

Chapter 35 – Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program

(This benefit does not pay tuition and fees)

You may be eligible for education benefits as a dependent or survivor if you meet the following criteria.

You must be the son, daughter, or spouse of a veteran or service member who

- ◇ Died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces, *OR*,
- ◇ Died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence, *OR*,
- ◇ Is missing in action or captured in the line of duty by a hostile force, *OR*,
- ◇ Is forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power.

You must be between the ages of 18 and 26 to qualify for Chapter 35 benefits. In certain instances, it is possible to begin before age 18 and continue after age 26. Marriage is not a bar to this benefit. If you are in the Armed Forces, you may not receive this benefit while on active duty.

To pursue training under this program after military service, your discharge must not be under dishonorable conditions. VA can extend your period of eligibility by the number of months and days equal to the time spent on active duty. This extension cannot generally go beyond your 31st birthday, but there are some exceptions.

If you are a spouse, benefits end 10 years from the date VA finds you are eligible or from the date of death of the veteran, *OR* 20 years if death occurred while on active duty.

First Time Applicants

- **Child**
 - If you are eligible for Chapter 35 benefits and wish to apply, please complete VA Form 22-5490 on www.gibill.va.gov. Follow the links to apply online using VONAPP.
 - Print your application after online submission and immediately bring it, along with your birth certificate and the veteran’s VA Rating Letter, to MTC’s VA Office. You must contact Shannon Dyers for an appointment. She can be reached at dyerss@midlandstech.edu.
- **Spouse**
 - Please complete VA Form 22-5490 using www.gibill.va.gov. Follow the links to apply online using VONAPP. Spouses do not need to supply additional documentation to accompany the application.
 - Bring a copy of your application to MTC’s VA Office. You must contact Shannon Dyers for an appointment. She can be reached at dyerss@midlandstech.edu.

Previously Applied for Benefits

- Please complete VA Form 22-5495 on www.gibill.va.gov. Follow the links to apply online using VONAPP.
- Print a copy of the application and bring it to MTC’s VA Office. You must contact Shannon Dyers for an appointment. She can be reached at dyerss@midlandstech.edu.