

## VA Frequently Asked Questions

### Will I have to pay back the GI Bill® benefits I used if I fail a class?

No. If you finished the class, you won't have to pay back the GI Bill ® benefits you used for that class. This is because we count a failing grade (or "punitive grade") as progress toward graduation requirements even though you don't get any credit for it.

### Do you have to pay back Chapter 35 benefits if you fail?

If you receive Chapter 35 benefits, a grade of F or an incomplete may affect your benefits and result in owing a portion of your award back to the VA. If you receive Chapter 31 benefits, you should contact your case worker for more information.

### How your reason for withdrawing from a class affects your VA debt.

If you withdraw from (or "drop") a class, you may need to pay us back for the cost of any housing or books and supplies that we gave you money for. Your school may need to pay us back for tuition, fees, and Yellow Ribbon benefits paid on your behalf. But if we recognize that situations or events beyond your control (mitigating circumstances) caused your withdrawal, we may decide that you don't need to pay us back in full. [VA Debt](#)

### Why do I have a debt with the VA over tuition and fees paid to my school?

When you enroll in school and take classes, you enter into an agreement with the school to pay for your classes and the associated fees. **VA pays the tuition and fees to the school on your behalf when the School Certifying Official (SCO) certifies that you are enrolled in classes.** By law, you are responsible for any debt incurred while receiving benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill ®. VA is required by law to recoup any debt.

### What is the difference between a punitive and non-punitive grade?

If you fail a class, you may receive what is called a "*punitive grade*" for that class. This means that the grade you receive earns credit towards your degree, even though it may bring your GPA down. Since this grade counts towards your degree requirements (even negatively) you are entitled to GI Bill ® benefits for any class you receive such a grade in.

A "*non-punitive grade*" is a grade that doesn't earn credit towards your degree. An example of this may be withdrawal after the drop period; or other things like auditing a class, academic probation, or suspension. Since non-punitive grades don't count towards your degree you may be required to repay any GI Bill ® money you received for such classes.

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## What if I want to change my training program?

To change from one school or training program to another, individuals receiving benefits under the Post-9/11 Gi Bill ®, MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR or VEAP, will need to submit a [VA Form 22-1995](#) "Request for Change of Program or Place of Training" to the Regional Processing Office serving your state.

## Can I be eligible for two or more education VA benefits?

Yes, you may be eligible for more than one VA education benefit program. However, you may only receive payments from one program at a time. You can receive a maximum of 48 months of benefits under any combination of VA education programs you qualify for.