



Session #47

VA Education Benefit Programs and Resources for Students

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Veterans Benefits Administration Education Service

Provides educational assistance to individuals who served:

Minimum of **90** aggregate days of active duty service on or after 9-11-01 with honorable discharge

At least **30** continuous days of active duty service after 9-10-01 and discharged due to a service connected disability



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Benefits

- Determined by the length of active duty service (40% up to 100% per length of active duty service)
- Expires 15 years after last qualifying period
- Usable for any program at an institution of higher learning approved for MGIB



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Tuition and Fees

- Active Duty and Veterans: 100% rate payable for public in-state tuition and fees
 - Private and foreign schools cap at \$17,500 academic year
 - Exception: Seven states: AZ, MI, NH, NY, PA, SC, and TX until July 31, 2014
- Paid directly to the school on student's behalf



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Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) continued...

- Housing allowance
- \$1,000 books and supplies
- 36 months of benefits
- Transfer benefits to spouses and children



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Yellow Ribbon Program

- Institutions voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to share tuition and fee costs that exceed the tuition and fee cap of \$17,500 at non-public schools and for out-of-state charges
- VA matches each additional dollar that an institution contributes, up to total cost of tuition and fees

Training at
private
institutions

Out-of-state
tuition



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PL 111-377 Key Changes:

- Modified the way VA pays tuition and fees
- Eliminated break/interval pay
- Housing allowance for online programs (October 1)
- On-the-Job Training, Apprenticeship, Flight, Correspondence, and Non-College Degree programs (October 1)
- More inclusive for some Guard members
- Allows reimbursement for multiple license/certification tests, national exams. (e.g., SAT, GMAT, LSAT, real estate license)
 - Allows students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend





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Tuition & Fees – How to Report to VA

- Report net cost-the T&Fs after any waiver, scholarship, etc. is applied
- Exclude loans and Title IX
- Exclude anything not designated for the sole purpose of reducing a student's tuition and fee cost (i.e., a general scholarship that may be used to defray costs such as food, housing, books)
- Report the tuition and fees charged to the student after deducting any amounts paid with federal funds, excluding federal Financial Aid Programs (Title IV)
 - Examples of non-title IV federal funds include Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA), Health Professionals Scholarship Program (HPSP), and Government Employees' Training Act (GETA)



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Debts/Overpayments

- Majority of debts related to education benefits are a result of Veteran/dependent changing enrollment status during a school term for which benefits have already been paid
- Debts are automatically generated when VA processes an amended award based on information received from the school indicating reduction or termination of classes
- Veterans can establish a repayment agreement that can extend for one year, as opposed to the previous policy of offsetting the entire amount from all funds available during the Veteran's current school enrollment period



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When is a debt established against a school?

When the VA has disbursed funds to the school and.....

- The student never attended classes they were certified for regardless of the reason for non-attendance
- The student completely withdraws on or before the first day of the term
- The school receives payment for the wrong student





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School debt continued:

- The school received a duplicate payment
- The school submits an amended enrollment certification and reported reduced tuition and fees
- The student dies during the term
- VA issued payment greater than what was certified

In all other instances the school should refund the money to the student in accordance with their policies.



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Debt Collection Practices in VBA

- Our current practices center around collecting overpayments of benefits from veterans or their dependents
- This is the first time that benefits are paid on behalf of a veteran to a school, where we need to collect debt from the school
- Educational benefits have never been paid in advance prior to the Chapter 33 benefit
- We are in the process of changing practices



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What changes are being made?

- The financial system is being reconfigured to produce multiple debts against a school, which can be sent to the Debt Management Center (DMC)
- Developing accounts receivable reports by individual for schools to help reconcile the reason for debt
- The DMC is changing the way they do business to facilitate collection activity
- Consolidation of debt processing functions to one Regional Processing Office (RPO)





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What future changes are anticipated at DMC?

- Notification letters will go out much quicker based on system changes notifying DMC of a debt
- All school checks will be sent to DMC for processing
- Those that cannot be applied will be sent to one RPO for research and processing
- Notification of these changes will be communicated to all schools as soon as the changes have gotten concurrence
- The timeline is indefinite right now, but before the end of the year



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We Need Your Help!!!

- PATIENCE
- Coordination between the Bursars office and the school certifying official. We often do not know what money is for until we receive the amended 1999 from the certifying official
- Once the new consolidating procedures are in place, do not send any money until you get a debt notification letter from DMC
 - The tear-off stub is a big help to DMC in identifying the funds



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http://gibill.va.gov/ Live Search

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POST 9/11 GI BILL It's Your Future

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The Home For All Educational Benefits Provided By The Department Of Veterans Affairs

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POST 9/11 GI BILL It's Your Future

Welcome to our Facebook page! If you're looking for the official source of information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill go to www.gibill.va.gov.

Information

Location: 810 Vermont Ave. NW Washington, DC, 20420

Phone: 1-888-GIBILL-1

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The Post-9/11 GI Bill, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Gateway City National Guard Members Meet up in St. Louis at the 59th Annual EANGUS General Conference and Exhibition August 8-11. Stop by Booth 209 at America's Center to learn more about the Post-9/11 GI Bill and other GI Bill benefits. For conference info, go to <http://ht.ly/2KWLK>.

August 5 at 6:09am · Comment · Like · View Feedback (13)

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Check out this link to a Forbes.com article discussing the increasing number of participating institutions in the Yellow Ribbon program.

More than 1,100 Schools Partner with VA on GI Bill - Forbes.com www.forbes.com

BusinessWire - Paving the way for recipients of the Post-9/11 GI Bill to attend higher-cost schools, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has entered into more than 3,200 agreements with over 1,100 schools for the upcoming academic year under the "Yellow Ribbon" program. Schools...

August 4 at 9:59am · Comment · Like · View Feedback (25)

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Happy 220th Birthday to the United States Coast Guard! Today the United States Coast Guard is celebrating its 220th birthday. The Coast Guard originated as the Revenue Cutter Service in 1790. In 1915 the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the Lifesaving Service forming the modern day Coast Guard...

August 4 at 4:58am · Comment · Like · View Feedback (47)

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Your Service, Our Gratitude: The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John D. Fry Scholarship The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John...

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