

# VA Benefits in the Flight Science Degree

## General Suggestions and Instructions

When applying on the VA website and it asks for the name of the degree or program use the following:

### Flight Science A Track

This document only applies to the specific expenses associated with the Flight Science degree. Other expenses may or may not be covered by VA benefits.

This document is a general listing of details concerning VA benefits and is not a guarantee or accurate prediction of VA benefits that any specific student will receive since each student is different.

It is highly recommended all prospective students who plan on using VA benefits call the federal VA Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 to ask if the veteran education benefit (which chapter) they select would cover the cost of the Flight Science courses/degree.

The Reedley College (RC) VA Certifying Official will help you apply for benefits with the VA. The federal VA will determine your eligibility and the percentage of benefits you will receive and then notify you. At the beginning of each term your RC VA Certifying Official will report your units to the VA so that your classes are certified. *If you add or drop any classes, you must report it to the RC VA Certifying Official immediately.*

## Reedley College VA Certifying Official

Ms. Miette Sasselli

Email: [miette.sasselli@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:miette.sasselli@reedleycollege.edu)

Phone: (559) 494-3000 ext. 3102

## Costs covered by VA benefits

Costs covered by VA benefits vary by what chapter applies to the person using the benefits (e.g. chapter 30, 31, or 33). VA benefits may cover some or all of the enrollment fees (tuition) and lab fees (airplane rental and flight instructor costs) normally paid to the College. See *Course Progression & Cost* and the *Student Handbook* online documents for the costs of each semester.

## Book Stipend

Some VA benefits may provide a book stipend. Typically, this is approximately \$41/credit and up to \$1,000 per school year (August-July). A student taking 12 credits might receive \$500 in a book stipend ( $\$41 \times 12 \text{ credits} = \$500$ ) in the Fall semester, \$500 in the Spring semester, then zero in the Summer semester (no more than \$1,000 per school year).

## Costs NOT generally covered by VA benefits

Any expenses **NOT** paid directly to the College may not be covered by VA benefits. Here is a partial list of what is not typically covered:

- Flight Equipment (such as headsets, kneeboard, logbook)

- FAA written tests (\$175 each, five written tests across entire program)\*

- FAA flight exams (\$800-\$1,000 each, four flight exams across entire program)\*

- Reliable transportation, maintenance, fuel

- Text Books (some VA benefits may provide a book stipend)

\*Some federal testing fees (such as FAA written tests and flight exams) may be reimburse-able under some VA benefits. Contact the Reedley College VA Certifying Official for details.

## VA 85/15 Rule

Students using VA benefits are allowed into the degree on a limited basis due to the VA 85/15 rule. This rule states that if more than 85% of students in a degree or in a track are using VA benefits, then no new VA students can enter that degree or track. At Reedley College, students weighing 220 pounds or less are in one track. Students who weigh 221-250 pounds are in a different track. New airplanes are being purchased by the college and will become the Skyleader track. If a track has more than 85% of the students using VA benefits, then no new students using VA benefits can be allowed into that track.

Once a VA student is in a degree or in a track *and is continually taking classes towards that degree or track every semester*, then the 85/15 rule will NOT affect that student. See the *Student Handbook* online document for more details.

## Getting into the Flight Science Degree

Start application steps to enter the Flight Science degree as soon as possible. Students using VA benefits will be accepted into the degree as space is available.

## If less than 100% eligible

Students using VA benefits may be eligible for less than 100% coverage of the enrollment fees (tuition) and lab costs. Students need to call the VA Education Call Center at (888) 442-4551 to inquire about percentage of eligibility.

Students who are not 100% eligible will need to sign a Financial Accountability Agreement stating the student will assume the remaining costs that are not covered by VA benefits.

## Housing Allowance

VA benefits may provide a housing allowance. Go to this [BAH calculator](#) to see what Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) you might receive. Generally, chapter 33 housing allowance uses the E-5 *with dependents* rate, regardless of what rank or grade was held during military service. Reedley College zip code is 93654. Students who are less than

100% covered by VA benefits or who are enrolled at less than the full-time amount of college classes may receive less than full BAH. Consult with the RC VA School Certifying Official or RC VA Services Counselor for specifics.

## Delay of housing allowance and book stipend

BAH and book stipends typically arrive the month AFTER it is accomplished (BAH for September arrives on October 1).

Students must be prepared for the first BAH payment and book stipend to be delayed for as long as two months into the semester. VA students also need to be financially ready to cover all the non-VA covered expenses, books, flight equipment, rent, food, vehicle expenses, and fuel while waiting for the arrival of the first BAH payment and book stipend.

The sooner a VA student COMPLETES all requirements to apply for VA benefits and is authorized to enter the degree, the sooner the College can certify the student to the VA and the less likely the first BAH and book stipend will be delayed.

It is strongly recommended that students using VA benefits complete 100% of the application procedures for Flight Science and for using VA benefits more than 60 days prior to the start of the first day of classes.

## Recommendations:

Apply to enter the Flight Science degree as soon as possible. See *Instructions to Enter Flight Science* online document.

Apply to use VA benefits at Reedley College as soon as possible on the federal [VA website](#).

Work with the Reedley College VA Certifying Official and get all VA paperwork completed.

Apply for federal financial aid regardless of the amount of VA benefits expected.

At financial aid, if recently separated from military service, apply for a Special Circumstance Waiver for the previous year's income to see if it is possible to qualify for additional federal financial aid.

It is highly recommended all students using VA benefits take at least one General Education course per semester to ensure the A.S. degree is completed by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester when all the flight training is completed.

Contact a Reedley College VA Services Counselor for questions on additional services available for veterans enrolled at Reedley College. This Counselor will also assist students selecting general education courses for each semester.

Reedley College VA School Certifying Official:

Ms. Miette Sasselli: [miette.sasselli@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:miette.sasselli@reedleycollege.edu) or call (559) 494-3000 ext. 3102

VA Services Counselor:

Rolando Zapata: [rolando.zapata@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:rolando.zapata@reedleycollege.edu) or call (559) 494-3000 ext. 3720