





## 8. How long does the application process take?

Our goal is to make all eligibility determinations within 46 business days of receipt of your application. It is important that you submit all required and or requested documents in a timely manner in order to prevent delays in processing.

## 9. Do I need to re-apply every year of enrollment?

- You need only to apply once.

**NOTE:** If you plan to transfer to another school or require a change in enrollment, please visit our website at [www.dvs.virginia.gov/vmsdep.shtml](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/vmsdep.shtml) to obtain a transfer enrollment or summer/inter-semester enrollment whichever is applicable.

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## 10. What is the VMSDEP application deadline?

VMSDEP applications are accepted year-round. However, you should submit your VMSDEP application at least 90 days prior to the start of the term (semester) that you wish to use your benefit.

## 11. How does the tuition and fee waiver work?

Eligible students are entitled to 4 academic years or 8 semesters of program benefits as specified in the existing Acts of Assembly. This also applies if you attend one school for part of your eligibility period and another school for the remainder. Please note that semesters, not academic credit earned, is the standard measure to determine benefit usage.

**12. Are eligible VMSDEP students entitled to receive a stipend for school attendance?**

Yes, for detailed information regarding VMSDEP stipend funding please visit:

<http://www.schev.edu/students/factsheetvmsdep.asp>

**NOTE:** The stipend is not available for the advance purchase of books. Stipend funding is typically disbursed six to eight weeks after your school's add/drop period.

**13. If I am entitled to benefits under VMSDEP, am I guaranteed admission to a public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia?**

No, eligibility for the VMSDEP benefit does not guarantee admission. Acceptance to a college or university is based on the school's admission requirements.

**14. May I attend two state-supported colleges or universities at the same time?**

Yes, eligible students are permitted to use VMSDEP benefits at multiple Virginia public colleges and universities during any given semester. With regard to the stipend, in this case, please see the VMSDEP fact sheet located on the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) website at <http://www.schev.edu/students/factsheetvmsdep.asp>

**15. May I take online courses?**

Yes, as long as those classes are offered through a public institution of higher education or Eastern Virginia Medical School.

**16. May I use my VMSDEP benefits for remedial or refresher courses?**

Yes, as long as those classes are offered through a public institution of higher education or Eastern Virginia Medical School.

**17. May I use VMSDEP benefits for non-credit courses?**

Yes, as long as the classes are offered through a public institution of higher education or Eastern Virginia Medical School; however, non-credit courses are **not eligible for stipend**. (Additional information can be found on the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's website at: <http://www.schev.edu/students/factsheetvmsdep.asp>)

**18. May I use my VMSDEP benefits to earn a masters or professional degree?**

Yes, VMSDEP benefits may be used for any program offered at any public institution of higher education or Eastern Virginia Medical School. **NOTE:** The benefits are available for 8 semesters. This includes graduate studies, law school, etc.

**19. May I use my VMSDEP benefits to attend a private school or a school in another state?**

No, VMSDEP benefits are only applicable at a public institution of higher education or Eastern Virginia Medical School.

However, if you choose to attend private school, you may be entitled to receive federal education benefits under the Fry Scholarship or the Dependents Education Assistance Program (Chapter 35 of Title 39 of the U.S. Code). Visit the U.S. Department of Veterans affairs website at [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor\\_dependent\\_assistance.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor_dependent_assistance.asp) to obtain additional information.

**20. If I have to temporarily interrupt my education for any reason, can my VMSDEP benefits be placed on hold?**

Yes. Please visit our website at [www.dvs.virginia.gov/vmsdep.shtml](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/vmsdep.shtml). and select the, *VMDEP Request to Hold Benefits Form* under the Forms section.

**21. If I withdraw from school, will it affect my entitlement period under the VMSDEP benefit?**

During the add/drop period and/or within the first nine weeks of a semester, a student may withdraw from courses without academic penalty. In this case, that VMSDEP waiver will still be available for you to use for a future semester. However, if you withdraw **after** the add/drop period, that particular VMSDEP will no longer be available for you to use and will be considered spent and/or exhausted.

**22. Are there any attendance or academic requirements that I must meet to continue my eligibility under VMSDEP?**

Your attendance and academic progress must be acceptable according to the guidelines established by the school you are attending.

**23. If I do not successfully compete one of my courses, may I repeat it without charge?**

VMSDEP benefits shall be applied toward any courses taken by an eligible student within any given semester. The benefits are calculated on a semester basis regardless of the how many courses are taken within a semester.

**NOTE:** Taking one course within a semester will result in using one (1) VMSDEP waiver just as taking four or five courses within a semester will result in using one VMSDEP waiver.

#### **24. How is VMSDEP different from the Dependents Education Assistance Program?**

VMSDEP is a benefit provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia and is administered by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. The Dependents Education Assistance Program (Chapter 35 of Title 38 of the U.S. Code) is a benefit program offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and falls under the GI Bill benefit umbrella. Eligibility requirements for the VMSDEP benefit and the DEA (Chapter 35) benefit are different, for more information regarding the DEA benefit; please visit the Survivors and Dependents portion of the GI Bill website at [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor\\_dependent\\_assistance.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor_dependent_assistance.asp) for additional information.

#### **25. Can I use my VMSDEP benefits in conjunction with my DEA (Chapter 35) benefits?**

Yes, eligible students are permitted to use VMSDEP and DEA benefits concurrently.

**NOTE:** Eligibility periods for the programs vary; therefore, students should consider their individual circumstances to determine whether to use the benefits simultaneously or separately.

#### **26. If approved for VMSDEP benefits, can I be reimbursed for education expenses I paid for out-of-pocket?**

Eligibility for the VMSDEP benefit is based upon the date that an application was **submitted**. It is at the discretion of the college or university whether or not any tuition and fees applied to the student's account prior to the VMSDEP benefit authorization date. Please note that colleges and universities are not obligated to refund any monies that have already been paid.

#### **27. If I have other questions about my VMSDEP benefits, who can I talk to?**

Please write or call the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. We are here to help and will be happy to provide you with information and assistance. The VMSDEP Coordinator's contact information is listed below:

Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program  
101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219  
Phone: (804) 225-2083

#### **28. What other sources of information are available?**

Additional information can be found on the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's website at: <http://www.schev.edu/students/factsheetvmsdep.asp>

Information regarding the Dependents Education Assistance Program (Chapter 35) can be found on the Department of Veterans Affairs Survivors and Dependents section of the GI Bill website at: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor\\_dependent\\_assistance.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor_dependent_assistance.asp)

You may also contact the Financial Aid or Bursar's office at your desired state-supported college or university for information and/or assistance.