

VETERAN'S EDUCATION BENEFITS

IMPORTANT – Please Read

There are important steps that you, the student, and LCN, as the certifying official, need to follow to ensure that you receive your benefits in a timely manner, and that you do not receive over-payments that you are required to repay to the Dept. of Veteran Affairs. These steps are as follows:

- When you apply or renew your benefits, all correspondence with the Federal Agency is with you the veteran. LCN is not sent copies of your approvals or your certificates of eligibility. If you do not bring these in when you receive them, we will not know that you have benefits available to you.
- Refer to this website concerning education benefits: <https://www.va.gov/>
- **Each semester when you enroll you must:**
 1. Complete and return the *LCN Veteran's Enrollment Certification Form* to the Financial Aid office. The blank form will be emailed to you prior to the start of each semester.

If you withdraw, drop, or change credit hours in any way after your initial enrollment, you must contact the LCN Financial Aid office immediately so that we can contact the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to notify them of the change in hours. If this is not done, it will result in an overpayment of your benefits and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs will take aggressive action to reclaim the overpayment. The Dept. of Veterans Affairs has a number of actions they pursue to reclaim overpayments, one of which is withholding future benefits.

If you have questions regarding the amount of your entitlement, how many months you have left, or other inquiries, please call the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551. The school does not have access to this information.

All enrollment certifications are transmitted to the Dept. of Veteran Affairs office in St. Louis, MO. Please take into consideration that the St. Louis Office assists 15 states in their region. At times, there is an over-abundance of information sent to them and they may be back logged. This may result in your hours not being available on the WAVE or the telephone electronic certification number. If this happens, please call us to ensure that the hours have been certified. After we have confirmed certification, you will need to call the VA Regional Office to certify your enrollment. See contact numbers listed below.

You will self-certify each month that you are enrolled in college at the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>.

COMPARE THE PROGRAMS

If you are eligible for another benefit program as well as the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), you should review the side-by-side comparison of benefits under each program.

https://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/comparison_chart.asp. While each individual's situation is different, this may help you determine which of the programs provide the most benefit for your individual situation. You should now have enough information to decide whether you want to apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill or another benefit program. Remember, if you give up another program to receive the Post-9/11 GI Bill, it is an irrevocable choice - this means that once you have selected the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you cannot switch back to the program you gave up. At this time, you also will have to determine which school you will apply to for enrollment.

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_decision.asp

CONTACT INFORMATION

LCN Veteran's Certifying Official

Tammy Garza 217-709-0928 tgarza@lakeviewcol.edu

LCN Director of Financial Aid & Veteran's Educational Benefits

Janet Ingargiola: (217) 709-0930 jingarg@lakeviewcol.edu

For the Online Brochure of Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors 2019 Edition: https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

AT VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION - PHONE NUMBERS

- Dept. of Veteran Affairs Regional Office: 1-888-442-4551
- Monthly Enrollment Certification: 1-877-823-2378
- General Information other VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000
- POW/MIA Certification -- (217) 782-3564 or (217) 782-6641
- Call Center: The Department of Veterans Affairs Education Call Center open for telephone calls Monday through Friday during normal business hours from 7:00am to 8:00pm Central Standard Time. 1-800-827-1000

AT STATE OF ILLINOIS

- Veteran's Illinois Contacts
<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?State=IL&dnum=ALL>

WEB PAGES FOR VETERANS AND/OR THEIR SPOUSE/DEPENDENTS

- https://www.va.gov/WelcomeVA_Guide_print_version_final.pdf (Welcome Guide)
- <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage> (VA/DoD Benefits and Services)
- <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do> (WAVE)
- <https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/DEA.asp> (Dependent's Education Assistance Program)
- <https://maketheconnection.net/> (Information, resources and solutions affecting health and well being)
- <https://nrd.gov/> (National Resource Directory)
- <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/education-and-career-counseling/> (Veteran Educational and Career Counseling Service - Chapter 36)