

# MCEC COVID-19 Resources for PARENTS

## FAQ by Parents of College Students

***“Our student is using transferred Post 9/11-GI Bill benefits. Will the VA continue to pay MHA (monthly housing allowance) even though our student is now at home living with us?”***

Yes. On March 21, 2020 the President signed a law authorizing GI Bill payments to continue in full until Dec. 21, 2020. Read the announcement by clicking on [VA Announces GI Bill Benefits Will Continue](#)

The VA announced on April 3, “We are currently monitoring the activities in Congress of a new bill that was introduced and passed in the House, The Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, that would allow certain students to continue to receive housing benefits through the end of their term if their program was unable to convert to online, restore entitlement, extend delimiting dates as well as, address impacts on the work-study program due to COVID-19.”

Reach out to the [VA Support](#) if you are in a serious financial hardship situation.

***“Our daughter’s college went to pass/fail. Will this affect GI Bill payments?”***

According to the [VA Benefits COVID-19 FAQ](#), no, it will not. The VA states that there is no need for School Certifying Officials at the universities to report a conversion from a standard grading scale to a pass/fail or similar grading systems. The VA continues by stating that, “depending on the IHL’s grading policy, classes taken pass/fail may result in a nonpunitive grade if the student fails the class. Rules about nonpunitive grades have not changed. Although VA does not typically make payments for classes resulting in nonpunitive grades, if COVID 19 is reported as mitigating circumstances for the student’s receipt of a nonpunitive grade (i.e., fail in a pass/fail class) VA will pay for the class.”

***“What happens when the college cancels a student’s lab portion or marks it as incomplete?”***

Currently, there is no uniform policy in place that all colleges follow. Please connect with your academic advisor for how your college or university will handle canceled or incomplete lab portions.

On the [VA Benefits COVID-19 FAQ](#) the VA states that “the VA has instructed schools to follow their ‘Incomplete’ grade policy and apply that procedure, if applicable. When the school is eventually able to continue training, the student will be allowed to complete the lab portion without any further reporting requirements to the VA. However, if the discontinued class is a prerequisite to future classes, the student cannot enroll in the next sequential required class until the pre-requisite is complete.”



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***“The college went to pass/fail. How will this affect my student’s GPA?”***

Please reach out to the college for details on how they will handle GPA calculations. Some colleges have announced that they will keep the student’s current GPA for degree and admission requirements even if they now went to pass/fail classes. Please read more details on pass/fail by going to [Military.com](https://www.military.com)

***“We’re stationed overseas, and our student goes to college in the US. Currently, he is still in the states, doing online lessons. We have student travel orders for him. Since orders have been cancelled are the student travel orders still good? Will we have to pay for the storage and for his flight back overseas in May?”***

Student travel orders retain their entitlement according to the USAREUR HR OPT20200319 that applies to Service Members and DoD Civilians. However, it is difficult to predict if your student will be able to take advantage of the storage and the flight entitlement, since currently many places restrict movement and airlines have canceled most of their flights going overseas.

The HR OPT also reminds parents that they may NOT get reimbursed if they choose to put their student on a commercial flight because government flights are available. In addition, Service Members only get a government funded round trip ticket for their student once a year, and students cannot fly outside of their anniversary window.

