

2020-2021 Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program Information

About the Program:

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) provides education benefits to spouses and children of military members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who have been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as totally and permanently disabled or at least 90 percent permanently disabled as a result of military service. Military service includes service in the United States Armed Forces, United States Forces Reserves, or the Virginia National Guard.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is responsible for managing the program and collaborates with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and Virginia's public colleges and universities to assist spouses and children of qualified military service members and Veterans in attaining their educational goals. (See the Code of Virginia, Section 23-7.4:1.)

What does VMSDEP Cover?

Students who are certified are eligible for educational benefits (a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees). **Housing, meals, and other non-educational costs are not included.**

Stipend Information:

In addition, as funds are available, eligible students may receive a stipend to offset other educational expenses incurred by the student, such as room, board, books, and supplies. Please note that the stipend is **not available** for the advance purchase of books.

Only students appearing on the verification rosters released by SCHEV to the institutions will be funded for the terms specified as authorized, regardless of certification/verification from any other source.

Stipend Priority Funding System:

Because there may not be sufficient funding to make full VMSDEP stipends to all eligible students, a priority funding system will be used to determine the order and number of stipends. Students in a higher Priority category must receive their full projected annual stipend, as determined by SCHEV based on student enrollment level, before subsequent categories are considered for funding. Only students appearing on the verification rosters released by SCHEV to the institutions will be funded for the terms specified as authorized, regardless of certification/verification from any other source.

The Application/Disbursement Process:

To apply for VMSDEP, students must submit the application on the Virginia Military Survivors website <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/virginia-military-survivors-and-dependents-education-program-2-2-2>

Once approved, students are required to report enrollment plans via the VMSDEP portal for each term they wish to use benefits. Once the request is approved by VMSDEP, the student's name will be placed on our roster in the VMSDEP portal. Your financial aid account will be noted with your enrollment credits and expected tuition amount. Please note VMSDEP only covers the tuition costs. Housing and Meals are not included.

Funds will be applied to the student account AFTER the drop/add deadline of each term upon completion of enrollment confirmation.

Students eligible for the stipend will receive those funds later in the semester once approved by the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV).

2020-2021 Authorization Deadline:

NEW VMSDEP authorization deadlines have been set for Old Dominion University effective immediately. They are as follows:

2020-21 Enrollment Confirmations	
TERM	DEADLINE
Fall 2020	August 1 st , 2021
Spring 2021	August 1 st , 2021
Summer 2021	August 1 st , 2021

No confirmations will be accepted after **August 1st**.

Need Assistance?

DO NOT allow technical issues to prevent you from requesting your benefits. Contact VMSDEP directly for help with technical issues. Representatives are available to assist you Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Their contact information is as follows:

VMSDEP Contact Information
Phone: (804) 225-2083
Secure Fax: (804) 786-0809
Email: vmsdep@dvs.virginia.gov

Also, sign up for VMSDEP updates so you do not miss any important announcements! Text “VMSDEP” to 42828 or you can click [here](#).

Delays in submitting your VMSDEP request can lead to holds and late penalties. To avoid delays and possible late penalties, submit your request in a timely manner and by following up with VMSDEP should have questions or concerns.

Have questions? Contact us!

- VMSDEP Tuition Payments: Latrese Parker at lnparker@odu.edu
- VMSDEP Stipends: Sharon Mason at smason@odu.edu

Information about other education benefits programs

The Financial Aid Office only oversees VMSDEP. All other education benefits programs are handled by the Office of the Registrar.

Information about the administration of education assistance under the Veterans Administration may be obtained from the VA website: www.vba.va.gov. Students wishing to use their VA benefits at Old Dominion University may find further information on the University Registrar’s web page: <http://www.odu.edu/military/students/veterans-services>.

Contact the Office of the University Registrar for further assistance:

Phone: 757 683-4425

Fax: 757 683-5357

Email: vaservices@odu.edu