week Session	6 week Session	4 week Session	Pay Status Equivalent
	12	6	4	3	Full Time
	9	4	3	2	¾ time
Units	7	3	2.5	1.5	>½ time
	6	2	1	1	<½ time = No BAH

Note: Post 9/11 Education Benefit pays to the nearest 10% of the student status. For example, if you are considered ¾ time (75%) the VA will pay 80% of the full-time BAH rate.

Academic Probation

- The VA requires you to maintain a 2.0 or higher GPA.
- If your term AND cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, you will be placed on Academic Probation.
- 3 consecutive semesters of probation results in Academic Dismissal.
- While Dismissed, you cannot use VA benefits at Palomar.
- After 1 term of not using VA benefits at Palomar, you can petition for reinstatement.
- Palomar College's and the Veterans Office's academic probation/dismissal standards are different. See the [Palomar College Catalog](#) for details.



Paying for Tuition and Materials

- Chapters 33, 33D and 31:
 - Do not pay tuition/fees unless you are Ch. 31 in which you will need to pay the “[*Representation Fee*](#)”.
 - VA will pay the school directly for all approved courses.
 - Ensure you’re coded as using these benefits so you’re not dropped.
- Chapters 30, 35, 1606, 1607:
 - You must pay your tuition and fees within 10 calendar days of enrollment, unless noted by eServices, to prevent from being dropped from classes.
 - The VA payments for approved courses will be sent to the student directly and not the school.

KNOW YOUR BENEFITS!

Chapter	Tuition & Fees	Minimal Enrollment Time for Monthly Payments	Maximum Enrollment Time for Monthly Payments	Books	Supplies	Parking Pass	Full Online Classes affect BAH?
33/33D	Paid by VA to School	> ½ time	FULL	\$1,000 to split over the year, paid to student		Not Covered	Yes
31	Paid by VA to School	> ½ time	FULL	Credited at Campus Bookstore		Credited at Campus Cashier	Yes
35	Paid by Student, VA reimburses Student	> 0	FULL	Paid to Student	Not Covered	Not Covered	No
30	Paid by Student, VA reimburses Student	> ½ time	FULL	Not Covered	Not Covered	Not Covered	No
1606/1607	Paid by Student, VA does not reimburse Student	> 0	Full	Not Covered	Not Covered	Not Covered	No

VRC Resources

Available to all students utilizing VA Educational Benefits

• Textbook Rental Program

- Applications start one week prior to the beginning of each semester.
- Fill out a textbook request form and turn it into the front counter.
- First come, first serve basis.
- Receive a call when your textbooks will be available for pick up.
- Don't forget books are to be returned at the end of each semester on time in order to continue using the program.

• Tutoring Services

- We offer walk-in tutoring for various subjects.
- Tutors schedule is posted outside the tutoring room in the VRC.

• Student Leadership Program

- Get paired with a mentor within your major or program.
- Receive guidance throughout the semester with information on VA updates, registration dates, transfer tips, and benefits questions.

VRC Resources Cont.

Available to all students with financial needs

- **Food and Nutrition Center Services**
 - Assists with resource referrals.
 - Free diapers for students and staff.
 - Free hygiene products.
 - Free 15lbs of free food per month.
 - Weekly farmer markets.
- **Gas Cards**
 - Students are allowed three \$25 gas cards per semester while supplies last.
 - Minimum 2.5 GPA required in order to receive the cards.
- **Book Vouchers through 3SP and Equity**
 - \$250 gift card for the books and supplies
 - Apply through our textbook rental program
 - To qualify you must:
 - Be a veteran
 - Have a minimum 2.5 GPA (the only exemption is 1st-year college students)
 - Must be enrolled in minimum 9 units
 - Have financial aid on file

Campus Resources

Behavioral Health Counseling

Website: <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/bhcs/>

Phone: (760) 891-7531

Location: NB Building: Room 2

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 7:30AM-6PM, Friday: 7:30AM-2PM

Summary of services: Behavioral Health Counseling Services (BHCS) is a safe place to talk with someone privately about any concern. This may include stress, loneliness, anxiety, depression, adjustment challenges, relationship difficulties, managing an existing behavioral health condition, questions about identity, or other issues. We provide short-term mental health services and referrals to currently enrolled students at no cost.

Disability Resource Center

Website: <http://www2.palomar.edu/drc/>

Phone: (760) 744-1150 Ext. 2375

Location: DSP&S Bldg.

Hours: Mon – Thur: 7:00AM-7:00PM, Friday: 7:30AM-4:00PM

Summary of services: The DRC offers a variety of services and equipment for student use on campus. The goal of the DRC is to create an environment which encourages the student to function effectively, enabling students to participate in the regular college curriculum.

E.O.P.S.

Website: <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/eops/>

Phone: (760) 744-1150 Ext. 2449

Location: AA-141

Hours: Mon – Thur: 8:00AM-5:00PM, Friday: 8:00AM-12:00PM

Summary of services: Palomar College EOPS identifies, recruits, supports and educates matriculating, non-traditional students who come to the college environment educationally under-prepared and who may not achieve their fullest academic potential without EOPS intervention.

Campus Resources Cont.

Student Health Services

Website: <http://www.palomar.edu/healthservices/>

Phone: (760) 744-1150, Ext. 2380

Location: HC Bldg.

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 8AM-7PM, Friday: 8AM-3:30PM

Summary of services: Clinics, Counseling, STD testing sites

T.R.I.O.

Website: <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/trioss/>

Phone: (760) 744-1150, Ext. 2761

Location: TCB-1

Hours: Mon – Thurs: 8:00AM-5PM, Friday: 8:00AM-4PM

Summary of services: The primary purpose of our program is to increase the persistence and graduation rates of our student participants. To this end we are committed to our students' successful achievement in reaching their academic goal of transferring to a four-year institution and earning a degree. We strive to provide various resources that add value to their educational journey at Palomar College and beyond.

Community Resources

• Veterans Outreach Services

- 649 West Mission Ave. #2400
Escondido, CA 92025
Phone: (760)-740-5574
- The mission of Office of Military & Veterans Affairs is to provide professional services for military veterans and their dependents and survivors who are entitled to benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the State of California, and other agencies as applicable.
- The Office of Military & Veterans Affairs was re-established in 1987 to serve the veteran population of San Diego County, which has the second largest veteran population in the state. The office assists veterans and their dependents and survivors to obtain benefits from the federal, state and local agencies administering programs for veterans, and provides advocacy to the veterans community regarding entitlement rights to federal, state and local benefits programs.
- If you are unsure of where to find help, need aid to get started, or are just unsure of your entitled benefits, you can obtain assistance by calling the Office of Military & Veterans Affairs. An accredited Office of Military & Veterans Affairs Representative will assist you or direct you to the appropriate resource. The Office of Military & Veterans Affairs provides outreach services if veterans, their dependents and survivors cannot come to the office because of a disability.

• San Marcos Veterans Center

- One Civic Center Dr., Suite 150
San Marcos, CA 92069
Phone: 855-898-6050
Fax: 760-744-6919
- Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans, active duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families. Readjustment counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life or after a traumatic event experienced in the military. Individual, group, marriage and family counseling is offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma.

[Click here for Questionnaire](#)