



# Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program



## Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP)

### OVERVIEW

VMSDEP is a Commonwealth of Virginia Program which 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. Military service includes service in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, or the Virginia National Guard. 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.

*NOTE:* A Veteran's 90-100% disability must have been directly caused by the Veteran's involvement in: 1) military operation against terrorism; 2) a peacekeeping mission; 3) a terrorist act; 4) an armed conflict subsequent to December 6, 1941. The service connected disability cannot have been incurred during active duty that coincides with, but was not the direct result of, one of the listed events/missions.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is responsible for managing the program and collaborates with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and Virginia's public colleges and universities to assist survivors and dependents of qualified Veterans in attaining their educational goals.

### ELIGIBILITY

The eligible student must be:

- Admitted to a public college or university in Virginia; and
- the spouse or the child between the ages of 16 and 29 of a qualifying Veteran or military service member.

A qualified Veteran is one who:  
Is rated totally and permanently disabled or at least 90% disabled due to direct involvement in military combat and meets the domiciliary requirement as defined in the Code of Virginia § 23-7.4:1.

### BENEFITS

#### Tuition/Fee Waiver:

Eligible students, as confirmed by DVS, are guaranteed waiver of all tuition and required fees for four academic years or the equivalent.

#### Stipend:

Eligible students may receive a stipend to offset other educational expenses. SCHEV works with DVS and the public colleges and universities in disbursing funds for authorized stipends.

The amount of the stipend is determined annually by SCHEV and is dependent on the student's enrollment status; the number of participating students; and the available funding.

### APPLY

Apply online at [www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

### CONTACT

Department of Veterans Services  
Veterans Education, Training and Employment  
101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Phone: (804) 225-2083  
Fax: (804) 786-0809  
Email: [VMSDEP@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:VMSDEP@dvs.virginia.gov)