

## Applying for Benefits and Your Character of Discharge

Generally, in order to receive VA benefits and services, the Veteran's character of discharge or service must be under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general). However, individuals receiving undesirable, bad conduct, and other types of dishonorable discharges may qualify for VA benefits depending on a determination made by VA.

[Read the factsheet on claims for benefits involving other-than-honorable discharges.](#)

## Correcting Military Records

Each of the military services maintain a discharge review board with authority to change, correct or modify discharges or dismissals not issued by a sentence of a general court-martial.

[Read more about correcting or changing your service discharge.](#)

## Specific Benefit Program Character of Discharge Requirements

### **Discharge Requirements for Compensation Benefits**

To receive VA compensation benefits and services, the Veteran's character of discharge or service must be under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general).

### **Discharge Requirements for Pension Benefits**

To receive VA pension benefits and services, the Veteran's character of discharge or service must be under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general).

### **Discharge Requirements for Education Benefits**

To receive VA education benefits and services through the Montgomery GI Bill program or Post-9/11 GI Bill program, the Veteran's character of discharge or service must be honorable.

To receive VA education benefits and services through any other VA educational benefits program, including the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program, the Veteran's character of discharge or service must be under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general).

**Discharge Requirements for Home Loan Benefits**

To receive VA home loan benefits and services, the Veteran's character of discharge or service must be under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general).

**Discharge Requirements for Insurance Benefits**

Generally, there is no character of discharge bar to benefits to Veterans' Group Life Insurance. However, for Service Disabled Veterans Insurance and Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance benefits, the Veteran's character of discharge must be other than dishonorable.