Greenfield Community College
Discussion Points for New Student Veterans

Guidelines regarding your student veteran aid

1. Your major or certificate must be on the list of VA approved programs for the VA to approve your aid. This list is on VONAPP (the veteran’s online application website):
   http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/application/
   If you wish to change your major, the VA must approve that change. If the VA determines that a change of major will take you longer to complete than your original program, they may deny your aid.

2. The VA will only pay for courses **required** and appropriate for your major or certificate. Be very careful when choosing electives.

3. The GCC certifying official requires a copy of your Certificate of Basic Eligibility or VA award letter, before they can submit your enrollment to the VA for approval.

4. Depending on your aid chapter, being half-time, three-quarter time or full-time may have significant impact on the amount of aid you receive. If you drop a course mid-semester and the remaining credits are fewer than 12, you may lose a portion of your aid.

5. The VA will not pay for developmental courses taken ONLINE and the credits will not count toward your full-time status.

6. If the VA determines that you are not making sufficient “Academic Progress” after repeatedly failing courses, they may deny your aid.

7. If you drop courses, stop attending courses, fail or receive an incomplete grade for courses, the VA receives your grade report. They may **submit a bill to you** for the courses you: 1. Received an F grade for low attendance or 2. Did not complete a course and received a W, IN or O grade. This can be as much as $3,000 to $4,000 for one semester.

8. If you repeat a course that you passed in a previous semester, the VA will not pay for it and the credits will not count toward your full-time status. However, if you received a low but passing grade **that your current program will not accept** -- you may retake the course. However, if you receive a C or D in a course and retake it because a program you are TRANSFERRING to at another school will not accept it, the VA may deny payment for the course. (Because the VA is only paying for your current program.)

9. The VA generally sends your aid 30 days after the start of each semester. **GCC will continue sending you computer generated bills during this time.** The VA may send your book stipend / voucher AFTER classes start (depending on when you signed up for classes). If you find you are not able to purchase your books and supplies because you do not have the money available until after your benefits arrive, please contact the Veterans Center about possible resources.
If you have medical insurance through the VA or another source, you can waive your medical insurance fee (which can be about $1,000) by going to this website: http://www.gcc.mass.edu/billing/health-insurance/waiver/. If you do not waive the fee, it will be your responsibility to pay it—NOT the VA’s.