

# VETERANS INFORMATION

Worcester State University proudly welcomes student veterans. Veterans have provided a noble and crucial service; and for that, Worcester State thanks you. Worcester State is committed to helping veterans meet their educational needs by providing information, services, and support.

## Certifying Official for Veterans Benefits

The Certifying Office for Veterans Benefits contact, who handles all aspects of Chapter 33, the Post-9/11 GI Bill ®, and the Montgomery GI Bill ® at WSU, is:

Cherie Milosh, Veterans Affairs School Certifying Official  
(cmilosh@worchester.edu)  
Registrar's Office, Administration Building, Room 107, 508-929-8773

The Registrar's Office can also provide general information of interest to veterans and dependents of veterans enrolled at WSU. Veterans and dependents of veterans wishing to inquire about possible veterans' benefits should contact VA Education Benefits at 1-888-442-4551.

(GI Bill ® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the U.S. government web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>).

## Director of Veteran Services

Once a veteran has been accepted to WSU and the benefits are certified, the Office of Veterans Services will assist in the transition to the academic environment. On-campus and off-campus resources are available and coordinated through this office. The aim is to ensure that veterans are successful in completing the requirements as degree seeking students. With questions, please contact Director of Military Affairs/Veteran Services in the Student Center, 3rd Floor, 508-929-8884.

## Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act

The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (codified at 38 U.S.C. 3679) has been amended by Section 1005 of Public Law 116-315, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D., Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, which modifies 38 U.S.C. 3679(c).

The amendment requires that for all courses, semesters, or terms beginning after August 1, 2021, public institutions of higher education must charge qualifying veterans, dependents, and eligible individuals tuition and fees at the rate for in-state residents.

As amended, 38 U.S.C. 3679(c) requires that the following individuals be charged the in-state resident rate:

- A Veteran using educational assistance under either Chapter 30 (Montgomery G.I. Bill ® – Active Duty Program) Chapter 31 (Veteran Readiness & Employment) or Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 G.I. Bill ®), of 38 U.S.C. who lives in the state in which the institution is located (regardless of his/her formal State of residence).
- Anyone using transferred Post-9/11 G.I. Bill ® benefits (38 U.S.C. § 3319) who lives in the state in which the institution is located (regardless of his/her formal State of residence).

- Anyone described above while he or she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters, or terms) at the same institution. The person so described must be using educational benefits under Chapter 30, Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 of 38 U.S.C.

- Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (38 U.S.C. § 3311(b)(9)) who lives in the state in which the institution is located (regardless of his/her formal State of residence).

In summary, individuals are no longer required to enroll within three years of discharge or release from a period of active duty service or the transferor's discharge or release from active duty service in order to receive the in-state resident tuition rate.

Federal law permits public institutions of higher education to require eligible veterans, dependents, or other eligible individuals to demonstrate their intent to establish residency in the state by means other than satisfying a physical presence requirement. For example, institutions can request documentation such as a driver's license, car registration or voter registration, signed lease, or rent receipt to help establish an applicant's intent to establish residency in Massachusetts. Please note that the federal law does not include a durational residency requirement, nor does it include a requirement that the eligible veteran, dependent, or other eligible individual demonstrate intent to remain in Massachusetts indefinitely. Finally, please note that the federal law does not bar institutions from requiring the eligible veteran, dependent, or other eligible individual to meet other requirements, unrelated to residency, in order to be eligible for the in-state tuition rate.

Under the same amendment, public institutions of higher education are now required to provide notice of this in-state tuition eligibility for covered individuals by making this information publicly available in their academic catalogs and on their website. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") will make publicly available on its website a database explaining any public institution's requirements for beneficiaries to be charged in-state tuition.

Any institution found not to be in compliance with the requirements of Section 1005 of Public Law 116-315 by August 1, 2021, will be disapproved by VA for the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill ®, Montgomery G.I. Bill ® and Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E).

## Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017

WSU adheres to the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Forever GI Bill ®)-Section 107. Below is a list of addresses including zip codes of any location that a student may physically take classes other than the address approved under Worcester State University facility's VA assigned facility code and approved by the Massachusetts State Approving Agency. This list can be found below and at <https://www.worcester.edu/Military-and-Veteran-Students/>.

Marlborough High School- nature of site-Practicum

431 Bolton Street

Marlborough, MA 01752

Quinsigamond Elementary School-E-nature of site-Practicum

14 Blackstone River Road

Worcester, MA 01504

## **Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018**

For Veterans using Chapter 31 and Chapter 33 VA benefits, Worcester State University adheres to S2248 PL 115-407 Section 103. For Chapter 33 to be considered a "covered individual" under the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act 2018, the veteran, or other eligible beneficiary, must provide a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or statement of benefit from the Department of Veterans Affairs prior to the first day of classes. The veteran, or other eligible beneficiary, must complete a Worcester State University Veteran In-House Form to have their VA educational benefits certified for the semester. The veteran, or other eligible beneficiary, may be required to provide additional information necessary to properly certify their enrollment by the educational institution. For Chapter 31, the School Certifying Official must receive an authorization from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Worcester State University will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to delayed disbursement funding from VA under Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 except for the amounts not covered by the COE, statement of benefit, or the authorization, refer to the Worcester State University payment policy.