

## VA Benefits Policy

It is the policy of Allegheny College to reward students receiving Veteran’s Benefits as generously as possible. Allegheny College participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program and VA benefits are not counted as Estimated Financial Assistance in the calculation of demonstrated need for Federal and State grants. Allegheny College will not impose any penalty to a covered student (including late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries or other institutional facilities) due to a delayed payment from VA. Additionally, Allegheny College will not require a covered student to borrow funds because of the individual’s inability to meet their financial obligations due to a delayed VA disbursement.

If a covered student qualifies for the Yellow Ribbon program, Allegheny College will make an unlimited matching contribution with VA's Yellow Ribbon award **up to the cost of Tuition and Fees**. A covered student is also able to keep his/her merit award **up to the Cost of Attendance** after the VA Chapter 33 cap amount and Yellow Ribbon amounts have been awarded. If a covered student previously received institutional need-based grant, notably the Allegheny Grant, and it puts the student in a credit position after the VA benefits are awarded, then that award will be reduced so total award **does not exceed the Cost of Attendance**. The covered student's BHA (Basic Housing Allowance) and Book stipend will go directly to the student and will be in addition to Financial Aid awarded by Allegheny College. A covered student may still be eligible for federal work study or campus employment and federal student loans.

Allegheny College permits any covered student to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date the **student provides their Certificate of Eligibility** for entitlement to educational assistance under Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 and ends on the date payment is received from VA or 90 days after the date Allegheny College certifies tuition and fees. Prior to Allegheny College certifying enrollment, the covered student must complete the Allegheny College Certification Request form and provide the Financial Aid Office with a “Certificate of Eligibility” to authenticate their entitlement for educational assistance. Allegheny College will accept a “Statement of Benefits” from the VA website until the student can provide a copy of their official “Certificate of Eligibility”.

[Please Note](#)

- \*Covered students admitted prior to Fall of 2020 are grandfathered into the previous VA awarding policy.
- \*A covered student/individual is any individual who is entitled to educational assistance under Chapter 31 or Chapter 33.
- \*Allegheny College reserves the right to use any merit scholarships as part of our Yellow Ribbon contribution.
- \*Students will automatically be certified for each qualifying enrollment period unless written notification is submitted to the School Certifying Official indicating a different directive (Leave of Absence, Transfer, Decline Benefit, etc.)

**Example:** John Smith is a veteran who is eligible to receive the Post 9/11 GI Bill at 100% benefit level (qualifying for VA Yellow Ribbon). John has also received a merit scholarship for \$20,000.00 from Allegheny College

Tuition and Fees for 2020-2021 AY (est.) = \$50,200.00	VA Tuition Cap amount (est.) = \$25,000.00
Total Cost of Attendance for 2020-2021 AY (est.) = \$67,360.00	Trustee Merit Scholarship (est.) + \$20,000.00

Fall 2020	Spring 2021
\$25,000 - VA full cap amount (est.)	\$12,550.00 - VA Yellow Ribbon Contribution
\$50.00 - Allegheny Yellow Ribbon contribution	\$12,550.00 - Allegheny Yellow Ribbon Contribution
\$50.00 - VA Yellow Ribbon contribution	\$8,580.00 - Trustee Scholarship (reduced from \$10K)
\$8,580.00 - Trustee Scholarship (reduced from \$10K)	
<b>\$33,680.00 - Total 2020 Fall Awards</b> (+ Title IV funds/State aid if applicable)	<b>\$33,680.00 - Total 2021 Spring Awards</b> (+ Title IV funds/State aid if applicable)
<b>\$33,680.00 + \$33,680.00 = \$67,360.00</b> (Total Cost of Attendance for 2020-2021 AY)	

\*BAH and book stipend amounts go directly to John on top of the Financial Aid Awards mentioned above.