



## **Yellow Ribbon Program Participation**

Stetson University is pleased to announce its participation in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program for aid year 2018 – 2019. 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 more educational expenses, provide a living allowance, money for books and the ability to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children. The Yellow Ribbon Program is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows degree-granting institutions of higher learning in the United States to enter into a voluntary agreement with the VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The institution can contribute up to 50% of those expenses and the VA will match the same amount as the institution.

### **Institutional Participation Requirements**

For Stetson University to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program, we must and have agreed to the following:

- 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 student is pursuing training in any given academic year;
- Provide contributions during the current academic year and all subsequent academic years in which the student maintains satisfactory progress, conduct, and attendance;
- Make contributions toward the program on behalf of the individual in the form of a grant, scholarship, etc;
- State the dollar amount that will be contributed for each participant during the academic year;
- 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 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs [website](#).

Under this commitment, Yellow Ribbon qualified students at Stetson University will receive:

- Up to \$10,600 for undergraduate students or \$4,500 for graduate students in the Executive MBA program per year per student from Stetson University, not to exceed the cost of tuition

- The VA will match the Stetson University's contribution dollar-for-dollar up to 50% of the difference between the student's tuition benefit and the total cost of tuition and fees limited to the \$10,600 for undergraduate students or \$4,500 for graduate students in the Executive MBA program maximum set by the university.

This commitment will enable Yellow Ribbon Program-qualified veterans to receive benefits at Stetson University. Information on how the balance of Stetson University's commitment to Yellow Ribbon is being fulfilled can be obtained from the [Stetson University](#) main campus in DeLand, Florida.

Stetson University reserves the right to alter participation in the program and change the amount of contribution for a given academic year in accordance with VA Yellow Ribbon Program policies. Stetson University may also withdraw from future participation where permitted in accordance with VA Yellow Ribbon Program policies.

### **Student Eligibility**

Only individuals entitled to the maximum benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive this funding. Therefore, you may be eligible if:

- You served an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001 of at least 36 months;
- You were honorably discharged from active duty for a service connected disability and you served 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001;
- You are a dependent eligible for Transfer of Entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on a veteran's service under the eligibility criteria listed above.

Transfer students must reapply for participation in Yellow Ribbon Program at Stetson University. Award amounts will be based on availability and Stetson University's Yellow Ribbon policy. Eligible students may receive a different amount than received at a previous school.

### **How to Apply**

Once admitted through the normal admissions process, enrolled students who qualify for the Yellow Ribbon Program will be eligible to participate. The process for applying is detailed below.

1. Students should determine eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Program on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Yellow Ribbon Program Information [website](#).
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](#). Students should apply for and receive confirmation of admission to Stetson University. NOTE: Understand your benefits before you make your choice of Post-9/11 GI Bill. It is our understanding that typically more than one educational benefit choices is available for individuals with military experience. It is also our understanding

that once selected, benefit choices are irrevocable. For information on benefits, visit the [Department of Veterans Affairs website](#).

3. Eligible students, after receiving an offer admission or enrolled, should fill out the [Request for Participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program form](#) and submit a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility, if available, to [finaid@stetson.edu](mailto:finaid@stetson.edu). The Stetson University's Student Financial Planning Office processes the Request for Participation forms on a first-come, first-served basis.
4. Eligible students must complete the Step 3 (above) and submit confirmation of their eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Program to the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible. Confirmation of eligibility may be in the form of a U.S. Department of Veteran Services Certificate of Eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Failure to submit this confirmation within 8 weeks of submission of the request for participation will result in the student's removal from the Yellow Ribbon Program participation list.

### **Applying the Benefit**

If selected for participation, Stetson University will typically apply the institutional portion of the aid to the student account in two equal increments for Fall and Spring, up to the maximum benefit of \$10,600 for undergraduate students or \$4,500 for graduate students in the Executive MBA program. If a student is selected for participation in the semester of his or her graduation, Stetson University will apply up to the full annual amount to that semester. If Yellow Ribbon funds remain, they can be awarded in summer. Students may receive Yellow Ribbon benefits for any term so long as they have not reached annual maximum. Total aid, including Yellow Ribbon benefits, cannot exceed the Cost of Attendance.

### **Other Program Details**

Below are some additional details about Stetson University participation in the Yellow Ribbon program.

- To administer the Program on a first-come, first-served basis, Stetson University will announce by email the date on which the Office of Financial Aid will receive requests for participation for future years.
- Once eligible, that student remains eligible and can continue participation throughout their education at the College as long as (a) Stetson University continues participation, (b) the student remains in good academic standing and meets all eligibility requirements, and (c) the student has remaining entitlement. If a student leaves the College for any reason for a semester or more (other than for military service), the student must re-apply to participate in the Yellow Ribbon program.

- Stetson University is supporting up to 200 undergraduate students and up to 10 Executive MBA students through the Yellow Ribbon program. Once those individuals have been selected for participation, no further requests for participation will be accepted until a participation opening occurs.

## **Questions**

Questions on application procedures and program benefits can be directed to the Office of Student Financial Planning. Please feel free to call or email if you have further questions. We are located on the second floor of the Rinker Welcome Center, and you may stop by or set up an appointment ahead of time.

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

8-4:30 p.m.

Telephone: (386) 822-7120

Fax: 286-822-7126

Email: [finaid@stetson.edu](mailto:finaid@stetson.edu)

*Adopted on October 15, 2009.*

*Updated on April 2, 2018.*