The Post-9/11 GI Bill

Chapter 33, Title 38 U.S.C.

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Ready to apply? See page 8!

Contents

2 Post-9/11 Benefits
Do You Qualify? (Qualifying Time)

3 Period of Eligibility
Chapter 33 Entitlement

4 Educational Assistance

6 Approved Programs
Yellow Ribbon Program

7 Chapter 33 Elections
Yellow Ribbon Program

8 Applying for Benefits

10 Updating (increasing) Benefits

This handout has been compiled by the SCANG Retention Office to provide basic information that is current as of 1/1/2016. For the most up-to-date information, visit www.gibill.va.gov.

Introducing the Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post- 9/11 GI Bill (officially referred to as Chapter 33) is a VA benefit providing up to 36 months of educational assistance to individuals who served on active duty (including qualifying deployments) on or after September 11, 2001. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days.

Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, and vocational/technical training. All training programs must be offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL) and approved for GI Bill benefits. Additionally, tutorial assistance, and licensing and certification test reimbursement are approved under the Post- 9/11 GI Bill.

Eligible members receive a percentage of the Post-9/11 benefits based on the length of their active duty / deployment (e.g. Title 10) service. Members may accumulate active duty service from multiple tours, which my increase benefit percentage (more service = a higher percentage of benefits).

Post-9/11 Benefits

The following benefits are afforded to qualified members.

Educational Assistance. The amount of established charges (tuition and fees) payable for the entire quarter, semester, or term will be sent directly to the school as a lump sum payment.

Monthly Housing Allowance. The monthly housing allowance is based on the monthly basic allowance for housing (BAH) payable for a military member (with dependents) in pay grade E-5 residing in the same ZIP code for the college or university where the individual is enrolled.

Stipend for Books and Supplies. Individuals may receive a stipend of up to $1000 a year for books, supplies, etc.

One-time Rural Benefit. A one-time payment of $500 for eligible claimants.

Tutorial Assistance. Tutorial assistance is available to help pay for tutoring necessary to advance one's education.

Do You Qualify?

Generally, an individual who served a minimum of 90 days on active duty after September 10, 2001, may be eligible for educational assistance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill duty service.

The following periods of active duty service are excluded:

- Active Guard Reserve Under Title 32;
- ROTC under 10 U.S.C. 2107(b);
- Service academy contract period;
- Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement; and
- Service used for loan repayment

Qualifying Time

Title 10. Title 10 qualifying service is any active duty service under section (orders/DD214 must show one of these USC codes to be eligible):

688, 12301(a), 672(d), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, or 12304 of Title 10 - with an Honorable discharge, since 9/11/01.

Title 32. There are two types of Title 32 qualifying service for the Post 9/11 GI Bill

1. Title 32 AGR service with an Honorable discharge (This includes ALL Title 32 AGR service including WMD, CST, and State Counterdrug Coordinators in an AGR status),

2. "Operation Noble Eagle" from 11 SEP 2001 – 31 MAY 2002 with an Honorable discharge. (Your orders/DD214 must show Title 32 502(f) ADOS or ADSW.)

No other Title 32 ADOS or ADSW duty qualifies.

Period of Eligibility

In general, an individual's eligibility to use Post-9/11 benefits expires 15 years from the date of the last discharge or release from active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.

Payments are based on the tier level for which the member qualifies and will not exceed the cost of the tuition and fees.

Tuition and fee payments are paid directly to the school.

Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefit Tier

Amount of Eligible Post-9/11 Service	Percentage of Maximum Amount Payable
At least 36 months	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty and 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 06 months, but less than 12 months	50%
At least 90 days, but less than 06 months	40%

NOTE: Service of 90 days, but less than 24 months does not include entry level and skill training. For Service of 24 months and greater members can include entry level and skill training.

*If you back out entry level and skill training and the aggregate days of service are still at least 730 days, then the entry level and skill training is included in the aggregate for determination of the level of benefit. If backing out entry level and skill training brings the person's service to less than 730 days, then it cannot be included in the aggregate for determination of the level of benefit.

Post-9/11 Entitlement

Individuals eligible under the Post-9/11 benefits are generally entitled to 36 months of educational assistance. Individuals may not receive multiple GI Bill benefits concurrently. Members are limited to a maximum of 48 months of entitlement when using benefits under two or more programs.

Your entitlement to the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be equal to the number of months you have remaining under MGIB. However, if you exhaust all of your MGIB entitlement, then you may be entitled to a maximum of 12 additional months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

NOTE: Individuals eligible under chapter 30 who elect to receive benefits under chapter 33 are only entitled to the number of months they had remaining under chapter 30 at the time of their election (including any revoked months of transferred entitlement) up to a maximum of 36 months. If a person has used all of his/her chapter 30 benefits before electing chapter 33, then that person is entitled to up to 12 months of chapter 33 under the 48 month rule (See paragraph G for more information.)

Educational Assistance

1. **Established Charges – Tuition and Fees (Limited to the most expensive undergraduate in-State public institution of higher learning).**

   The amount of established charges (tuition and fees) payable for the entire quarter, semester, or term will be sent directly to the school as a lump sum payment. The percentage of the maximum benefit payable to an individual is based on the aggregate amount of active duty served on or after September 11, 2001.

   Individuals will receive the applicable percentage (see chart to the right) of the lesser of:

   a. Established charges; or

   b. Highest amount of established charges regularly charged undergraduate in-State students for fulltime pursuit at an Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) – go to the following Web site for the most current listings: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Tuition_and_fees.htm

2. Monthly Housing Allowance.

The monthly housing allowance is based on the monthly basic allowance for housing (BAH) payable for a military member (with dependents) in pay grade E-5 residing in the same ZIP code for the college or university where the individual is enrolled.

Active duty members and individuals training at 50% pursuit or less are not eligible for a housing stipend. Members enrolled in online only education courses are eligible for half of their allowable allowance.

The full BAH is payable for all pursuit that is more than 50% of full time pursuit, e.g., where 12 semester hours would be full time, the full BAH would be payable for all pursuit of more than 6 semester hours.

The housing allowance is paid monthly, directly to the member.

Housing Allowance: Must be in school greater than ½ time. Online only courses allow half of eligible housing amount.

Maximum Tuition & Fee Reimbursement

- **Public School:** All tuition & fee payments for an in-state undergraduate student
- **Private or Foreign School:** Up to $20,235.02

*Per academic year, based on 2014 rates

Tuition payments are based on undergraduate tuition and fees for education from a public institution of higher learning.

Payments are based on the tier level for which the member qualifies and will not exceed the cost of the tuition and fees.

Tuition and fee payments are paid directly to the school.

3. Stipend for Books and Supplies.

Individuals may receive a stipend of up to $1000 a year for books, supplies, etc. The individual will receive a lump sum payment in the first month of each quarter, semester, or term at the rate of $41.67 per credit hour up to a yearly total of 24 credits.

NOTE: The amount of the monthly housing allowance and the book stipend must be prorated based on the percentage of maximum benefit payable as noted in the above chart.

Educational Assistance (cont.)

4. Limitation on Educational Assistance for Training Pursued at Half Time or Less and for Active Duty or AGR Members.

a. **Half-time Training or Less.** Individuals training at ½ time or less are not eligible for the monthly housing stipend. They are eligible for an appropriately reduced stipend for books. The amount of educational assistance payable is the applicable percentage (see chart above) of the lesser of:

   a. Established charges; or

   b. Highest amount of established charges regularly charged in-State undergraduate students for full-time pursuit at an in-State public IHL.

b. **Active Duty Members.** Active duty members are not eligible for the monthly housing stipend or for the book stipend. The amount of educational assistance payable is the lesser of the:

   a. Established charges; or

   b. The Top-up amount not covered by military tuition assistance. In the case of active duty members, tuition and fees are not limited by the highest cost at a public IHL in the state where they are attending school.

5. Kickers.

Individuals eligible for a kicker (College Fund, Reserve Kicker) will remain eligible for such kicker under chapter 33 (provided the member was eligible for said kicker prior to qualifying for the Post-9/11 benefit).

The kickers will be paid monthly as an increase to the housing stipend. Although active duty members, individuals training at ½ time or less, and individuals pursuing only distance learning are not eligible for the monthly housing stipend they will receive a monthly kicker payment.

Note: Individuals will not receive an increased amount for additional contributions ($600 buy-up) paid under chapters 30 or 1607.

6. Refund of chapter 30 contributions (excludes $600 buy-up).

A proportional amount [based on the number of months remaining under chapter 30 at time of chapter 33 election] of the basic $1200 contribution will be included in the last monthly stipend payment when chapter 33 entitlement exhausts. Individuals who do not exhaust entitlement under chapter 33 will not receive a refund of contributions paid under chapter 30.

7. Rural Benefit.

One-time payment of $500 (no entitlement charged) for claimants using chapter 33 to pursue a program of education if the claimant:

1. Resides in a county with 6 persons or less per square mile (as determined by most recent decennial Census); *and either*:

   a. Physically relocates at least 500 miles; or

   b. Travels by air to physically attend an IHL if no other land-based transportation exists.

8. Other Educational Benefits.

These benefits are authorized with no resulting charge to entitlement.

- Tutorial assistance may be paid up to $100 per month, not to exceed a total of $1200;
- One licensing and certification test may be reimbursed, not to exceed the cost of the test up to a maximum of $2000; and
- Work-study is authorized for individuals training at ¾ time or higher.

Approved Programs

Individuals may receive educational assistance for any program of education that is approved under chapter 30 and offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL – college or university).

Tuition payments can be applied for Associates degrees through Doctoral / Professional Degrees. Currently, Correspondence, Apprenticeship / OJT, preparatory courses and national tests are not covered under Chapter 33. One certification program up to $2,000 is authorized.

Individuals who were previously eligible for chapter 30, 1606, or 1607 may continue to receive educational assistance for chapter 30 approved programs not offered by IHLs (i.e. flight schools, non degree vocational-technical schools, correspondence schools, APP/OJT programs, preparatory courses, and national tests). See paragraph G for more information.

Yellow Ribbon Program

Schools may voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund up to 50 percent of the established charges not already covered under chapter 33. VA will match each additional dollar funded by the school. The combined amounts may not exceed the full cost of the school's established charges.

Schools may choose specific programs to which they wish to apply the Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP).

Schools wishing to participate in YRP must specify how much money they will waive for each individual, to how many individuals they wish to apply it, and to which programs it will apply. All participation by veterans in the YRP is strictly on a first come, first served basis. Schools may not specify individual veterans to whom they wish to apply this program. Only individuals entitled to the 100 percent benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive this funding.

The Yellow Ribbon Program is only available to members who have reached the 100% Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefit tier.

Post-9/11 Benefit Elections

An individual who has met the requirements to establish eligibility under chapter 33 and, as of August 1, 2009 is--

- Eligible for either chapter 30, 1606, or 1607; or
- A member of the Armed Forces and making the basic $1200 contribution toward chapter 30; or
- A member of the Armed Forces who previously declined to elect chapter 30

must make an **irrevocable election** to use benefits under chapter 33. **The individual will no longer be eligible under the chapter he or she elected to "trade in" in order to receive chapter 33.** Any contributions being made under chapter 30 will cease the month following the election.

(NOTE: Individuals electing chapter 33 may use benefits under the revoked chapter if the type of educational assistance [flight, correspondence, APP/OJT, preparatory courses, and national tests] the individual wishes to pursue is not available under chapter 33. Entitlement used under the revoked chapter will be deducted from chapter 33.

When applying for Post-9/11 Benefits members must relinquish an existing GI Bill benefit (unless the member does not have one to relinquish).

Transfer of Entitlement

A special provision of the program allows career service members the opportunity to share their education benefits with immediate family members. To be approved to transfer benefits, a member must:

- Have been in the Armed Forces on or after August 1, 2009
- Be eligible for Post-9/11 benefits
- Have completed at least 6 years in the Armed Forces, and
- Agree to serve 4 more years (Retirement / special exceptions may be exempt from additional service commitment).

An eligible service member may transfer up to the total months of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, or the entire 36 months if the member has used none. Members can transfer benefits to a dependent only while the transferor is a current member of the Armed Forces. Retirees cannot transfer benefits – only revoke or modify.

The transfer of entitlement to dependents will require members to meet service obligations, which may require extending an enlistment.

Spouses may use transferred benefits after the member completes six years of service; children can use the benefit after the member completes 10 years of service.

Applying for Post-9/11 Benefits

Once you meet all the necessary eligibility requirements, you must apply for Post-9/11 benefits before it can be used (or transferred). Members seeking to apply for benefits for their sole use should follow the basic process in Section **1**. Members seeking to aquire Certificate of Eligibility or Verification of Eligibility will need to follow the process in Section **2**. Members seeking to transfer benefits to their dependents will need to follow the process in Section **3**. Furthermore, dependents planning to use the Post-9/11 benefits will need to follow the process outlined in Section **4**.

Have copies of your support documentation scanned and handy (DD Form 214s and/or orders).

You must relinquish an existing GI Bill (if you have one)... know which type of GI Bill(s) you have before beginning the application process.

SECTION 1. Applying for Service Member's Benefits

1. Log onto the web site (www.vets.gov/education)

2. Click the "Apply for Education Benefits" tab.

3. Click the "Apply for Benefits" tab, to the right of the screen.

4. Click the "Get Started" tab, at the bottom of the screen.

5. Insert all required information on each page and click "Continue".

6. Create a User ID & Password, if you haven't already.

7. Select "Education Benefits (FM 22-1990)".

6. Follow the application instructions for educational benefits, Form 22-1990.

7. When asked which GI Bill benefit you will relinquish for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, select the appropriate benefit. You may choose the current date as the effective date.

8. Complete the rest of the application, as required. You do not necessarily have to enter bank or school information at this time.

9. Finalize and submit the Form 22-1990. When prompted to upload supporting documentation, attach your files (no more than 5 files at <5mb each).

10. Once complete, you will receive a Confirmation number, date of application and which Regional VA office receives your application. Note this information.

You will receive a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) in the mail. Review it carefully, as it has the following information:

a) If you are eligible, and if not, the reason why.

b) Your percentage tier (40% - 100%).

c) Number of months you are eligible to receive.

d) Instructions on where to take the COE at your school.

Applying for Post-9/11 Benefits COE

This next section aids in ensuring ALL your qualifying time is forwarded to the Veteran's Administration when assessing and awarding Post-9/11 benefit percentages. This can be especially useful if an applicant has missing DD Form 214s or Orders. This section is recommended but not mandatory.

After submitting your Post-9/11 GI Bill application, you will need to print your Certificate of Eligibility certifying your Entitlement Information for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Requesting this letter will minimize delays in processing your Post-9/11 GI Bill application. See Below

SECTION 2. Requesting a Letter of Certification to Validate Qualifying Time

1. Go to: http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/

2. Click on the "ebenefits" box on the right side of the webpage.

3. Under the portion "eBenefits Consent To Monitor", click the check box to agree to the terms.
Then click "Login" under "CAC."

4. Under "My Benefits & Payments" click on Benefits (Left side of the page).

5. Next, click on Education - click Post-9/11 GI Bill (Ch 33) - click View Details.

6. Once the Education Enrollment Status page appears, the information shown on this page is the same info contained in your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) letter. In lieu of a COE letter, you can print a copy of this screen for benefit and eligibility verification.

7. After printing, contact your Retention Manager to complete the Statement of understanding (SOU), provided by your Retention Manager.

8. After both documents are completed, your Retention Manager will submit for final approval.

Once ARPC reviews your records, you will receive an email containing a draft copy of the certification letter..

You have 5 days to respond with either: a) Approval of the letter or b) Notification of discrepencies or missing periods of service.

Once approved or if no response is received, ARPC will email a copy of the offocial letter to you and the VA.

SECTION 2a. ***It is your responsibility to ensure the VA receives the ARPC confirmation letter. You can do this by either:***

a) Mail a copy to your Regional VA Office (put name and SSAN on all pages)

b) Submit a copy online to the VA by:

1. Logon to the www.gibill.va.gov website.

2. Place your cursor over the "Support" tab in the middle of the screen, the select "Submit A Question".

3. You will be directed to another website. Select "Continue to the website (not recommended)"

4. "Log In" using your username and password

5. In the "Subject" line, type the documents you are submitting (i.e. "Post 9/11 GI Bill Application supporting documents" or "ARPC Letter of Certification"). Include your name and last 4 of your SSAN.

6. In the "Question" box type a statement similar to: "Attached documents are in support of my Post 9/11 GI Bill claim. Please include this in my application. The confirmation number is XXXXXX" or "Please add attached LOC from ARPC, verifying my qualifying periods of active duty service, to my Post 9/11 GI . . .)".

7. Select Browse, navigate to and upload the required documents.

8. In the drop box for "Product" select "GI Bill", then click "OK".

9. In the drop box for "Category" click on "Post 9/11 GI Bill. This will make the list expand.

10. Select "Eligibility', then click "OK". Double check to ensure everything is accurate, if so click "Continue".

11. Select "Finish Submitting Question".

14. The submission confirmation page will appear

Applying for Post-9/11 Benefits (cont.)

SECTION 3. Applying for a Transfer of Benefits

1. Using a CAC card or DFAS pin, log in to the DoD Transferability of Education Benefits (TEB) Web page located at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/

2. Family members eligible for benefits under DEERS will be shown. (If a dependent's name is grayed out or the edit button does not work, it means that the member is not eligible for DEERS benefits and thus is not eligible to receive transferred benefits.)

3. Click the edit button for each family member you want to transfer benefits. Choose the start date and end date, and number of months of benefit.

4. Once family members are added check all the boxes to indicate you've read and understand each statement on the transfer request page.

5. After submitting the request to transfer benefits, in the upper left corner of the TEB site, you will see your name and transfer status. The date will be blank.

6. The ROM will contact you once he or she is notified of the request. At that point your will have to complete a Statement of Understanding. The ROM will forward the information for approval.

6. To track the status of your request, you will have to return to the TEB page.

7. After your request is approved, the status will change to 'approved' and the date of status (approval) will be the date you submitted your request.

Once approved, the TEB site will automatically transfer the data to the VA, so that they can process your family member's request for a certificate of eligibility.

SECTION 4. Dependents Applying for Benefits

1. Once your request is approved, your dependent has to submit a request for a certificate of eligibility to the VA, in the same manner as you did when applying for Chapter 33 benefits, using VONAPP.

2. Once in VONAPP, your dependent should select VA Form 22-1990e (Educational benefits – application for family member to use Transferred Benefits.

3. Complete the application

4. Once approved, and after receiving the certificate of eligibility from the VA, your family member will provide the certificate of eligibility to his or her school.

5. If the family member has not received the certificate of eligibility from VA when they enroll in school, they should ask the school veterans certifying official at the school to submit an enrollment certification for the academic term to VA.

Tuition funds will be sent direct from the VA to the school.

Children using transferred benefits will receive the monthly living stipend and the books and supplies stipend. Spouses using transferred benefits will only receive the monthly living stipend and the books and supplies stipend if they use the benefits after you separate from active duty.

Updating Post-9/11 Benefits (increasing your benefit tier)

Once you have enough qualifying time to make you eligible for the next benefit tier, you can request an increase to your benefits. You can do this several ways (similar process as outlined in Section 2a. above):

1. Submit a request online to the VA by logging into the www.gibill.va.gov website. Once there you may submit your request in the "Submit a Question" section. Be sure to include the various details (request for an increase to your benefits, your original confirmation number and copies of your support documents.

Once reviewed and approved the VA will send you an updated Certificate of Eligibility indicating your new benefit tier (percentage.)

Or you may

2. Draft up a request for an increase of benefits and mail it to your regional VA office (listed on the back of your original Certificate of Eligibility letter). Include a copy of your initial Post-9/11 Certificate of Eligibility and a copy of your new DD Form 214 (or Activation orders).