



University of the District of Columbia Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP) Guidance

Student Application Policy/Procedures for the Yellow Ribbon Program:

- 1) Students should determine eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Program on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Yellow Ribbon Program Information [web site](#).
- 2) Students should apply, if they are eligible, for education benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill with the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#).
- 3) Students should apply for admission to the program of their choice at The University of the District of Columbia (UDC), and they should confirm that the program is a VA-approved program by visiting the [Department of Veterans Affairs website \(Weams Institutional Search\)](#).
- 4) Students should be sure to make an informed decision concerning their choice of Post-9/11 GI Bill. It is our understanding that there is typically more than one educational benefit choice for individuals who are serving/have served in the military. It is also our understanding that once selected, benefit choices are irrevocable. For information on benefits, visit the [Department of Veterans Affairs website](#).
- 5) Eligible students should fill out the [UDC Request for Participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program](#) form and if available, attach their Certificate of Eligibility. UDC processes the Request for Participation forms on a first-come, first-served basis. Students may scan and e-mail, fax, or drop this form off with the UDC VA Benefits Certifying Official, and each student will be contacted, normally within two business days, to confirm receipt of the form.
 - a. Forms are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - b. 215 slots are established for eligible students
- 6) Eligible students must complete the [UDC Request for Participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program](#) form, and must submit confirmation of their eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Program to the UDC VA Benefits Certifying Official prior to the beginning of the student's academic coursework. Such confirmation most likely will be in the form of a U.S. Department of Veteran Services Certificate of Eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Failure to timely submit this confirmation will result in the student's removal from the Yellow Ribbon Program participation list.
- 7) Students must make contact with the certification officer if they add or drop courses after their initial registration and this causes the number of credit hours to change as a result. These actions cause adjustments in your benefits and will affect your student account.

Under this commitment, UDC will:

- o Provide tuition assistance to veterans beyond what they are provided from their base GI Bill rate of compensation. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will match UDC's contribution dollar-for-dollar

up to 50% of the difference between the student's tuition and fees benefit and the total cost of tuition and fees.

- o Enable up to 215 Yellow Ribbon Program-qualified veterans to receive additional benefits for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Yellow Ribbon qualified students will receive:

- o \$581.25 per year per student from UDC, not to exceed their cost of tuition and fees
- o The Department of Veterans Affairs will match at the same amount up to 50% of the difference between the student's tuition and fees benefit and the total cost of tuition and fees
- o Including GI Bill base assistance, admitted YRP-qualified undergraduate veterans will attend UDC free of tuition and designated fees

To receive benefits:

- o Enrolled UDC students who qualify for the Yellow Ribbon Program will be eligible to participate
- o Students eligible will be admitted to the University through the usual admissions process
- o Yellow Ribbon qualified students will need to complete an application form

As program details become available, information will be posted at www.udc.edu/military/yyp_info.

About the Yellow Ribbon Program

In 2008, the GI Bill was updated with enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, giving veterans with active duty service on, or after, September 11 2001, enhanced educational benefits that cover designated educational expenses, provide a living allowance, money for books and the ability to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children. The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The institution can contribute up to 50 percent of those expenses and VA will match the same amount as the institution.

The Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) must agree to:

- o Provide contributions to eligible individuals who apply for the Yellow Ribbon Program on a first-come first-served basis, regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training in any given academic year;
- o Provide contributions during the current academic year and all subsequent academic years in which the student maintains satisfactory progress, conduct, and attendance;
- o Make contributions toward the program on behalf of the individual in the form of a grant, scholarship, etc;
- o State the dollar amount that will be contributed for each participant during the academic year;
- o State the maximum number of individuals for whom contributions will be made in any given academic year.

More information about the Yellow Ribbon Program is available on the US Department of Veterans Affairs website at http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Yellow_ribbon.htm