



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the Post 9/11 GI Bill

What Senate Bill 3503 Means for Students



In the interest of public safety due to COVID-19, Jefferson State Community College has modified on-campus courses to online. This change raises questions about the impact to GI Bill benefits and housing allowances. A bill was signed into law on March 21st taking action on this issue. Below are some answers to questions you may have regarding these changes.

Q1 - If my on-campus classes were switched to online, will my tuition and fees be paid the same?

A1 - Yes. Regardless of if a course is taught on-campus or online, the tuition and fee rates are the same, so the VA will cover your tuition and fees at the percentage of Post 9/11 you are eligible for.

Q2 - What about my monthly housing allowance? I know I get the full rate I have to have at least one class on campus, so if classes are all online how will that work?

A2 - Based on the new bill, Post 9/11 students taking on-campus classes that were converted to an online class SOLELY due to COVID-19 will continue to receive the housing rate for on-campus training.

Q3 - What if I'm taking a remedial course such as ENR 098, ENG 099, MTH 098 or MTH 099? Don't those have to be on campus for the VA to pay for them?

A3 - They do, but just like on-campus classes that were converted to online SOLELY due to COVID-19, remedial training that has been converted to online due to COVID-19 will continue to be treated as an on-campus class.

Q4 - I'm taking steps to be safe such as practicing social distancing, but what if I become ill due to COVID-19 and cannot continue my classes and I have to withdraw?

A4 - If you were to become ill with COVID-19 and are not able to complete your courses, you would need to provide documentation from a health professional and we will process your withdrawal as a mitigating circumstance due to COVID-19 with the VA. In this situation, you would not continue to receive housing payments beyond the last day of attendance with Jeff State.

Q5 - What about future semesters such as Summer or Fall? What if the college is still closed due COVID-19 for those semesters and all classes are taught online?

A5 - The bill is in effect beginning March 1st, 2020 through December 21st, 2020. Therefore, if an on-campus class offered in the Summer or Fall of this year is converted to an online course due to COVID-19, housing will be paid at the on-campus rate. This ONLY applies for classes originally noted on the schedule as on-campus classes being converted to online.

Q6 - Since Jefferson State is closed, how can I register for the Summer semester and submit my VA documents?

A5 - Online registration for the Summer is currently open through your One ACCS Student Portal. Please log in to your portal and select "Registration" to sign up for classes. For assistance with choosing classes, you can email advising@jeffersonstate.edu or va@jeffersonstate.edu. To submit your VA Documents, you will need to email those as well to va@jeffersonstate.edu and we will process your certification with the VA in a timely manner to ensure you receive your benefits.

Jefferson State Community College's Office of Veterans Affairs is committed to providing you the best service possible during these difficult times. Please email any questions you have to va@jeffersonstate.edu or call the VA Hotline at 888-442-4551 for specific information about your benefits.