



Parent/Sponsor Statement of Understanding (SOU)

Your student **MUST** email this form to the University of Mississippi Veteran and Military Services (VMS) office at veterans@olemiss.edu with **ALL** other applicable paperwork as **hard attachments to one email. Emails received from parents will NOT be accepted. Again, forms must come directly from your student's Ole Miss email.**

The VA School Certifying Official (SCO) assists veterans, reservists, guardsmen, dependents and survivors of veterans in processing their education benefits for use at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). The SCO will certify enrollment to the VA for students utilizing federal VA Educational Benefits.

Parents/Sponsors must read this Statement of Understanding and sign acknowledging that, as a parent/sponsor I understand:

- **Ole Miss VMS is not an office or agent of the VA**
- The benefit my student uses belongs solely to my student once the VA approves their benefit application
- My student is solely responsible for completing and submitting core and supporting benefit documents to VMS to use VA Educational Benefits at Ole Miss
- VMS will NOT answer specific questions regarding my student's benefits, as the benefits belong to my student, and it is unauthorized for VMS to discuss the specifics of a student's benefits
- The University of Mississippi's Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does not apply to VMS as VMS does not process paperwork regarding a student's education record
- Official communication with VMS: in-person conversation (preferred); my student's Ole Miss email address; or phone 662-915-2045 (least preferred)
- **Email is the only authorized means for submitting documents associated with VA benefits**
- My student is required to read and abide by the VMS **Student Statement of Understanding** and **Student Checklist**. These two forms provide guidance to ensure my student's benefits are processed in a timely manner

For Enrollment Certification for VA, I understand:

- This document is subject to change, as VA policy may change
- The Ole Miss SCO must receive all appropriate documents stating my student's educational benefits, and it is my student's responsibility to submit the required documents via their Ole Miss email
- Only courses required for my student's declared program of study at Ole Miss will be certified
- VMS is required to report any change in my student's enrollment status to the VA
- Class beginning and ending dates, and the number of credit hours registered, will affect my student's monthly Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)
- **For timely processing with the VA, paperwork should be turned in no later than the first day of classes**
- My student must notify and receive a "go ahead" response from a VMS SCO via email at veterans@olemiss.edu **before** modifying enrollment (i.e., dropping below full-time, change of major, or benefits)

For **CH33 or Post 9/11**, I understand:

- The VA will send my student's book stipend directly to my student, not the school
- My student must pay any expenses not covered per the entitlement listed on the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) letter from the VA (i.e., 50% eligibility, courses outside of a degree plan, etc.)
- My student's BAH is prorated and paid in arrears per the number of hours my student is enrolled, the days my student is enrolled, and my student's percentage of entitlement

For **CH35 (DEA)**, I understand:

- My student's BAH is prorated and paid in arrears based on the number of hours and days my student is enrolled in school
- My student's GI Bill CH35 does **not** pay my student's tuition, and my student is responsible for covering their tuition costs

For **CH1606 (MGIB-SR), CH1607 (REAP)**, I understand:

- My student must verify my attendance at the end of each month while enrolled in school. They will do so by calling 1-888-442-4551 or online at [Verify Your School Enrollment | Veterans Affairs](#)
- My student's GI Bill CH1606 or CH1607 does not pay my student's tuition, and my student is responsible for their tuition costs

For more information regarding Federal VA Educational Benefits, please visit [About GI Bill Benefits | Veterans Affairs](#)

Students and their Parents/Sponsors using GI Bill benefits understand:

- GI Bill benefits are subject to approval by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs and students must meet all requirements determined by the VA to receive such benefits. The University of Mississippi VMS office (VMS) does not approve or disapprove benefits
- VMS acts as a liaison between the student and the VA, and the VA and Ole Miss. **VMS does not and cannot guarantee payment of benefits. VMS does not determine the date benefits are paid nor can VMS identify the date benefits are paid**
- VMS is required to submit to the VA: requests for benefits (assuming required documents are provided); certify hours and fees; and certify corrections to hours and fees. Any issues outside of these requirements are outside the authorized scope of VMS
- Students experiencing issues or who have questions are strongly encouraged to come directly to the VMS office first before contacting the VA. If VMS is unable to assist, students should contact the VA Regional Office in Muskogee, Oklahoma at 1-888-442-4551 or visit [Ask VA | Veterans Affairs](#)

I have read and understand this Statement of Understanding.

Parent's/Sponsor's Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Student's Name: _____ Student's ID #: _____

Student's Ole Miss Email: _____

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The Office of Veteran & Military Services

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