

The Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33 of title 38 U.S.C.)



**Presented on September 17, 2009
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Presentation Objectives

This presentation will provide you with an overview of the following:

- Eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Payments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Transfer of Entitlement



Chapter 33 Effective Date

August 1, 2009

Chapter 33 benefits can be paid for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments may be made for training pursued before that date.



Basic Eligibility

Individuals with qualifying active duty service after 09/10/01 who:

- Serve a period of at least 90 aggregate days
- Serve a period of at least 30 days and receive a disability discharge



Post-9/11 GI Bill Payment Tiers

Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 an individual must serve an aggregate of)	Payment Tiers Percentage
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Must be discharged due to service-connected disability)	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80
*At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	70
*At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	60
*At least 6 months, but less than 12 months	50
*At least 90 days, but less than 06 months	40

*Excludes time in Basic Military Training and Skill Training including Coast Guard



Benefit Payments Overview

- Tuition and Fees
- Monthly Housing Allowance
- Books and Supplies Stipend
- Yellow Ribbon Program



Tuition and Fees: A Review

- The term “Tuition” refers to the actual charge for tuition that similarly circumstanced nonveterans enrolled in the program of education are required to pay.
- The term “Fees” refers to any mandatory charges (other than tuition, room, and board) that are applied for pursuit of an approved program of education. Fees include, but are not limited to:
 - health premiums,
 - freshman fees,
 - graduation fees, *and*
 - lab fees.
- Fees do not include those charged for a study abroad course(s) unless the course(s) is a mandatory requirement for completion of the approved program of education.



Non-Active Duty Tuition and Fees

- Individuals **not** on active duty are eligible for the applicable percentage (based on aggregate active duty service) of the lesser of:
 - Highest amount of tuition per credit hour and fees per term charged for full-time, in-state undergraduate student training at a public institution of higher learning; *or*
 - Tuition and fees charged.

Note: Tuition and Fees payments are paid directly to the school.



Tuition and Fee Maximums

- VA lists each State's maximum amount of in-State tuition per credit hour and fees on the GI Bill website.
- VA compares actual tuition charged per credit hour vs. maximum in-State tuition per credit hour and then pays the lesser amount.
- VA compares actual fees charged vs. maximum in-State fees and then pays the lesser amount.



Monthly Housing Allowance Overview

- Equivalent to the military Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents.
- Amount determined by ZIP code of the IHL where the student is enrolled (Student does not have to live in same ZIP code)
 - <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>
- Prorated based on the individual's payment tier (i.e.: 40% to 100%).
- Individuals training at ½ time or less, those on active duty, and those pursuing training solely by distance learning are **not** eligible for the monthly housing allowance.

Note: Housing allowance payments are paid directly to the eligible person following each month or partial month of school attendance.



Books and Supplies Stipend

- Up to \$1,000 per academic year
 - \$41.67 per credit hour
 - Up to 24 credit hours in a single academic year
 - Lump sum payment (each quarter, semester or term attended) paid directly to the individual
- Prorated based on an individual's payment tier
- Active duty members are not eligible



Yellow Ribbon Program Overview

- Established to minimize out-of-pocket educational costs for beneficiaries when charges exceed established maximums for tuition and fees
- Only individuals entitled to the 100 percent payment tier may receive this funding
 - Spouses and children using transferred benefits from a service member are also eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program
- Schools may voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fee costs that exceed the highest in-state undergraduate tuition and fees for the State where the IHL is located



Yellow Ribbon Program and Schools

- VA will match each additional dollar that an IHL contributes, up to 50% of the difference between the student's benefit payment and the total cost of tuition and fees.
- The combined amounts may not exceed the tuition and fees charged.
- Yellow Ribbon paid as lump sum directly to the school.



Post-9/11 GI Bill Entitlement



Period of Eligibility

Generally, individuals will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from:

- Date of last discharge; or
- Release from active duty service of at least 90 continuous days.

If eligibility is based on aggregate service of less than 90 continuous days, individual will have 15 years from the last period of service used to meet the minimum service requirements for eligibility.



Entitlement Overview

Generally, entitlement provisions under the Post-9/11 GI Bill are similar to those under other education benefit programs:

- Individuals may receive up to 36 months of benefits;
- If an individual's entitlement exhausts during a quarter or semester, benefits may be extended until the end of the term (except for dependents using TOE);
- Individuals eligible for more than one program administered by VA are limited to 48 months of benefits using a combination of programs.



Approved Programs

Individuals who were previously eligible for Chapters 30, 1606, or 1607 may continue to receive benefits for approved programs not offered by IHLs (flight*, correspondence, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, preparatory courses, and national tests)

- Individuals will be paid **AS IF** they are still receiving benefits under chapter 30, 1606, or 1607
- No books and supplies stipend or housing allowance
- Entitlement will be charged under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

* Flight training pursued as part of a degree program at an approved IHL is payable under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.



Additional Benefit Payments

- Kickers / College Fund / “Buy-Up”
- Miscellaneous Payments
- Refund of MGIB Contributions



Kickers / College Fund / "Buy-up"

- MGIB (ch30) or MGIB-SR (ch1606) kickers
 - Paid in lump sum to student each enrollment period based on rate of pursuit
 - Paid to spouses/children if they are using transferred benefits
- New chapter 33 kicker
 - Not offered yet
 - Will be paid with the monthly housing allowance
- \$600 buy-up does not transfer to the Post-9/11 GI Bill



Licensing and Certification Tests

Licensing and Certification Tests

- Eligible individuals may be reimbursed for **one** licensing or certification test
- Test must be approved for VA benefits
- Test must be taken on or after August 1, 2009
- Reimbursement may not exceed \$2,000

NOTE: Payment issued directly to the student in a lump sum



Rural Relocation Benefit

Rural Relocation Benefit

- One-time payment of \$500 for individuals who reside in a county with six or less persons per square mile, if the individual:
 - Physically relocates at least 500 miles, *or*
 - Travels by air to attend school if no other transportation exists

NOTE: Payments issued directly to the student in a lump sum



Miscellaneous Payments

- Work-Study:
 - Individuals training at a rate of pursuit of at least 75% may apply for work-study

- Tutorial Assistance:
 - Individuals training at a rate of pursuit of at least 50% may receive tutorial assistance
 - Amount payable cannot exceed \$100 per month
 - Total amount payable cannot exceed \$1,200



Refund of Contributions

- Available to category I participants only - not available to individuals eligible for chapter 30 under category III or IV (VEAP conversions or voluntary/involuntary separations).
- A proportional amount of the basic \$1200 contribution will be included in the last monthly housing allowance payment when chapter 33 entitlement exhausts.



Transfer of Entitlement



Transfer of Entitlement: Basic Eligibility

- To be approved to transfer, a member must—
 - Be in Armed Forces on 8/1/09, *and*
 - Have completed at least 6 years in the Armed Forces, *and*
 - Agree to serve 4 more years
- DoD/DHS have proposed rules to address situations when individuals cannot (by military rules or retirement) serve 4 additional years after 8/1/09.



Transfer of Entitlement Guidelines

- An individual approved to transfer may—
 - Transfer up to 36 months of benefits (unless DoD/DHS restricts number of months an individual may transfer).
 - Transfer to spouse, child, or children in any amount up to amount transferor has available or amount approved by DoD/DHS.
 - Revoke or modify a transfer request of any unused benefits unless the transferor's 15-year eligibility period has ended.
 - Only transfer benefits to a new dependent while the transferor is currently a member of the Armed Forces.



References

- GI Bill Website
 - www.gibill.va.gov
 - Sign up for FAQ updates!
 - Sign up for RSS feeds to be notified of any change on web page (orange block on page that says RSS)

- GI Bill Call Center (VA staffed)
 - 1-888-GIBILL-1



Questions?