South Texas College and the Office of Student Financial Services offer several programs and services that have been developed to help you meet your educational goals. Our Offices are staffed in each campus to assist you in career guidance, financial aid, and tutoring. We encourage you to use the services offered. In addition, we encourage you to read and understand the information provided in this packet regarding your VA educational benefits. We hope you understand both your opportunities and responsibilities as a VA student. If further information is needed, please contact Student Financial Services and/or visit the GI Bill website. We also recommend for you to apply for financial aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov and hope that your educational experience is rewarding and positive in achieving your goals.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

**SUBMIT ALL VA EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS DOCUMENTS TO STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES & CHECK YOUR STATUS VIA JAGNET**

Logon to [South Texas College](#)

1. Click on [JAGNET](#) and input your JAGNET username & password
2. Click on ‘Financial Aid Status’ under ‘Student Apps’
3. Select Aid Year
4. Active Messages

**ADDRESS AND/OR DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Address and direct deposit information must be kept current. You are required to contact VA to update your direct deposit and if your address changes please contact your VA Certifying Official.

For chapters 30 & 1606 students can use [WAVE](#) system. If you want to start using direct deposit (chapters 30, 33, 35 & 1606) or change your direct deposit please call 1-877-838-2778 and provide the following information:

- Account number
- 9 digits routing number
- Type of account (checking or savings)

**eBenefits**

You are encouraged to register and utilize [eBenefits](#) to assist you in the following:

- Obtain up to date information on your educational entitlement
- Update your Direct Deposit and personal contact information
- Download VA letters and personal documents
- View the current status of your payments (both education and disability)

**VERIFYING YOUR ENROLLMENT**

If you receive Chapter 30 or 1606 you must verify your enrollment monthly by Web Automated Verification of Enrollment ([WAVE](#)) or by Interactive Voice Response (IVR). The monthly verification of enrollment has not been added for Chapter 33 and Chapter 35, with one exception. Chapter 35 NCD students are mailed a monthly verification form (VA Form 22- 8979).
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CHANGES TO SCHEDULE
Whenever you add, drop, or withdraw from a course the VA will be notified and changes in your credit hours may affect your VA benefits. The VA will notify you if the changes in your enrollment resulted in a debt with the VA, you are responsible for paying back any debt to the VA and/or college created by your change in enrollment.

AUDITED COURSES
Audited courses cannot be certified to the VA

CERTIFICATION
Your VA Certifying Official will process certifications at least 30 days prior to the first class day. However, it is recommended that you enroll early and have all paperwork completed, any schedule changes will delay your VA benefits and in some cases the Business Office will place a hold on your account. Holds will be released once payment is received by VA.

COURSES & DEGREE PLANS
Only courses that satisfy requirements outlined by your degree plan can be certified for VA purposes. If you take a course(s) that does not fulfill a program requirement, it cannot be certified for VA purposes.

DUAL MAJOR
Dual majors can be certified if both majors are approved (pgs. 4-5). Only courses required to complete the dual major can be certified.

GRADUATION
You are required to notify your VA Certifying Official if you graduate.

PRIOR CREDIT
You are required to submit official Military and institutional transcripts from all institutions previously attended to the Office of the Registrar for a credit evaluation. You must submit copies of all transcripts to Student Financial Services. If you fail to submit copies of transcripts, then your certification will not be processed.

- Army, Navy, Marines, & Coast Guard: JST System
- Air Force: Community College of the Air Force Transcripts

Please send official Military & Institutions Transcripts to:
South Texas College
Office of Admissions
PO Box 9701
McAllen, TX 78502

Please send official or Unofficial Military & Institutions Transcripts to:
South Texas College
Student Financial Services/VA Educational Benefits
3201 W. Pecan Blvd.
McAllen, TX 78501
REPEATING COURSES
Courses that are successfully completed may not be certified for VA purposes. If a program requires a higher grade than achieved, that course may be repeated. If you receive an “F” then you may repeat the course(s) for a second time, the course can continue to be certified until you successfully complete the course as long as it is still required for your program. However, repeat course fees cannot be certified to the VA.

REMEDIAL COURSES
Remedial courses can be certified but only if you are required to take courses based on your TSI scores. You can submit a copy of your DD-214 to the Testing Center to become TSI Exempt. However, remedial courses taken online cannot be approved and cannot be certified to VA. If you are required to take remedial courses then you will need to provide an Advisement Sheet listing the courses.

ROUNDING OUT
You may use the “rounding out” method with non-required courses to bring your course load up to a full-time schedule in the last semester of your program. This procedure can be done only once per program.

UNSATSIFACTORY PROGRESS, CONDUCT, AND ATTENDANCE
The law requires that educational assistance benefits to Veterans and other eligible persons be discontinued when the student ceases to make satisfactory progress toward completion of his or her training objective. The VA Certifying Official has the right to terminate your certification if at any time you stop attending classes and/or end up on academic suspension. By terminating your certification, you will be responsible to pay any debt incurred with the VA.

EDUCATION RATES
CHAPTER 33
Monthly Housing Allowance payment amounts are based on the Department of Defense’s Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates for an “E-5 with dependents” for the zip code of the school. BAH rates can be found through the BAH calculator.

Monthly Housing Allowance amounts are prorated based on a student’s benefit level and may be further reduced based on the rate of pursuit rounded to the nearest multiple of 10. Benefits are only payable when the rate of pursuit is more than 50%, and the student is not on active duty.

CHAPTER 30, 33, 35, & 1606
The most current education pay rates for each benefit can be found through the rate tables on the GI Bill website.

PUBLIC LAWS
PUBLIC LAW 111-377
CH 33 changes the amount of tuition and fee charges that should be reported to VA. Any scholarship, waiver or institutional or employer-based aid that is provided directly to the institution and specifically designed for the sole purpose of defraying tuition and fees will be deducted from your VA tuition & fees and difference will be reported to VA.

READ MORE @ WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV
CURRENTLY APPROVED PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Business & Technology Division
Accounting Clerk
Architectural & Civil Engineering Technology
Architectural & Engineering Design Technology
Architectural & Visual Technology
Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair
Automotive Technology
Basic Firefighter
Basic Peace Officer
Cloud Computing & Virtualization Specialist
Combination Welding
Commercial Baking
Commercial Cooking
Computer Applications Specialist
Computer and Information Technologies Specialist
Computer and Internet Specialist
Computer Maintenance Specialist
Computer and Network Specialist
Construction Supervision Assistant
Cybersecurity Specialist
Diesel Technology
Electrician Assistant
Employee and Labor Relations Assistant
Fast Start Precision Manufacturing
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology
Human Resources Assistant
Import / Export
Legal Office Specialist
Logistics
Management
Marketing
Mechatronics Technology Specialist
Multimedia Specialist
Office Specialist
Payroll Assistant
Precision Manufacturing Technology
 Recruiter Assistant
 Structural Welding
 Telecommunication Support Specialist
 Voice and Data Technician

Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Division
Childcare and Development
  • Specialization: Administration of Early Childhood Programs
  • Specialization: Infant and Toddler
  • Specialization: Pre-School
Deaf Support Specialist
Public Services Assistant
Trilingual Interpreter

Nursing and Allied Health Division
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Emergency Medical Technology – Basic
Emergency Medical Technology – Advanced
Emergency Medical Technology – Paramedic
Electronic Health Record Specialist
Medical Assistant Technology
Medical Coding Specialist
Medical Information/Transcription Specialist
Medical Office Specialist
Patient Care Assistant
Vocational Nursing

ASSOCIATES PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Business & Technology Division
Business Administration - Transfer Plan

Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Division
Advertising & Public Relations
Anthropology
Communication Studies
Criminal Justice
Drama
English
Graphic Arts
History
Interdisciplinary Studies
Kinesiology
Language and Cultural Studies
  • Concentration: American Sign Language
  • Concentration: Spanish
Mexican-American Studies
Music
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Social Work
Sociology
Visual Arts

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Division
EC-6 Generalist
4-8 Generalist
Grades 8-12
ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Math & Science Division
Biology
Chemistry
Computer Information Systems
Computer Science
Engineering
Interdisciplinary Studies
Mathematics
Physics
Pre-Pharmacy

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Business & Technology Division
Administrative Office Assistant
Architectural and Engineering Design Technology
  • Specialization: Architectural & Civil Engineering Technology
  • Specialization: Architectural & Visual Technology
Automotive Technology
Baking and Pastry Arts
Business Administration
  • Specialization: Accounting
  • Specialization: Import/Export/Logistics
  • Specialization: Management
  • Specialization: Marketing
Computer and Advanced Technologies
  • Specialization: Computer Maintenance Technology
  • Specialization: Computer Support & Telecommunications Specialist
Construction Supervision
Culinary Arts
Diesel Technology
Electrician Technology
Fire Science Technology
GM-Automotive Service Education Program (GM-ASEP)
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology
Human Resources Specialist
Information Technology
  • Specialization: Computer Specialist
  • Specialization: Cybersecurity Specialist
  • Specialization: Networking Specialist
Law Enforcement
Legal Office Assistant
Paralegal
Precision Manufacturing Technology
Welding

Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Division
Child Development/Early Childhood
Sign Language Interpreter
Public Administration

Nursing and Allied Health Division
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Emergency Medical Technology - Paramedic
EMT Paramedic to RN
Health & Information Technology
LVN/RN Transition
Medical Assistant Technology
Nursing
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Pharmacy Technology
Physical Therapist Assistant
Radiologic Technology
Respiratory Therapy

BACHELOR DEGREES

Bachelor of Applied Science
Organizational Leadership

Bachelor of Applied Technology
Computer & Information Technologies
Technology Management
Medical and Health Services Management

Continuing Education (VA ONLY)
Real Estate

Continuing Education (Hazlewood ONLY)
Activity Director
Bus Driving
Emergency Care Attendant
Medication Aide
Pharmacy Technician Trainee
Phlebotomy
Phlebotomy and EKG
Real Estate
Substitute Teacher
Truck Driving
Welding
## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### VA CONTACT INFORMATION

Muskogee Education Office 7:00 am to 7:00 pm CST
Monday – Friday for VA Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Benefits</td>
<td>1-888-442-4551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other VA Benefits (Local Regional Office)</td>
<td>1-800-827-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Verification of Enrollment &amp; IVR</td>
<td>1-877-823-2378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Deposit</td>
<td>1-877-838-2778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Schools and Students Living Overseas</td>
<td>1-918-781-4379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Management Center</td>
<td>1-800-827-0648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Benefits Service</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gibill.va.gov">http://www.gibill.va.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskogee E-Mail Inquiries</td>
<td><a href="mailto:muskrpo@vba.va.gov">muskrpo@vba.va.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Certifying Officials cannot determine basic eligibility. The benefit programs change frequently, so it is best to contact the VA directly if you have questions about eligibility or BAH.

### VA CERTIFYING OFFICIALS & STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

**Pecan Campus**  
Student Services/VA Educational Benefits Office Bldg. K 2.602  
Phone: (956) 872-6723 | Fax: (956) 872-2616  
Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm

**José N. Peña**  
Coordinator of Veterans Affairs  
jpena@southtexascollege.edu  
(956) 872-2606

**Manoella Leal**  
VA Certifying Official  
maleal@southtexascollege.edu  
(956) 872-6730

**Melinda Garcia**  
VA Certifying Official  
mgarcia_5804@southtexascollege.edu  
(956) 872-2109

**Erika García**  
VA Certifying Official  
egarcia3@southtexascollege.edu  
(956) 872-3415

**Mid Valley Campus**  
Student Services Building F 159  
Phone: (956) 447-6671  
Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 8:00am-5:00pm

**Lauren Matthews**  
VA Certifying Official  
lmatthew@southtexascollege.edu  
(956) 447-6671

**Starr County Campus**  
Student Services Building G 1.702B  
Phone: (956) 488-5859 | Fax: (956) 488-5839  
Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm

**Graciela García**  
Financial Aid Specialist/VA Certifying Official  
graciela@southtexascollege.edu  
(956) 488-5859

**Technology Campus**  
Due to COVID-19  
By Appointment Only  
Phone: (956) 872-6723  
vaoffice@southtexascollege.edu

**Nursing & Allied Health Campus**  
Due to COVID-19  
By Appointment Only  
Phone: (956) 872-6723  
vaoffice@southtexascollege.edu

READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY BEFORE SIGNING AND SUBMITTING THE VA EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS AGREEMENT FORM TO OUR OFFICE.

South Texas College is an equal education and equal employment opportunity/affirmative action employer. South Texas College does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee, applicant for employment, student, or applicant for admission on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, parental status, disabilities, genetic information, veteran status, or any other protected category under applicable local, state, or federal law. Conduct that excludes participation, denies benefits or subjects others to discrimination is prohibited. The College complies with all applicable policies and state and federal legislation in order to combat discrimination.