

# VA Benefits in the Flight Science Degree

## General Suggestions and Instructions

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) 638-0300 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 costs (airplane rental and flight instructor costs) normally paid to the College. See *Course Progression & Cost* document 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 may receive \$500 in a book stipend ( $\$41 \times 12 \text{ credits} = \$500$ ).

## Costs NOT generally covered by VA benefits

Any expenses **NOT** paid directly to the College are generally NOT 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 (\$160 each, five written tests across entire program)

- FAA flight exams (\$600-\$800 each, four flight exams across entire program)

- Reliable transportation, maintenance, fuel

- Extra flight lab costs for students who weigh 220-250 lbs. (approx. \$7,000 across the entire program)

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

## VA 85/15 Rule

Students using VA benefits are allowed into the degree on a limited basis due to the VA 85/15 rule whereby if more than 85% of students in a degree are using VA benefits, then no *new* VA students can enter that degree.

Once a VA student is in a degree *and is continually taking classes towards that degree*, then the 85/15 rule will NOT affect those students. See the *Student Handbook* 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.

## 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 93675. Students who are less than 100% covered by VA benefits 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 need to be financially ready to cover all the non-VA expenses (flight equipment, FAA testing, etc.), books, 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 that 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 more than 60 days prior to the start of the first semester of classes.

## Recommendations:

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

VA Services Counselor:

Sue Vang ([sue.vang@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:sue.vang@reedleycollege.edu)) or (559) 638-0300 ext. 3634

If Ms. Vang is unavailable, these counselors can help:

Aimee Taylor ([aimee.taylor@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:aimee.taylor@reedleycollege.edu)) or (559) 638-0300 ext. 3337

Tina Lopez ([tina.lopez@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:tina.lopez@reedleycollege.edu)) or (559) 638-0300 ext. 3337

Lupe George ([lupe.george@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:lupe.george@reedleycollege.edu)) (559) 638-0300 ext. 3337