



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

State Approving Agency for Veterans Education

The Post-9/11 GI Bill

What is the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

On June 30, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law the Veterans Education Assistant Act of 2008. This act amends Title 38, United States Code to include a new Chapter 33. Veterans who have served for a minimum of 90 days active duty on or after September 10, 2001, may qualify for the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. This new program provides increased benefits for veterans pursuing an approved education program at an approved college or university.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, individuals must have:

- ◆ Received an honorable discharge; and
- ◆ Served at least 90 aggregate days on or after September 10, 2001; or discharged with a service connected disability after 30 continuous days.

Length of service determines a veteran's maximum benefit:

Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 serve an aggregate of)	% of Maximum Benefit Payable
36 months	100
30 continuous days (Must be discharged with a disability)	100
30 months, but less than 36 months	90
24 months, but less than 30 months	80
18 months, but less than 24 months	70
12 months, but less than 18 months	60
06 months, but less than 12 months	50
90 days, but less than 06 months	40

Benefits

Based upon the length of service, veterans are entitled to receive a percentage of the following:

- ◆ The cost of tuition and fees up to the highest in-state undergraduate rate paid directly to the college or university.
- ◆ A monthly housing allowance equal to the Department of Defense (DoD) E-5 with dependents based on the zip code of the college/university, paid directly to beneficiary.
- ◆ A book stipend of \$41.67 per credit of up to 24 credits or \$1,000 per academic year, paid directly to beneficiary.

How is Chapter 33 Different?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) includes several other provisions that make it more flexible in meeting the needs of today's service men and women. Other items included in the New Post-9/11 GI Bill are:

- ◆ Eligibility timeframe extended from 10 to 15 years;
- ◆ No \$1,200 contribution required to participate in the benefit; and
- ◆ Provision to transfer benefits to a dependent.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill can only be used at a college or university.

Veterans who are currently using GI Bill benefits and those who have paid into Chapter 30 may also qualify for Chapter 33. The decision to opt into Chapter 33 is irrevocable. Since the Post-9/11 GI Bill can only be used at a college or university and there are many tiers of eligibility, all beneficiaries are encouraged to discuss their benefits under each chapter before electing into Chapter 33 with a VA Representative.

Yellow Ribbon Program

The Yellow Ribbon Program allows colleges and universities to voluntarily enter into an annual agreement with VA to fund tuition and fee expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate rate. Under this program, institutions may contribute up to 50% of these unmet charges and VA will match dollar per dollar of this amount.

Only Veterans who qualify for 100% of the full Chapter 33 benefit are eligible to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Veterans who participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program during one academic year must be offered Yellow Ribbon Program benefits throughout their education as long as the institution continues to participate in the program, the student remains in good academic standing, and the student has remaining entitlement. Yellow Ribbon contributions may change each academic year.

A complete list of participating institutions is available on VA's GI Bill website: <http://www.gibill.va.gov>

Contact Information

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Upcoming Changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill Resulting from Public Law 111-377

On January 4, 2011, President Barack Obama signed into law the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010. This act amends Title 38, United States Code to expand benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill to more service men and women. The upcoming changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill are listed below.

Effective Aug. 1, 2009, not payable until Oct. 1, 2011

- ◆ Active service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency, is now included under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Effective March 5, 2011

- ◆ Active duty members pursuing a degree at more than half time are limited to the net cost for tuition and fees prorated based on the eligibility tiers (40-100 percent) previously established for veterans.
 - The same limitations apply to transferee spouses of active duty service members.

Effective August 1, 2011

- ◆ For Active Duty members, veterans, and transferees, all public school in-state tuition and fees are paid. *
- ◆ Private and foreign institution costs are capped at \$17,500 per academic year. *
- ◆ The Yellow Ribbon Program still exists for out-of-state fees and costs above the cap.
- ◆ VA will pay Chapter 30 and Chapter 1606 'kickers', or college fund payments, on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum at the beginning of the term
- ◆ Housing allowance is prorated by the student's rate of pursuit (rounded to the nearest tenth). *
 - For example, a student training at a rate of pursuit of 75% would receive 80% of the BAH rate.
- ◆ Break or interval pay is no longer payable under any VA education benefit program unless under an Executive Order of the President or due to an emergency, such as a natural disaster or strike.
 - Entitlement that previously would have been used for break pay will be available for use during a future enrollment.

- ◆ Reimbursement is allowed for more than one license or certification test. Entitlement is now charged.
- ◆ Reimbursement is allowed for national exams used for admission to an institution of higher learning (IHL) [e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT, etc].
- ◆ Those who are eligible for both Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31) benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) benefits to choose the Post-9/11 GI Bill's monthly housing allowance instead of the chapter 31 subsistence allowance.
- ◆ NOAA and PHS personnel are now eligible to transfer their entitlement to eligible dependents.

Effective October 1, 2011

- ◆ Benefits are expanded to include other education and training programs:
 - *Non-college degree (NCD) programs:*
 - Actual net cost for in-state tuition and fees are paid at public NCD institutions. Private and foreign institution costs are capped at \$17,500. The book and supplies stipend is capped at \$83 per month.*
 - *On-the-job and apprenticeship training:*
 - Monthly benefit amount is prorated based on time in the program; the book and supplies stipend is capped at \$83 per month.*
 - *Flight Training:*
 - Training costs are capped at \$10,000; this is applicable to flight programs at both institutions of higher learning (IHL) and non-IHLs.*
 - *Correspondence Training:*
 - Tuition and fees are capped at \$8,500 annually.*
- ◆ Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning at a rate of pursuit greater than 50%. The housing allowance payable is equal to one half of the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents.*
 - The full-time rate for an individual eligible at the 100 % eligibility tier would be \$673.50 for 2011.
- ◆ Students on active duty are now eligible to receive a books and supplies stipend. *

*Benefits are prorated based on percentage of eligibility.