



JULY 2021, Vol. 1

AU VETERAN SERVICES

News You Can Use

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ① **Attention new students!** Take a look at our [Student Checklist](#) for a step-by-step guide to using your VA education benefits at American University

- ② **REMINDER!!!** If you are taking classes this Fall (2021), remember to submit your [Request for Certification](#) to the AU Veteran Services Office. **Make sure to check your eligibility for VA education benefits prior to registering for classes.** For more information about your benefit payment amount and T&F rates, visit the [Veterans Services AU Knowledge Base](#). For updated **GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon Match rates for the 2021-22 Academic Year**, visit our info-article about the [Yellow Ribbon Program](#). To check if you are eligible to receive Yellow Ribbon, complete this [preapplication questionnaire](#)

- ③ **Update to Tuition & Fees:** [The tuition and fees for the 2021-2022 Academic Year](#) will return to the standard rate.

- ④ **Update to the "Rounding-out" rule!!!** Rounding Out will be phased out for terms beginning on or after August 1, 2021.

CELEBRATING THE 4TH



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Special Announcement!

From July 2 - 5, 2021, American University offices will be closed and classes will not be held in observance of Independence Day.

Fourth of July Safety Tips

CONTRIBUTED BY DYMEAH CASEY

The Fourth of July is soon approaching and that means many people will be gathering to have cook-outs, watch parades, and possibly even purchase fireworks for personal use. While more people are getting vaccinated and the CDC continues to issue more lax guidelines for individuals and places of business, we must not forget that there are many risks, other than COVID-19, associated with Fourth of July celebrations. Luckily, organizations such as the [American Red Cross](#) and the [National Safety Council](#) have provided really useful information concerning how to be safe during the 4th of July. Here are a few tips to ensure that you and your loved ones have an enjoyable and safe 4th of July celebration.

SAFETY TIP #1: Leave fireworks to the experts. On average, 180 people go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.

SAFETY TIP #2: Sparklers are dangerous too! According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#), sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries

SAFETY TIP #3: Don't grill indoors! Grilling fires spark more than 10,000 home fires on average each year in the U.S.

SAFETY TIP #4: Be "water smart". Swim in safe areas and supervise those who cannot swim. Also, drink water!

FOLLOW US
AND STAY
UPDATED



SPRING 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

VA CERTIFICATION PROCESS

AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

DEFINING THE TWO PHASES OF CERTIFICATION



The first certification is called a "Zero Cert" and the VA will be billed for \$0

The Zero Cert will be sent to the VA approximately 30 days before the start of classes

AU will send the VA the dates you intend to be in class and your intended number of credits

With the zero cert, the VA will be able to start processing your BAH and book stipends as early as possible



The second certification is sent to the VA after the add/drop period

After sending the second certification to the VA, your tuition and fees will be processed

In the second certification, AU will confirm your class dates, number of credits, and include your tuition and fees

The weeks between certification give you plenty of time to adjust your class schedule before the 2nd certification

Understanding verifying your enrollment and receiving VA education benefit payments

Effective August 1, 2021 students are required to verify their enrollment at school on a monthly basis in order to continue receiving their Post-9/11 GI Bill monthly housing allowance (MHA).

If a student fails to verify their enrollment status for two consecutive months, VA will withhold MHA payments until the student has verified their enrollment.



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

When should I expect my payments to arrive after I enroll?

- VA will pay tuition to the school directly and pay book stipend and housing payments to you.
- For new claims, VA's current targets are 24 days for processing a new claim and 12 days for processing an existing claim
- Calls to the Education Call Center peak early in the semester and on the first day of every month, causing longer hold times.