The Veterans Center Team is excited to bring back our Veterans Center quarterly newsletter to provide updates, news, and important information to the students we serve. This winter 2021 edition contains some information about changes to the Veterans Center due to COVID-19, answers about the certification process for VA benefits, and much more.

Important Winter 2021 Dates

- Classes Begin – January 5
- Tuition and Fees Due – January 11
- Add/Drop Deadline – January 11
- MLK Jr. Day, No Class – January 18
- Presidents Day – February 15
- Classes End – March 12
- Final Exams – March 16 to 19
- End of Quarter – March 19
- Grades Due – March 23

Winter VA Benefit Certification

To prevent delays in receiving your VA education benefit, please ensure that the Veterans Center has all of the necessary paperwork needed to certify your benefit, by visiting the Veterans Center Canvas course. Staff will mark documents that were received with a score of 1/1.

VA Tuition and Fee payments

If you are a student using Chapter 33 or Chapter 31, your tuition and fee payment from the VA typically arrives 1-2 weeks after our office is able to certify your benefit. While this tuition fee is pending, you will not receive a late fee if it arrives after the payment deadline. Please note that you are responsible for any charges on your student account not covered by the tuition and fee payment (i.e. housing, dining, etc.)
COVID-19 Changes at the Veterans Center

As some of us already know, the Veterans Center has moved from allowing walk-ins during business hours to appointments only, during the fall quarter. This change was made in order to ensure that staff has the ability to regulate traffic and to keep the lounge sanitary and safe. Looking ahead to the winter quarter, the Veterans Center will continue this practice. Some good news! It is very easy to sign up for an appointment to access the Veterans Center Services; by visiting [www.cwu.edu/veterans](http://www.cwu.edu/veterans). On the homepage you are able to schedule a time to meet with a Veterans Center staff member, or print for free in the lounge. Before COVID-19, the Veterans Lounge was a space that offered a quiet and comfortable place to relax, study, and connect with fellow veterans and we look forward to having the space available again when allowable.

Veterans Book Club

Do you love to read? If so, you will want to join the Veterans Book Club! The 2021 winter quarter Veterans Book Club will be focusing on “You Are Worth It” an autobiographical account from Kyle Carpenter, a USMC Medal of Honor recipient. This book club is a collaboration between the Veterans Center, CWU Libraries, and Professional Advising. Current students who signed-up for the book club before November 10th were able to receive a free copy of Kyle’s book. The book club will meet twice during the winter 2021 quarter; once near the beginning of the quarter, and once near its end. The meetings will be virtual, and are open to all CWU community members who wish to participate in the book club. If you would like to participate in the book club, please contact the Veterans Center for additional information.
Hi. My name is Sherice Fraser, and I am the president of the Veterans Club. I was born and raised in Portmore, Jamaica. I am currently living in Washington, but the home state of my heart is Florida. I am a veteran of the U.S Army, and I have served six years in the Food Service industry. Currently, I am a student and future commissioning officer at Central Washington University. My hobbies include singing, reading, watching TV, practicing instruments, and working out at the gym. I hope to help the student veteran campus community by seeking ways to increase and maintain veteran’s retention and support and encouraging events that build Vet-cohesion.

To join the CWU Veterans Club, email cwuveterans@gmail.com

As the Vet Corps Navigator for CWU, I take pride in helping accomplish the Vet Corps Mission of empowering and supporting those who served, their families, and our communities. I am very passionate about helping with the transition to student-life for veterans and their dependents. As a current student attending CWU, I understand that there are many challenges that students often face. I hope to be able to gain more insight on the needs of our students and work with the university to meet those needs. Creating a more veteran-friendly campus is my ultimate goal while serving in this position.
VA Benefits

Each quarter, we receive questions about what happens behind the scenes with VA Education Benefits, and how they are certified. To provide some clarity, we’d like to share general overview of the process. The initial step for our office to certify a benefit is to ensure that we have received all of the necessary paperwork. This will vary slightly by the type of benefit being used. Our office collects this paperwork on Canvas, where we are able to mark the documents as received so you know we have all of the paperwork needed. When you enroll in classes, you should receive a popup message that asks if you want to be certified. When you answer yes, our office receives a copy of your class schedule to report your classes to the VA.

Common Certification Questions

Q. Why is there a hold on my account?
A. We have to report any change in enrollment to the VA after we certify your VA benefit, which is why we add an enrollment hold to your account once you have been certified. This hold does not impact your ability to register for future quarters.

Q. What if you can’t certify one of my classes?
A. We can only certify classes if they are required for the completion of your degree or program. If we can’t determine why you are enrolled in a class, we will email you asking you to have your academic advisor email our office with a description of why the class is required.

Q. What happens if my tuition and fee payment arrives after the payment deadline?
A. You will not be charged a late fee if your tuition and fee payment arrives after the payment deadline as long as we receive confirmation that you want to use benefit before add/drop.

Q. What VA benefits get paid directly to CWU?
A. The only VA benefits that get paid directly to CWU, are the Tuition and Fee payments for Chapters 31 and 33. No housing or dining charges are paid directly to CWU. It is a student’s responsibility to pay for their housing, dining, parking fees and bookstore charges, to name a few, as well as to set up a payment plan if they are not paying all of the housing and dining charges before payment deadline.

Contact Information

CWU Veterans Center - P: 509-963-3028 E: VA@cwu.edu
VA Education Center - P:1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)