



2019-2020

Catalog & Student Handbook

Addendum

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STUDENT POLICIES & SERVICES

Veterans Affairs

VHCC's Veterans Affairs Office coordinates all veterans' educational benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the College.

The office is located on the Virginia Highlands Community College campus in ISC 100B. The VA certifying official can be reached by phone at (276)739-2460.

The VA requires all students to be enrolled in an official curriculum leading to a certificate or degree in order to receive benefits. You must contact your VA certifying official each semester to complete the necessary forms to establish and maintain your eligibility for benefits.

The Department of Veterans Services State Approving Agency approves programs of education offered at Virginia Highlands Community College.

For more information regarding Veterans Affairs, please refer to the website at www.vhcc.edu/veterans.

Credits2Careers

The colleges in the Virginia Community College System are committed to evaluating your military experience and granting college credit. This credit, Credit for Prior Learning, can then be applied to meet the academic requirements of a degree or certificate program at that college - so you complete the degree or certificate you need for a future career - faster and at a lower cost.

Credits2Careers also helps you explore careers based on either your military background or your personal goals and interest and VCCS programs that prepare you for the career you choose.

For more information on Credits2Careers, please refer to the website at www.credits2careers.org.

Veteran's Institutional Grievance Procedure

The Virginia State Approving Agency (SAA), is the approving authority of education and training programs for Virginia. This office investigates complaints of GI Bill beneficiaries. While most complaints should initially follow the school grievance policy, if the situation cannot be resolved at the school, the beneficiary should contact their office via email saa@dvs.virginia.gov.

TUITION & FINANCIAL AID

Veterans Benefits

Information concerning veterans' educational programs and benefits may be obtained from the Veterans Officer located in the Student Services Division. Veterans must first apply for Veterans Education Benefits at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill then contact the VHCC Veterans Officer, located in the Student Services Office. It is the responsibility of students eligible for Veterans Administration benefits to secure the necessary forms from this office. Assistance in completing and submitting these forms is also provided. Veterans may request a military transcript at the Joint Services Transcript, jst.doded.mil (Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy)* which will be evaluated by the Student Services Center to receive transfer credits at Virginia Highlands Community College.

*Air Force personnel can request their military transcripts through the Air Force Transcript Portal at www.au.af.mil/ccaf.

If you have questions regarding your qualifications of veteran's benefits or to explore your options for maximum use, please call the Veterans Administration toll-free number at 888-442-4551 (1-888-Gibill1) or visit the website www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

All academic policies as included in this catalog apply equally to all students at Virginia Highlands. However, there are a few guidelines specifically applicable to the administration of veterans certified for benefits through the Veterans Administration.

1. Veterans Officer will consult with veterans who fail to attend classes regularly.
2. Veterans Officer will report to the Veterans Administration as soon as possible any change in the status of veterans, whether that be a change of curriculum, reduction or increase in course-load or withdrawal.
3. Veterans who fail to maintain good academic standing must be counseled by a Counselor at the College prior to veterans benefits being reinstated.
4. Virginia Highlands Community College grading policies will be used to determine whether veterans are maintaining satisfactory progress. According to College and the Veterans Administration policies, students must make satisfactory academic progress. If suspended or dismissed, students must appeal to the Dean of Student Services and meet with the Admissions Committee. Students who have been reinstated must achieve a 2.0 GPA for the semester of their reinstatement. At the conclusion of this semester, enrollment for successful students receiving veterans' educational benefits will be certified.
5. The physical education requirements for the degree, diploma and certificate programs may be waived for veterans (please see Veterans Officer), and the College may substitute other credits to satisfy the total credit requirements of the veteran's curriculum.

Additional information and forms are available on the VHCC website at www.vhcc.edu/veterans.

Student Veterans Association

This organization is to serve as a collective voice for all veterans and military enrolled at VHCC, to be a source of open communication that will connect veterans with each other in a way that promotes camaraderie, and to provide support for student veterans and their families as they pursue their post military career through education. Membership is open to all interested students, faculty and staff. Check with the Veterans Officer for more details.

Veterans/Military Parking

VHCC has reserved "Veterans Parking." Contact the Veterans Officer located in the Student Services Division in room ISC 128-C for a parking pass.

Tuition Relief for Active Duty Personnel

As required by Virginia Code Section 23-9.6.2, VHCC will provide tuition relief, refund, and reinstatement of students whose active military status during a time of national emergency has required their sudden withdrawal or prolonged absence from their enrollment.

Chapter 31/Chapter 33 Fee Deferment Policy

If a student wishes to use Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 the University will defer students' semester charges. These semester charges will be deferred a minimum of 90 days from the tuition deadline. Charges not covered by the VA must be paid by the tuition deadline to prevent penalty fees. Penalties will not be imposed on charges covered by the VA, but may be imposed on charges that are past due and not covered by the VA.

Fall deferment ends November 21

Spring deferment ends April 11

Summer deferment ends October 5

Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (As Amended by Public Law 114-315) and Title 38, U.S.C Section 3679(c)

The following individuals shall be charged the in-state rate, or otherwise considered a resident, for tuition purposes:

- A Veteran using educational assistance under either chapter 30 (Montgomery G.I. Bill – Active Duty Program) or chapter 33 (Post9/11 G.I. Bill), of title 38, United States Code, who lives in the Commonwealth of Virginia while attending a school located in the Commonwealth of Virginia (regardless of his/her formal State of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- Anyone using transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits (38 U.S.C. § 3319) who lives in the Commonwealth of Virginia while attending a school located in the Commonwealth of Virginia (regardless of his/her formal State of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- Anyone using transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits (38 U.S.C. § 3319) who lives in the Commonwealth of Virginia while attending a school located in the Commonwealth of Virginia (regardless of his/her formal State of residence) and the transferor is a member of the uniformed service who is serving on active duty.
- A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (38 U.S.C. § 3311(b)(9)) who lives in the Commonwealth of Virginia

while attending a school located in the Commonwealth of Virginia (regardless of his/her formal State of residence).

- An individual using educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) who lives in the Commonwealth of Virginia while attending a school located in the Commonwealth of Virginia (regardless of his/her formal State of residence) effective for courses, semesters, or terms beginning after March 1, 2019.

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 have enrolled in the institution prior to the expiration of the three-year period following discharge or release as described above and must be using educational benefits under either chapter 30, chapter 33, or chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code.



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VHCC is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Si necesita ayuda en español, marque el número 276-739-2561.