

## VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

### Veterans First Program

The mission of the Veterans First Program at Las Positas College is to facilitate the transition of servicemen and women from military to college life, and to assist them with educational, financial and other forms of support. The program's foundation is built on a basic principle of service.

Since the establishment of the Veterans First Program in 2007, Las Positas College has continued to expand its services to support the student success of the increasing number of veterans enrolling at the College. The primary program goal is to provide comprehensive services that recognize the unique experiences and needs of our veterans as they pursue their educational and career objectives. The Veterans First Program also provides services and programs for active duty members, reservists, and spouses and/or dependents of Veterans.

The Veterans First Program staff serve as liaisons to the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, and they will make every effort to provide speedy educational benefit payment with a minimal amount of difficulty.

Las Positas College is approved to offer instruction to service persons, reservists, and other eligible persons under Title 38, U.S. Code and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations. Eligibility for benefits under any of these programs is determined by the appropriate federal or state agency, and not by the College. In addition, we provide other resources and contacts, such as the ones listed below:

1. Comprehensive 2000 square foot Veterans Resource Center with a study room, computer room, lounge, reception area, and offices.
2. Student Veterans Organization.
3. VA Educational benefits application, process, and certification.
4. Veterans Program Supervisor.
5. Veteran Emergency Book Loan / Text Book Borrowing Program.
6. Dedicated fulltime Veterans academic counselor and fulltime Veterans Specialist.
7. Priority Registration for Veterans, Active Duty, Reserves, and National Guard.
8. Scholarships for Veterans.
9. Veterans Affairs Work Study program.
10. Operation Gateway – Transition program for returning Veterans 2-day orientation geared to support Veterans' transition to success.
11. Health care services on campus provided by nationally recognized Palo Alto VA Health Care Representatives.

12. California State Fee Waiver program for spouse and dependents of Veterans.
13. On campus workshops and events – VA Educational Benefit Programs, Honoring Veterans Day on-campus, Honoring Women Veterans, Resume Writing for Veterans, Internships, etc.
14. Individualized and group academic subject support.
15. Financial Planning workshops and appointments.

We encourage Veterans attending Las Positas College to contact the Veterans First Program in-person, by phone, or by e-mail with questions pertaining to their education, veteran affairs, educational benefits, or anything else for which they need information.

### Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (VACA)

The VACA Act (38 U.S.C. 3679(c)) requires the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to disapprove programs of education under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) and Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefit programs (Chapters 30 or 33, respectively, of Title 38, U.S. Code) at institutions of higher learning if the school charges qualifying veterans and dependents ("covered individuals") tuition and fees in excess of the in-state rate for resident students for terms beginning after July 1, 2015. A "covered individual" is defined in the VACA Act as:

1. A Veteran who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
2. A spouse or child entitled to transferred education benefits who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within 3 years of the transferor's discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
3. A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (provides Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children and surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty) who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the Service member's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
4. After expiration of the three year period following discharge or death as described in 38 U.S.C. 3679(c), a student who initially qualifies under the applicable requirements above will maintain "covered individual" status as long as he or she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters or terms) at the institution, even if they enroll in multiple programs and shall continue to be exempt from paying nonresident tuition and other fees.

### Veterans Benefits Eligibility for Certificate Programs