Military Tuition Assistance and Sequestration FAQ

Dear Student Veteran,

On March 1, 2013 Sequestration went into effect. Due to the Sequestration the Department of Defense directed the different branches (Army, Air Force, Marines, and Navy) were advised to review their budgets and make the necessary cuts. In addition, the Department of Homeland Security asked the United States Coast Guard to review their budget and make the necessary cuts.

As of March 12, 2013 the Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, and Coast Guard all decided to suspend Military Tuition Assistance (TA) benefits for the remainder of the year. On March 15, 2013 my office sent out a document titled “Sequestration and Tuition Assistance benefits” to address these suspensions. As a follow up to that document and additional questions received I created this short FAQ that will be updated periodically.

Thank you and have a great day.

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Question 1: What are Military Tuition Assistance (TA) benefits?

Answer 1: Military Tuition Assistance is a benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to 100% for the tuition expenses of its members. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application processes and restrictions. This money is usually paid directly to the institution by the individual services.

Question 2: I am a dependent; can I use Military Tuition Assistance (TA) benefits?

Answer 2: Dependents of military members (active, national guard, and reserves) are not eligible for Military Tuition Assistance benefits. These benefits are specifically designed for military members only as stated in Answer 1. Additionally, Military Tuition Assistance benefits cannot be transferred to a dependent.

Question 3: I am using Veterans Administration (VA) education benefits (Post 9-11 GI Bill, Chapter 30 GI Bill, Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation, and Chapter 35 Dependents Educational Assistance). What is the difference between these benefits and the Military Tuition Assistance (TA) benefits?
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Answer 3: Post 9-11 GI Bill, Chapter 30 GI Bill, Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation, and Chapter 35 Dependents Educational Assistance are all administered and paid for by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Question 4: Will I continue to receive my VA Education benefits (Post 9-11 GI Bill, Chapter 30 GI Bill, Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation, and Chapter 35 Dependents Educational Assistance)?

Answer 4: As of March 15, 2013 the VA has not issued any statement whether or not the Sequestration will affect their education benefits. Therefore, your VA education benefits will continue to be paid.

Question 5: How do I know if I am using Military Tuition Assistance (TA) or VA Education benefits?

Answer 5: If you are a dependent of a military soldier or a veteran you are receiving VA Education benefits. Military Tuition Assistance (TA) benefits are only for military soldiers.

If you are a military soldier or veteran you could be receiving both depending on your individual circumstances.

Question 6: If I have additional questions or want to monitor the updates on the Military Tuition Assistance (TA) benefits or the VA Education benefits, who should I contact?

Answer 6: Please feel free to contact me via phone at 541-737-7662, email at gus.bedwell@oregonstate.edu, or by appointment in the registrar office. In addition, I will be posted updates on the OSU Veterans Website: http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/

I also want to encourage you to check out the other resources I mentioned in the “Sequestration and Tuition Assistance Benefits” document I sent around and posted on the OSU Veterans website on March 15, 2013.