

# Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits & Programs Overview June 30, 2022



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The mission of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is to work on behalf of Wisconsin's veterans community — veterans, their families and their survivors — in recognition of their service and sacrifice to our state and nation.



#### **Veterans Benefits**

- WisDOT Veteran Identifier
- Wisconsin GI Bill
- Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant
- Disabled Veterans & Unremarried Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit
- Professional/Occupational License Fee Waiver
- WisDNR Returning Service Members Voucher
- Veteran-Owned Business Certifications

- Veterans Assistance Grant
- Veterans Employment Grant
- Entrepreneurship Grant
- Nonprofit Grant
- VetEd (Veterans Education)
   Reimbursement Grant
- Retraining Grant
- VSO, CVSO, TVSO Grants
- County Transportation Grant







#### **Programs & Services**

**Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program** 

Veterans Housing and Recovery Program (King, Union Grove, Chippewa Falls)

**State Approving Agency** 

**Bureau of Claims** 

**Veterans Homes (King, Union Grove, Chippewa Falls)** 

**Veterans Cemeteries (King, Union Grove Spooner)** 

**Military Funeral Honors Program** 

#### Wisconsin G.I. Bill

- Remits 100% of eligible tuition and fees up to 128 credits or 8 semesters (whichever ends up being greater).
- University of Wisconsin System or Wisconsin Technical College System Institutions.
- For qualifying Wisconsin veterans, spouses, and dependent children.
- No income limits.
- No delimiting period during which benefit may be used.
- No limits on level of study
- WDVA determines veteran's eligibility, while UWS and WTCS administer the benefit.



#### Wisconsin G.I. Bill - Limits

- 2.0 Cumulative GPA Limit
- Age Limit for Dependent Children
  - May only be certified for and use the benefit between the ages of 17 and 26.
- Generally must use USDVA Educational Benefits First
  - Exceptions: Apprenticeships with Federal GI Bill
     Partial Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits

### Wisconsin G.I. Bill - Eligibility

- Service requirement
  - For veteran students:
    - 90 days of active duty during wartime
    - Two consecutive years of active duty during peacetime
    - Exceptions for a discharge due to a service-connected disability, reasons of hardship, or reduction in forces
    - Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge
  - For spouse & dependent students:
    - One day of active duty
    - Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge

### Wisconsin G.I. Bill - Eligibility

- Residency requirement
  - Veteran, spouse, & dependent students MUST be current
     Wisconsin residents, AND one of the following must be met:
    - Veteran was a resident of Wisconsin at time of entry or re-entry into active service (Home of Record of Wisconsin).

#### OR

 Veteran has held 5 consecutive years of Wisconsin residency immediately preceding the beginning of the semester/session.

### Wisconsin G.I. Bill - Eligibility

Disability Requirement

 Veteran must have been awarded at least a 30% disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA).

\*Only Applies to Dependent and Spouse Applications

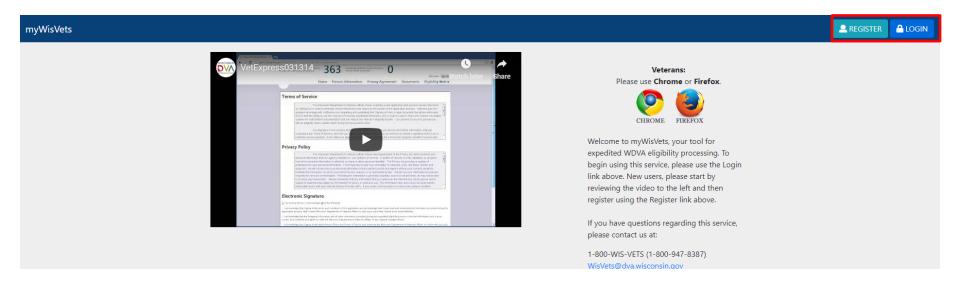
#### Wisconsin G.I. Bill – Application Process

- Wisconsin G.I. Bill applications may be submitted in one of two ways:
  - Complete WDVA Form 2030 (Request for Certification for Wisconsin GI Bill)

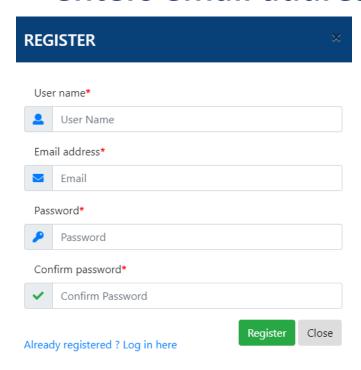
OR

- Apply by using myWisVets
  - Dependent and Spouse applications may be submitted via myWisVets

- Go to myWisVets.com.
- If a veteran does not yet have a myWisVets account, click "Register".
- If a veteran already has a myWisVets account, click "Login".
- Dependents & spouses should NOT register on myWisVets. Veteran must create account and add their dependents after their eligibility has been evaluated.

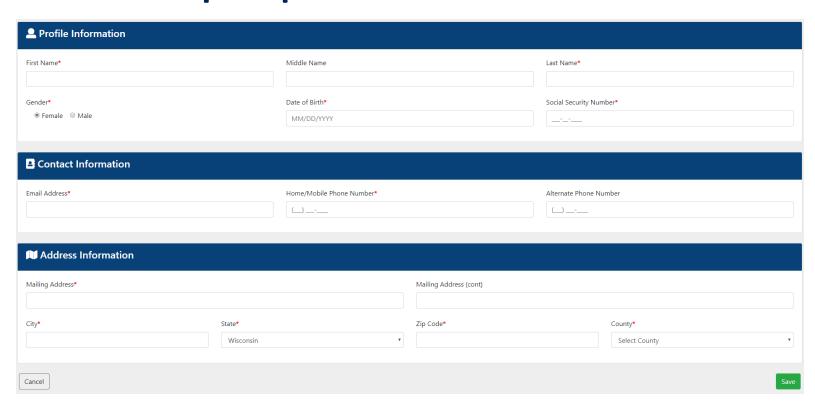


 Veteran creates Username & Password, and enters email address:

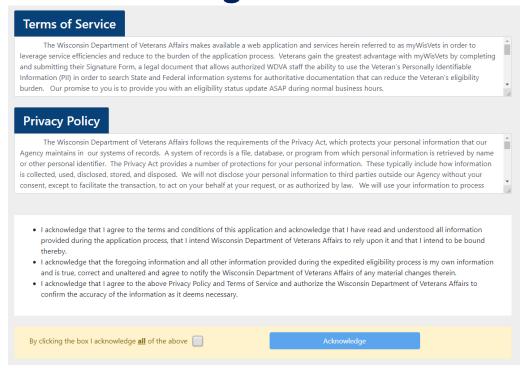


 Veteran then receives email with a confirmation link they must click on in order to activate their account.

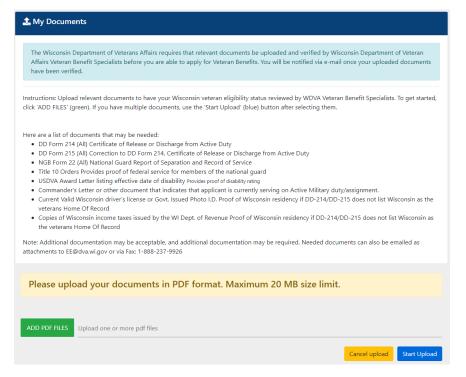
Veteran inputs personal information:



 Veteran completes Privacy Agreement and submits Electronic Signature:



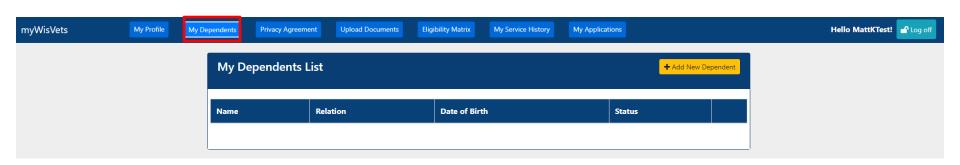
- Veteran uploads documents to support an eligibility determination:
  - e.g. DD-214, DD-215, Proof of WI Residency, Proof of VA disability



 Veterans Benefits Resource Center (VBRC) staff will review the submission within 1 business day, and veteran will receive an email informing them their Eligibility Matrix has been updated.

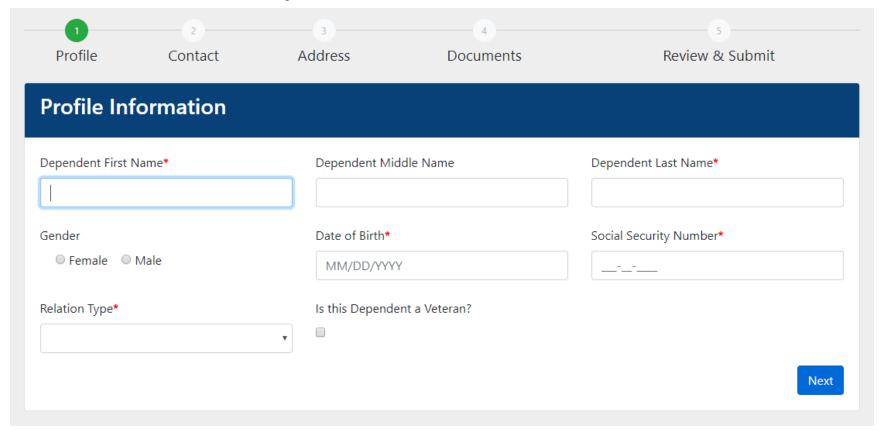
 Veterans cannot add dependents until after VBRC staff has reviewed the submission and made an initial evaluation of eligibility.

- Veterans can then click on "My Dependents" and add family members.
  - Proof of relationship to the veteran must be uploaded (for purposes of database integrity).
  - VBRC staff will then either approve the addition of the dependent or request further proof from the veteran.



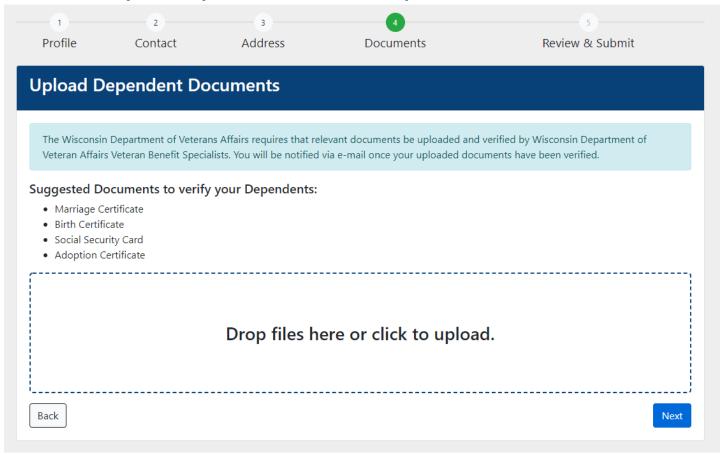


Veteran enters dependent's information.





Veteran uploads proof of relationship.



- After the addition of the dependent(s) is approved:
  - Veteran will receive email informing them dependent is added.
  - Go to the "Eligibility Matrix".
  - Click "Apply Online Now" for WI G.I. Bill.

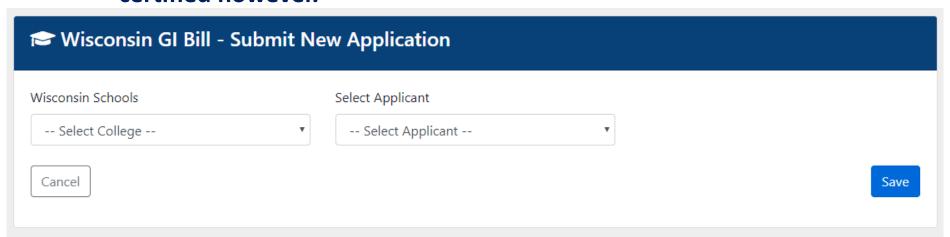


Your eligibility to apply for WI G.I. Bill - Veterans

Remits full tuition and segregated/district fees for eligible veterans up to eight semesters or 128 credits at any University of Wisconsin or Wisconsin Technical College System school. To be eligible, the veteran must have at least one qualifying term of active service under honorable conditions and either entered active service as a Wisconsin resident or resided in Wisconsin for at least five consecutive years immediately preceding application. The veteran must also be a current Wisconsin resident.



- Choose the appropriate school from the dropdown menu.
- Choose the appropriate applicant from the dropdown menu.
  - Any dependents approved by VBRC staff would be available to choose from the dropdown.
  - Only qualifying spouses and dependents between 17 and 26 will be certified however.



#### Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant

- Provides a tuition grant for up to 128 credits or 8 semesters (whichever is longer).
- Private non-profit educational institutions that are members of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU).
  - https://www.waicu.org/about/our-members
- For qualifying Wisconsin veterans, spouses, and dependent children.
- No income limits.
- No delimiting period during which benefit may be used.
- For bachelor's or graduate level programs
- WDVA determines veteran's eligibility, while Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) administers the benefit.

# Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant - Eligibility

- Service & Residency requirements apply to veteran, spouse, and dependent child applicants.
- If veteran's Home of Record was not Wisconsin, the veteran must have 5+ years of Wisconsin residency immediately preceding application.
- Disability requirement of 30% VA rating applies
   ONLY to spouse or dependent child applicants.

#### Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant - Limits

- Credit/semester pool is shared between Wisconsin GI Bill & Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant
  - Tuition grants may be made for up 128 credits or 8 semesters <u>minus</u> the number of credits or semesters utilized for tuition remission under the Wisconsin GI Bill.
- Age limit for dependent children
  - May only be certified for and use the benefit between the ages of 17 and 26.
- 2.0 cumulative GPA limit
- Generally must exhaust U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits first

## Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant Resources

- How to Apply:
  - Complete and submit WDVA Form 2059 to WDVA.
    - Note: There is currently no online application process through myWisVets for the Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant.
  - Complete the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board's (HEAB) <u>Wisconsin Veterans Grant for Private Non-Profit</u>
     Schools form and submit to HEAB.
- Resources:
  - Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant Website

#### VetEd (Veterans Education) Grant

- Tuition Reimbursement based on a creditbank system that is determined by the length of active duty service.
- Only for veterans who have not yet received a Bachelor's Degree.
- Reimbursement issued following successful course completion at a UWS, WTCS, or approved private institution.
- Income requirement



#### **Retraining Grant**

- Recently unemployed or underemployed veterans may receive up to \$3,000 per year (for a maximum of 2 years) while being retrained for employment.
- Must be enrolled in technical college or on-the-job training (OJT) program expected to lead to employment.
- For technical education, reimbursement goes to veteran.
- For OJT, benefit is paid to employers to offset wages during training period.

#### Questions?

- First Point of Contact for eligibility questions is the Veterans Benefits Resource Center (VBRC).
  - (800) WIS-VETS (947-8387)
  - WisVets@dva.wisconsin.gov
  - Visit WisVets.com (chat feature available)
- For more complicated questions or issues:
  - Matthew Korbol, VBRC Team Lead
    - (608) 266-1309
    - Matthew.Korbol@dva.wisconsin.gov
  - Jeff Darby, Veterans Assistance Section Supervisor
    - (608) 267-1782
    - Jeff.Darby@dva.wisconsin.gov



