



Matthew Thompson Veterans Center Veteran Information Bulletin

Frequently Asked Questions

It is the mission of the Matthew Thompson Veterans Center of Concordia University Irvine to assist our military-connected students by providing timely information, resources, and comprehensive programs that increase student academic success and completion of their academic goals.

We aim to cultivate personalized connections with all of our military-connected students to ensure that you are maximizing your VA education benefits and enable you to utilize on-campus, local, state and federal resources.

Even if your question is answered in this bulletin, we want to invite you to have a conversation to ensure that all considerations regarding your unique situation are thoroughly explored and all of your follow-up questions are answered.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Certifying Officials:

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What is the housing allowance rate for the Post 9/11 GI Bill ®?

The GI Bill ®'s Military Housing Allowance (MHA) depends on whether or not you are taking at least one in-person unit and the location any residential courses are taught. The MHA rate if you are taking exclusively online courses is half of the national average.

Concordia University Irvine has two extension campuses that serve our Nursing programs. These campuses have no administrative capacity and all certifying will be done through our main Turtle Rock campus in Irvine. Please note that our Rancho Cucamonga campus will generally have a significantly different Housing Allowance rate while one uses VA benefits for in-person learning than our campuses in Irvine. To check the updated Housing Allowance rates please check the links below:

Turtle Rock Campus

1530 Concordia West

Irvine, CA 92612

<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/?search=location&location=92612>

Spectrum Campus

16355 Laguna Canyon Rd

Irvine, CA 92618

<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/?search=location&location=92618>

Rancho Cucamonga Campus

10750 4th Street

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/?search=location&location=91730>

*MHA is only paid out to students when they are actively enrolled in a course. For example, if your classes start on the 11th of a 30 day month, you will be enrolled for 20 of the 30 days of the month and only receive two thirds of the housing allowance rate that you qualify for during that month. MHA payments are paid retroactively for the previous month, so you will receive September's MHA payment at the end of September for example.



How do I apply for admission to Concordia University Irvine?

You can find application fees at the following links:

- [Undergraduate](#)
- [Graduate](#)
- [Nursing](#)
- [Continuing education](#) degree programs

Note: Application Fees for Admissions are waived for Veterans and Servicemembers for all programs.

How do I send you my Official Joint Service Transcript (JST)?

Click on the following links to access your military transcripts. Having your Official Transcripts sent digitally from the Department of Defense is completely fine.

- [Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy: Active Duty, Reserve and Veterans](#)
 - 1. Log on to <https://jst.doded.mil/jst/>
 - 2. Register or log in (If you have an issue logging in or with your JST you can email them at jst@doded.mil)
 - 3. Click "Request Official JST"
 - 4. Under School Search, type in Concordia University
 - 5. Choose the option with the 1530 Concordia W, Irvine, CA 92612 address.
 - 6. Click Send Official JST Transcript.
- [Air Force](#)
 - Watch a [video](#) walking you through the Air University Portal.



Note: If you are still serving, you should request a new military transcript to be sent to Concordia each time you complete a military school.

I obtained a 100% rate for the Post 9/11 GI Bill®, do I still need to do the Free Application for Federal and Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov?

Though optional, ROTC and U.S. military veterans are encouraged to apply for free as you may be eligible for grants and / or loans. Veterans education benefits do not count as income in determining your eligibility for Federal Financial Aid (Concordia's school code 013885). For more information contact the [Financial Aid Office](#).

Note: If you are a veteran of the Armed Forces it changes your dependency status to Independent. If this is the only thing making you an Independent (i.e. you are under 24, not married, have no dependents, etc.), we must confirm that you are a veteran by obtaining a copy of your DD-214.

What VA benefits do I/my child qualify for?

Only the VA determines eligibility for VA benefits. However, there are general requirements to become eligible for each benefit. You are highly encouraged to contact the Director of the Matthew Thompson Veterans Center no matter where you are in the process of applying or looking into benefits to make sure that all paperwork is squared away and that you are fully informed about any additional benefits that you might qualify for. When anything is unclear or if you have any questions, please call the Certifying Official's office to have a discussion with the Director at (949) 214-3129.

If you want to speak with a representative that works for the VA about your potential benefits, the best option for you is to call the GI Bill® hotline at 1 (888) 442-4551. Other great resources are your local County's Veterans Service Office (VSO).



How do I apply for VA educational benefits?

- Veterans applying for the first time for the Post 9/11 GI Bill: [VA form 22-1990](#)
- Dependents (ch33 Post 9/11) applying for their first time: [VA form 22-1990e](#)
- Dependents (ch 35 & FRY) applying for their first time: [VA form 22-5490](#)
 - Do this early as it can take 3-5 weeks to receive your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by letter mail. If you have any questions, call the VA at 888-442-4551. Press 1, press 0.
 - If you have previously applied for benefits this step can be skipped. Provide the Veterans Service Office with a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility. If you are a transfer student, please complete one of the following forms:
 - [GI Bills ® \(ch 30, ch 1606, ch 33 VA Form 22-1995\)](#)
 - [GI Bills ® \(ch 35 & FRY VA Form 22-5495\)](#)

*You may be entitled for the GI Bill ®, however, you must still apply for it and receive your Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

**For dependents using the Ch 33 Transfer of Entitlement, the sponsor must transfer benefits through the [DoD website](#), while still actively serving. The dependent will receive an award letter in about 3-5 weeks, at which point, they can apply for the Ch 33 benefits through the VA.