



Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service in an armed conflict.* This program waives the cost of tuition and fees at any state-supported college or university in Virginia. Benefits are available for up to four years. In addition, a stipend may be available to offset the cost of room, board, books and supplies.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, children and spouses of qualifying military service members must meet the following requirements.

- The child must be between ages 16 and 29; there are no age restrictions for spouses.
- The military service member must have been a Virginia citizen at the time he or she entered active duty or must have been a Virginia citizen for at least five years immediately prior to the date of the application for admission.

* Military service includes service in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or the Virginia National Guard Reserves. Armed conflict includes military operations against terrorism or as the result of a terrorist act, a peace-keeping mission, or any armed conflict after December 6, 1941.

- In the case of a deceased military service member, the surviving spouse can meet the residency requirements if he or she lived in Virginia for at least five years prior to marrying the military service member or has been a citizen of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date of application.

Required Documentation

In most cases, eligibility will be determined using documentation from the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs. However, the military service member or applicant may be asked to provide documentation verifying residency or the applicant's age or relationship. State income tax records, birth certificates, and/or marriage certificates are usually sufficient.

Recertification

To continue receiving VMSDEP benefits, qualifying enrolled students must provide a letter to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services stating their continued enrollment, the period of time attended, and the period of time for which they are requesting benefits.

For More Information

To learn more about the VMSDEP program, contact:

Virginia Department of Veterans Services
(540) 857-7104
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Roanoke, VA 24011
www.virginiaforveterans.com