

VA EDUCATION BENEFITS
at Austin College

Students eligible to receive education benefits from the Veterans Affairs (VA) Administration must provide their certification form from the VA to the Registrar's Office. To receive benefits from the various programs, i.e. Chapter 30, 31, 33, 35, 1606 or 1607, students must be making SAP towards a degree. Any student receiving VA benefits who is on academic probation risks losing benefits. If probation persists beyond two semesters the student's status is reported to the VA for termination of benefits. As of August 2009 veteran benefits no longer impact eligibility for Federal Title IV aid. The Office of Financial Aid will determine eligibility for institutional aid based on the percentage of tuition covered by the VA benefits. In some cases, VA recipients may not be eligible for tuition-specific scholarships or grants at Austin College.

POST 9/11 – YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the VA to contribute funds to help cover unmet tuition expenses when those expenses exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate which is \$21,084.89 effective August 1, 2015. This tuition rate is subject to change each academic year. The institution will then contribute up to 50% of those expenses and the VA will match the same amount as the institution. Students who qualify for Yellow Ribbon benefits will not be eligible for any other institutional funds.

For the 2016-2017 academic year, Austin College will participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

To be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program:

- The student must be approved by the VA to receive Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits at the 100% level. If the student's eligibility percentage is below 100%, the student is not eligible to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program.
- The student must have entitlement left. *(The student will continue to use entitlement under the Post 9/11 GI Bill while participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program.)*
- The student must provide the VA Coordinator in the Registrar's Office at Austin College with the proper documentation needed to receive VA benefits under Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill while at Austin College.
- The student cannot be active duty or an active duty spouse.
- The student must be and remain in good academic standing with Austin College. Austin College is not required to continue making Yellow Ribbon contributions if a student is not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

To learn more about the Yellow Ribbon Program on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website go to: http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon.asp