

Most Commonly Asked Questions and Answers about the Post-9/11/GI Bill

What does the Post-9/11 GI Bill cover?

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.

If you are also eligible for chapter 30, 1606 or 1607, you may be eligible to pursue training for on-the-job training, apprenticeship, correspondence, flight and preparatory courses under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

When will the Post 9/11 GI Bill become effective?

Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009.

Will I receive a retroactive payment under the Post-9/11 GI Bill for classes I am taking before August 1, 2009?

No. The Post-9/11 GI Bill only covers classes taken or training pursued on or after August 1, 2009.

I did not contribute \$1200 to the GI Bill. Can I still get the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Yes, if you meet the service requirements for the Post-9/11 GI Bill you will be eligible, even if you declined to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill.

I have a service-connected disability. Should I use the Post-9/11 GI Bill or Vocational Rehabilitation?

If you are eligible for both the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (chapter 31), you should speak with your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to determine which benefit is most beneficial to your situation.

Can I use the Post-9/11 GI Bill while on active duty?

You can use the Post-9/11 GI Bill on active duty provided you have completed at least 90 days of service (excluding basic entry level & skill training). Your tuition will be paid based on how long you have served. However, the tuition payment cannot exceed the amount not paid by military tuition assistance and/or the total amount of tuition & fees. You will not receive the housing allowance portion of the GI Bill or the book and supplies stipend, while on active duty.

Do I get the full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit I am eligible for if my state already has a free tuition and fees/books program?

The VA cannot pay for something that isn't charged. However, the individual is still eligible for the books stipend and monthly housing allowance, subject to the rules and regulations that govern those two benefits.

I am a school official, how do I find out more information about the payments that will come to the school?

During the upcoming months, VA will be finalizing plans, policies, and payment procedures. We will update this website as more information becomes available.

When and how can service members, veterans, and/or qualifying dependents apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

As of May 1, 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs will be accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Students may apply online using VONAPP or print out a VA Form 22-1990, (Application for VA Education Benefits) and mail it to the applicable Regional Processing Office.

Interested parties can sign up to receive an email alert anytime there is new information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill by following the instructions on the GI Bill website at www.qibill.va.gov.

How much money will I receive under the new GI Bill?

You or your school will receive a percentage, as determined by length of active duty service, of the following:

Amount of tuition and fees charged, not to exceed the most expensive in-state public institution of higher education. If the tuition and fees at the school you wish to attend are higher than the most expensive in-state tuition, your school may choose to participate in the "Yellow Ribbon" program.

- Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing (BAH) amount payable to E-5 with dependents, in same zip code as school*
- Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1000*
- A one-time payment of \$500 may be payable to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

**NOTE – Housing allowance and books and supplies stipend are not payable to individuals on active duty. Housing allowance is not payable for those pursuing training at half-time or less.*

I'm going to an expensive school, how does that work under the new GI Bill?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay up to the most expensive in-state tuition and fees at a public institution of higher learning in the veteran's state, but you can still attend any approved school. In instances where the benefit level does not cover the cost of

established charges, VA and the educational institution may enter into an agreement to cover the unmet expenses under the "Yellow Ribbon Program."

Note: Only individuals entitled to the full 100% benefit rate (based on service requirement) may receive this funding, and the matching contribution from the school and VA cannot exceed the full cost of the school's established charges.

*The "Yellow Ribbon" program is not available to active duty personnel.

For an example of how much tuition & fees the VA will pay, please refer to the GI Bill website at www.gibill.va.gov.

Do I get a refund of the \$1,200 buy-in for the Montgomery GI Bill?

Any individual who paid the \$1,200 buy-in for the Montgomery GI Bill and elects to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be refunded a proportional amount if, and after all entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill is used. Individuals who do not use all their entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill will not receive a refund of contributions paid under the Montgomery GI Bill.

If I used all of my months of benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB), am I still eligible for benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

If you used all of your months of benefits under MGIB, you may still be eligible for benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill if you have qualifying active duty service after September 10, 2001, and meet all of the eligibility requirements for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. For example, if you used 36 months of benefits under MGIB and you are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you may receive up to 12 months of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. You cannot receive more than a maximum of 48 months of benefits under any combination of VA education programs.

What if I enlisted under the Student Loan Repayment program?

The new GI bill will allow service members who enlisted under the student loan repayment plan to qualify for the new GI Bill benefits. However, time spent satisfying the student loan repayment obligation does not count toward the active duty service necessary to qualify for the benefits.

For additional information, please refer to the GI Bill website at www.gibill.va.gov.