

FAQs on your housing & book payments

Who qualifies for housing payments?

Any GI Bill student attending class 51% or more of full time. Full time for an undergraduate student is typically 12 credits or hours, while it will vary for graduate students. Students in residencies for medical programs are eligible as well.

Active-duty military and their spouses are **not** eligible for housing payments. Reservists and National Guard members will keep their housing payments during monthly drills but will lose them if they are called up.

How much will my housing payment be?

It's based on where the campus is located, and you can look it up on [the GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) or on your award letter. If you're attending a foreign school, it's a flat rate. If you're attending classes online, you'll be paid one-half the average national housing rate, *not* one-half the housing rate in your area. But if you're attending a hybrid course that combines online and classroom training, you'll receive the full housing rate. If you're using Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA), or Chapter 35, you just get one payment at a set amount for all your benefits paid directly to you.

Students in [on-the-job-training programs and apprenticeship programs](#) will see their housing payments decrease in standard amounts over the length of their job contract. Housing rates may also change from year to year in August. Any increases will affect you starting with your September payment, but any decreases will only affect you unless you change the campus where you take the majority of your classes, change schools, or have more than a six-month break in training.

What if I don't take classes or training every day that month?

The housing allowance on your award letter is the amount provided if you are enrolled in classes or training every school day that month. If your term doesn't cover the entire month, your housing benefit will be prorated. DEA payments aren't prorated because the payment is just a standard monthly amount.

Will I receive a books and supplies stipend?

Yes, it's paid proportionally based on enrollment. [For information on the current rate click here](#). Half of the stipend is paid at the beginning of each semester.



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When will my payments arrive?

Your school must submit your enrollment to start the clock, and DEA students won't even show in VA systems until the enrollment arrives. Enrollments take up to 2 weeks to process. Housing payments go out at the beginning of every month.* On-the-job-training and apprenticeship students need to ensure their monthly hours were submitted and then they'll be paid the next month. Electronic payments typically take 5 business days and checks typically take 2 weeks. You can set up or update direct deposit information [on the VA.gov website](#). *VA payments are paid in the arrears; first payment arrives at the beginning of the month FOLLOWING the first month of attendance.

Will the payment arrive in one lump sum?

Often the VA systems process several smaller payments instead of one larger one.

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