

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
BUFFALO REGIONAL OFFICE
PO BOX 4616
BUFFALO NEW YORK 14240-4616**

Date of Letter

NAME OF STUDENT

Dear Name of Student:

Certificate of Eligibility

This certifies that you are entitled to benefits for an approved program of education or training under the Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program.

Our decision is based on 38 CFR 21.3041 and the information provided by you.

You must take this letter to your school. Your school must certify your enrollment before you can get paid.

You have 36 months and 0 days of full-time benefits (38 U.S.C. § 3511).

The spouse of a veteran who has been found to be permanently and totally disabled can choose the date to begin benefits. You can choose:

- Date the date the veteran became totally disabled for VA purposes, **OR**
- Date the date of our letter informing the veteran of VA's decision that he is permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities, **OR**
- Any date between those two dates.

The ending date for using your benefits is ten years after the date you choose. Generally you can't use any remaining benefits for training on or after your ending date.

You cannot change your beginning date once you have chosen it.

What You Should Do

Please take this letter to your school or training establishment's veterans certifying official and ask him or her to submit your enrollment certification to VA.

You will need to elect a date you would like your Chapter 35 benefits to start. Please elect a date and sign the statement below. Please visit the GI Bill web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov>. Click on "Contact Us" on the top right corner of the screen, then click on "Ask Us a GI Bill Question". You can then send VA a message with the necessary election information by clicking the "Ask a Question" tab and creating an account.

"I choose _____ as the beginning date for my DEA benefits."

Signature

Date

Career Counseling

The receipt of this Certificate of Eligibility (COE) means that you are eligible for VA-professional career counseling services at any time during your eligibility period. When considering school(s), we recommend using the GI Bill Comparison Tool, and the "*Factors to Consider When Choosing a School.*" A guide before using the GI Bill®. See links to access these resources:

- GI Bill Comparison Tool: www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool
- Factors to Consider When Choosing a School. A guide before using the GI Bill®: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/choosing_a_school.pdf

Verify that your prospective school(s) has articulation agreements; what the agreement involves, and how it applies to credit transferability for future transfer options to other schools.

For questions, additional information about career counseling services, or if you are six months from discharge, call 1-800-827-1000 and speak with a VA customer service representative.

Students receiving VA benefits at the three-quarter-time or full-time rate may participate in the VA work-study program. If you are interested, see your school's veterans coordinator.

What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision

If you do not agree with this decision, you have one year from the date of this letter to select a review option to preserve your earliest effective benefit date. The review options and their proper applications are as follows, for a(n):

- **Supplemental Claim**, complete **VA Form 20-0995**, *Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim*.
- **Higher-Level Review**, complete **VA Form 20-0996**, *Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review*.
- **Appeal to the Board**, complete **VA Form 10182**, *Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)*.

Please see the enclosed **VA Form 20-0998**, *Your Rights to Seek Further Review of Our Decision*. It explains your options for an additional review. You may obtain any of the required applications by downloading them from www.va.gov/vaforms/ or by contacting us at 1 (888) GI BILL 1 (1-888-442-4551). You can also learn more about the disagreement

process at www.va.gov/decision-reviews. If you would like to obtain or access evidence used in making this decision, please contact us. Some evidence may be obtained by signing in at www.va.gov.

If You Have Questions or Need Assistance

Website	www.va.gov/
VA Forms	www.va.gov/vaforms
Frequently Asked Questions	https://gibill.custhelp.va.gov/app/answers/list
Submit a Question: <i>Include your full name and VA file number</i>	https://gibill.custhelp.va.gov/app/ask
Mailing Address: <i>Include your full name and VA file number on the inside of mailed correspondence (not on envelope)</i>	See address at the top of this letters
Education Call Center	1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) (inside the U.S.) 001-918-781-5678 (outside the U.S.)
TTY, Federal Relay	711
Veterans Crisis Line	1-800-273-8255 and press 1
VA Regional Office Location	www.va.gov/find locations
GI BILL® Comparison Tool: <i>This tool allows you to get information on a school's value and, affordability; and to compare estimated benefits by school.</i>	www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool

Sincerely yours,

Education Officer

Enclosure: VA Form 20-0998