GI Bill beneficiaries,

Boise State Veteran Services hopes you are doing well this Fall semester. We also want to make sure you receive your benefits in a timely manner, so here are some updates as well as reminders. Please be sure to read this entire email as there is a lot of important information below.

DECLARATIONS
This is a reminder in reference to Fall 2017 enrollments. For every semester you wish to use your GI Bill benefits, you need to notify our office by:
- visiting our [website](#)
- select the orange Submit Declaration button (located toward the middle of the page)
- fill out the declaration page

VETERAN SERVICES HOLD
The current Veteran Services enrollment hold on your MyBoiseState student center is for Fall 2017 semester only and does not affect your enrollment for the Spring 2018.

When our office processes your Spring 2018 declaration you will once again see a Veteran Services hold placed on your student account. Please note: Prior to submitting your declaration, your class schedule needs to be complete with no pending changes or waitlists! If you are on a waitlist this hold will stop you from ever coming off of the waitlist and you would also not be able to make any schedule changes.

NEW PROCESS
If you need to make class changes after the hold has been placed, you will need to submit a “Hold Lift Request”. You can find this form listed on our website under [Use Your GI Bill Benefits](#).

You will be notified within 3 business days that the hold has been temporarily lifted.

This Fall there were nearly 100 hold lift requests and schedule changes. Starting Spring 2018 any schedule changes after a declaration has been submitted will not be certified to the VA until after all initial enrollments from other students have been submitted to the VA.

Be aware, making any changes after your enrollment has been submitted to the VA can ultimately result in a debt to the VA and/or Boise State, as well as impact your monthly stipend. Please be absolutely sure your schedule is complete prior to submitting a declaration. We are available for advising, if needed.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

CH’s 30, 35, 1606 - The funds sent to you by the VA are intended to pay your tuition. If you do not have enough financial aid to cover your tuition, you will need to make sure you have the remainder of your bill paid PRIOR to the end of the term. We cannot remove late fees for prior terms.
CH 30's and CH 1606's you will need to verify your attendance at the end of every month in order to get paid. This can be done through WAVE.

CH33 – Your tuition and fees should have already posted on your university account or should post by the middle of October, at the latest, and your account will show a credit. If financial aid paid your tuition first, then you should receive a refund for the amount of tuition that was paid by the VA (this is based on your eligibility rating). If you have a percentage rating, you will need to make sure you have the remainder of your bill paid PRIOR to the end of the term. We cannot remove late fees for prior terms. If you do not see a payment of tuition and fees (CH33 ACH Deposit) by November, and you had submitted your declaration, please notify our office.

If you are unsure of your full time status, please call our office. Full time for Financial Aid is not the same as full time for the VA!

SERVICES AVAILABLE

ACADEMIC/CAREER ADVISING
Our office hired Brian Chojnacky, an academic/career advisor this last year. He is a great resource to make sure you are on the right academic path, help you plan your GI Bill, and also for looking forward to what happens after graduation. You can book an appointment with Brian [here](#). He can also share “all the best bike and ski trails”.

FREE TUTORING
Once again, our office will continue providing free tutoring services in the spring semester. We will update you on availability once the semester has started.

If you are proficient in a subject and would like to be able to offer your services free to other Veterans, please contact us. If you are using your GI Bill benefits, at least ¾ time or more, you may qualify to be paid as a VA Workstudy.

EARLY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM Standard message rates apply.
Our office is trying to make it easier for you to remember processes. If you would like to receive reminders:

- text @verify to 81010 to receive reminders regarding verifying your attendance to the VA
- text @gibill to 81010 to receive reminders regarding the use of your benefits.

P.A.V.E (Peer Advisor for Veteran Education)
PAVE is a new Veteran to Veteran, as well as Dependent to Dependent, program to connect upper-classman students with new incoming students. Remember when you first came to campus and felt overwhelmed with all the processes, or even how to find the library? This program is designed to help with just that. If you have been on campus at least a couple of semesters and would like to give back, or if you are that new student who needs a little extra guidance please email VeteranMentor@boisestate.edu and express your interest.
**Student Veterans of America (SVA)**
The heart of SVA is the student-led chapter. SVA supports a network of over 1,300 schools and over 500,000 student veterans. At the individual level, SVA empowers veterans to be informed consumers of higher education and make the most of the transition to civilian life.
To be part of the Boise State SVA chapter, please sign up on OrgSync, or email DaltonEhrle@u.boisestate.edu.

**TEXT BOOK LENDING LIBRARY**
Our library started with only 250 books in it a year ago, and today we have over 1200. These are for all Veterans and Dependents of Veterans to borrow for a semester. We are in the process of making the checkout process even better than before – this is planned to go live November 11.

If you have a text book you would like to donate to our library, please drop it at our office. This last semester, we loaned out over 100 books and saved students a total of over $8,000!

**VETERANS UPWARD BOUND**
If you find yourself struggling with your math, or are worried about having to take math again, don’t struggle alone. We have tutors, but there is also a free program for Veterans just a few blocks from our office. [https://education.boisestate.edu/vub](https://education.boisestate.edu/vub)

**VETSUCCESS ON CAMPUS (VSOC)**
Sean is our VSOC representative from the VA. He is very knowledgeable of VA benefits, so if you have been debating on applying for your VA disability rating or just don’t know how the process works, he can help you. He also offers short-term counseling, resume development and job placement assistance. [https://veterans.boisestate.edu/vetsuccess](https://veterans.boisestate.edu/vetsuccess)

**NATIONAL VETERANS CRISIS LINE**
Dear Fellow Veterans and Colleagues,
A brief request and a favor. Right now, while you’re reading this … program the number below in your phone. National Veterans Crisis Line, 800-273-8255.
You never know when you or a Veteran you know might need some help, right now. Now you have a number that can help.
Thank you.

Curtis L. Coy
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
VETERANS WRITING GROUP
Veterans, come tell your story in whatever genre you choose - fiction, nonfiction, poetry, blog, or something else entirely. Our writing group is specifically designed for Veterans who want to write.

Boise State faculty and writing professionals will offer one hour workshops at Veteran Services throughout fall semester that are open to all Veterans with any level of writing experience. You can bring work you've already written or we can help you generate new material. We can also help you prepare your work for submission and seek out venues for publication.

The writing group meets October 17, November 7, December 5 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. More detailed information found here.

Questions? Contact Lori Chastaine at lorichastaine@boisestate.edu or Carrie Seymour at Cseymour@boisestate.edu

ASSISTANCE FOR ONLINE STUDENTS
If you are a Veteran, or military affiliated, student new to Online learning, or just have a question, we have a student who has successfully learned to navigate the online learning process. Evan is nearly finished with his undergraduate degree, completing 90% of his courses online while not living in Boise. He will continue on to a Boise State Online Master’s degree program.

Contact Evan for assistance with:
  • Navigating Blackboard
  • Discussion board posts
  • APA or MLA format papers
  • Online learning questions

If it is not on this list, it does not mean he cannot help you, so be sure to ask. Office hours Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Email Evan at EvanMaynard485@u.boisestate.edu or set an appointment with him here.

EXTRA FEES
If you drop a class and incur a $10 drop fee, please note that the VA does NOT pay drop fees. They also will not pay for a lost student ID card fee.

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN
As you may know, the school is once again offering the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) to students. However, since it is not mandatory for the school to offer to all students, your GI Bill benefits will NOT pay the insurance fee. If you are a Veteran, you may have health insurance eligibility through the VA. You can apply by going to the VA hospital enrollment office, making sure that you take a copy of your DD214 to accompany your application. If you are not a Veteran and need help finding coverage please see Student Health Services.
GRADUATION
Congratulations! If you are using CH33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill) you can be reimbursed for your graduation application fee. Please notify our office if you applied for graduation after your declaration was submitted. All Fall application fees should have already been reimbursed. If you are using CH31 (Voc-Rehab), you need to email our office at VeteranServices@boisestate.edu to let us know you have applied so we can get your fee paid before the 48-hour deadline.

Veteran Services will have a table at the Fall 2017 Graduation Fair, November 7, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Student Union. We will be handing out Americana cords, so be sure to pick one up if you are walking in commencement. If you miss the Graduation Fair, cords are available at our office November 8 – December 15. We are also on site at commencement distributing cords.

PAST EVENTS
August 23
PAVE kicked off the semester with some shenanigans, and a good excuse to act like a kid. Veteran Services, PAVE and SVA partnered with the Idaho Army National Guard and brought in their inflatable obstacle course, dodge ball arena, battle balls, and the crowd favorite: nerf archery! I hope you were able to come by and have a fun time, even if just for a few minutes.

August 24
Are You Married to Your Major was a two-hour workshop which explored how one's choice of major matches (or doesn't) one's personality, interests, abilities, and values. Also covered were the hot-job fields in today's labor market.

August 25
PAVE hosted family night game night for new student Veterans and their families.
September 22
PAVE provided wings and snacks for tailgating prior to Boise State vs. Virginia home game, sponsored by Coke®.

September 22
Veteran Services chose the Idaho Veterans Garden as the recipient of $5,000 raised in partnership with Operation Hat Trick. At a small ceremony Friday morning, Boise State’s Veteran Services office presented the check to the local charity. The Idaho Veterans Garden has been a therapeutic garden and gathering place for the community, especially veterans, since its opening in 2013.
UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10
Career Fair Readiness Training, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Student Union Building, Berquist Lounge.

Attention student Veterans! Are you Career Fair ready? To find out, come take advantage of this free workshop, which will give you the confidence needed to maximize your time at this important event. Learn from experts in the field about what today’s employers are looking for. The Boise State Career Center and the Idaho Department of Labor will offer personalized advice on how to best prepare yourself for their upcoming Career Fairs.

October 18
Boise State Career Fair, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Student Union Jordan Ballroom.
Meet with employers face-to-face, gather information, network and seek possible internship and/or career opportunities. During the Fall Career and Graduate School fair, you will also have the opportunity to meet with graduate program representatives.

October 14 and 15
The Idaho National Guard proudly presents Gowen Thunder 2017! On October 14 and 15, 2017, enjoy the incredible sights and sounds of the USAF Thunderbirds and the Canadian Aerial Jet demonstration team, the Snowbirds! Also, witness many other incredible ground performers and partake in a variety of activities over the course of both days. http://gowenthunder.org/

November 6 – 10 – Veteran’s Week events

November 8
Honor a Boise State faculty, or staff, member. Has an employee of Boise State helped you in your educational endeavors and you feel they need to be recognized for it? Nominate them here. During Veterans week, November 6-10, Veteran Services is partnering with PAVE and SVA to honor faculty and staff members of Boise State who are Veterans and providing a free lunch to Veterans who work at Boise State where the nominated staff members will be recognized.

November 9
Hire a Veteran Idaho Department of Labor Career Fair, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Student Union Building, Jordan Ballroom.
A first of its kind hiring event put on by the Idaho Department of Labor and hosted at Boise State University. The goal is to hire 100 veterans who have served the nation and are ready to share their skills with loyal employers.

November 9
Winners from Veterans Writing contest read submissions, 7 p.m. at Rediscovered books, 180 N 8th St, Boise, ID 83702.
November 10

RED Shirt Friday

Veteran’s Day Celebration in the Student Union Building, Jordan D Ballroom, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Winners from Veteran Writing Contest recognized

Watch for the map in the quad all week so you can add a pin where you have served in the world.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Financial Aid application for the next academic year opened up on October 1. Be sure to apply early to alleviate last minute verification issues.

Study.com
A new scholarship they are offering to military veterans pursuing their bachelor’s degree. “We believe education should be accessible to everyone, particularly America’s brave veterans. The Study.com Scholarship for Military Veterans gives one lucky student $500 to help with their tuition.”

Applying for the Scholarship
Students must apply by April 1, 2018, which gives them plenty of time to submit the quick and easy application. We will choose one winner based on their free response submissions.

Eligibility Requirements
To participate in the scholarship contest, applicants must meet the following criteria:
• Must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent U.S. Resident
• Must be a veteran of any branch of the United States military
• Must be enrolled (or accepted) in an accredited college or university and planning on continuing the next year

Youth Scholarship
The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you are a democracy-loving high school student interested in a $30,000 college scholarship or a patriotic middle school student interested in winning $5,000, these scholarships may be for you.

Established in 1947, our Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed
recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of $2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first-place winner receives a $30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from $1,000-$16,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a minimum scholarship of $1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Want to apply? Read the rules and eligibility requirements and download the entry form and brochure before you submit your entry at your local VFW Post.

**VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"**
Provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It’s just another way for us to say “thank you” to those who fought for our freedoms.

Scholarship Details:
- Scholarships of up to $5,000 will be awarded to qualified applicants.
- Awarded scholarships are limited to one per family per semester.
- Applications for the fall semester will be accepted January 1 through April 30.
- Applications for the spring semester will be accepted August 1 through November 15.
- Fall semester scholarships will be awarded in August, and spring semester scholarships will be awarded in January.
- Scholarships must be used by the end of the school semester for which the veteran is applying or they will become null and void.
- Scholarships are restricted for tuition and fees only and will be paid directly to accredited schools.

Eligible Applicants Must:
- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve.
- Have completed Basic Training and follow-on training (Advanced Individual Training, technical school, etc.).
- Separated with or currently hold a military rank of E-5 or below.
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance.
- Participate in, be accepted to or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution.

**Student Veterans of America**
As a University with an active SVA chapter you are eligible for the scholarship opportunities, as well as they post other opportunities on their website. [https://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships](https://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships)

**NAVPA (National Association of Veterans Programs Administrators)**
As a University who is a participating NAVPA member you are eligible for their scholarship opportunity. [http://www.navpa.org/scholarship-application/](http://www.navpa.org/scholarship-application/)
Young Patriot Scholarship Program
The Idaho Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States has established the Young Patriot Scholarship Program for all eligible persons. Details and application here. Eligibility
1. Idaho EANGUS members
2. Unmarried child of Idaho EANGUS member under the age of 26
3. Spouses of Idaho EANGUS members
4. Unmarried spouses and unmarried dependent sons and daughters of deceased Idaho EANGUS members who were in good standing at the time of their death.

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation
MCSF funds needs-based scholarships for the children of Marines – former, retired or currently serving. In the last 55 years, MCSF has awarded $110 Million in scholarships to over 37,000 children. Scholarships are awarded for post-high school education and include Certified and Technical Education (CTE). See more here: https://www.mcsf.org/ Our average scholarship is about $3000/year for 4 years. Some students qualify for up to $10,000/year for 4 years.

There are many other opportunities, see Financial Aid’s website for scholarship opportunities https://financialaid.boisestate.edu/scholarships/.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Boise State Veteran Services
Our office is hiring for several VA workstudy positions this fall. Apply by emailing a cover letter and resume to VeteranServices@boisestate.edu with a subject line of “VA Workstudy,” then call our office to schedule an interview at (208) 426-3744. Please identify which position you are applying for. Job descriptions can be found here.

Positions available
• Front desk customer service
• Library assistants
• School Certifying Official (processing benefits to the VA)

Boise VA Medical Center is always taking VA workstudy applications. Contact Irma George at (208) 422-1211.

OFFICE HOURS
Regular semester office hours are Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Don’t forget we have computers here at the Veterans Center for your use, as well as a lounge for relaxing or studying between classes!