higher learning approved by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Education, as the case may be; and is, or was at the time of the veteran’s or servicemember’s death, in fact, dependent upon him or her for over one half of his or her support.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 1072(2)(D), 2147(d)(1))

(d) Surviving spouse. The term means a widow or widower who is not remarried.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2147(d)(2))

(e) Servicemember. This term means anyone who—

(1) Meets the eligibility requirements for the program, and
(2) Is on active duty in the Air Force, Army, Navy or Marine Corps.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2142)

(f) Spouse. This term means a person of the opposite sex who is the husband or wife of the veteran or servicemember.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2147)

(g) Divisions of the school year. (1) Standard academic year is a period of 2 standard semesters or 3 standard quarters. It is 9 months long.
(2) Standard quarter is a division of the standard academic year. It is from 10 to 13 weeks long.
(3) Standard semester is a division of the standard academic year. It is 15 to 19 weeks long.
(4) Term is either
   (i) Any regularly established division of the standard academic year, or
   (ii) The period of instruction which takes place between standard academic years.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2142)

(h) Full-time training. This term means training at the rate of 12 or more semester hours per semester, or the equivalent.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2144)

(i) Part-time training. The term means training at the rate of less than 12 semester hours per semester or the equivalent.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2144)

(j) Enrollment period. This term means an interval of time during which an eligible individual—

(1) Is enrolled in an accredited educational institution; and
(2) Is pursuing his or her program of education.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2142)

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§ 21.5725 Obtaining benefits.

(a) Actions required of the individual. In order to obtain benefits under the educational assistance and subsistence allowance program, an individual must—

(1) File a claim for benefits with VA, and
(2) Ensure that the accredited institution certifies his or her enrollment to VA.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2149)

(b) VA action upon receipt of a claim. Upon receipt of a claim from an individual VA shall—

(1) Determine if the individual, or the veteran upon whose service the claim is based, has or had basic eligibility;
(2) Determine that the eligibility period has not expired;
(3) Determine that the individual has remaining entitlement;
(4) Verify that the individual is attending an accredited institution;
(5) Determine whether payments may be made for the course, and
(6) Make appropriate payments of educational assistance and subsistence allowance.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2142–2149)

CLAIMS AND APPLICATIONS

§ 21.5730 Applications, claims, and time limits.

The provisions of subpart B of this part apply with respect to claims for educational assistance under the educational program described in §21.5701,