

# 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.

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*This handout has been compiled by the Vermont Air National Guard Retention Office to provide basic information that is current as of 6/27/2020. For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) or contact:*

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## 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.

*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 may increase benefit percentage (more service = a higher percentage of benefits).*



## 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.

## Qualifying Time

Serve at least 90 days in a period of qualifying active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Qualifying Active Duty services is:

- Service in any active component
- Title 10 U.S.C. Sections 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12304a, or 12304b
- Title 10 AGR or Title 32 AGR
- Title 32 U.S.C. Section 502(f) under a Declaration of National Emergency as follows:
  - Between Sept. 11, 2001 - May 31, 2002 under Operation Noble Eagle
- Effective Feb. 15, 2019, in support of the Southwest Border Mission under Operation Guardian Shield
- Effective March 22, 2020, in support of the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Serve in a qualifying duty status for 30 continuous days and separate due to a service-connected disability or injury.
- Purple Heart recipients eligible at 100% payment tier.



## 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.

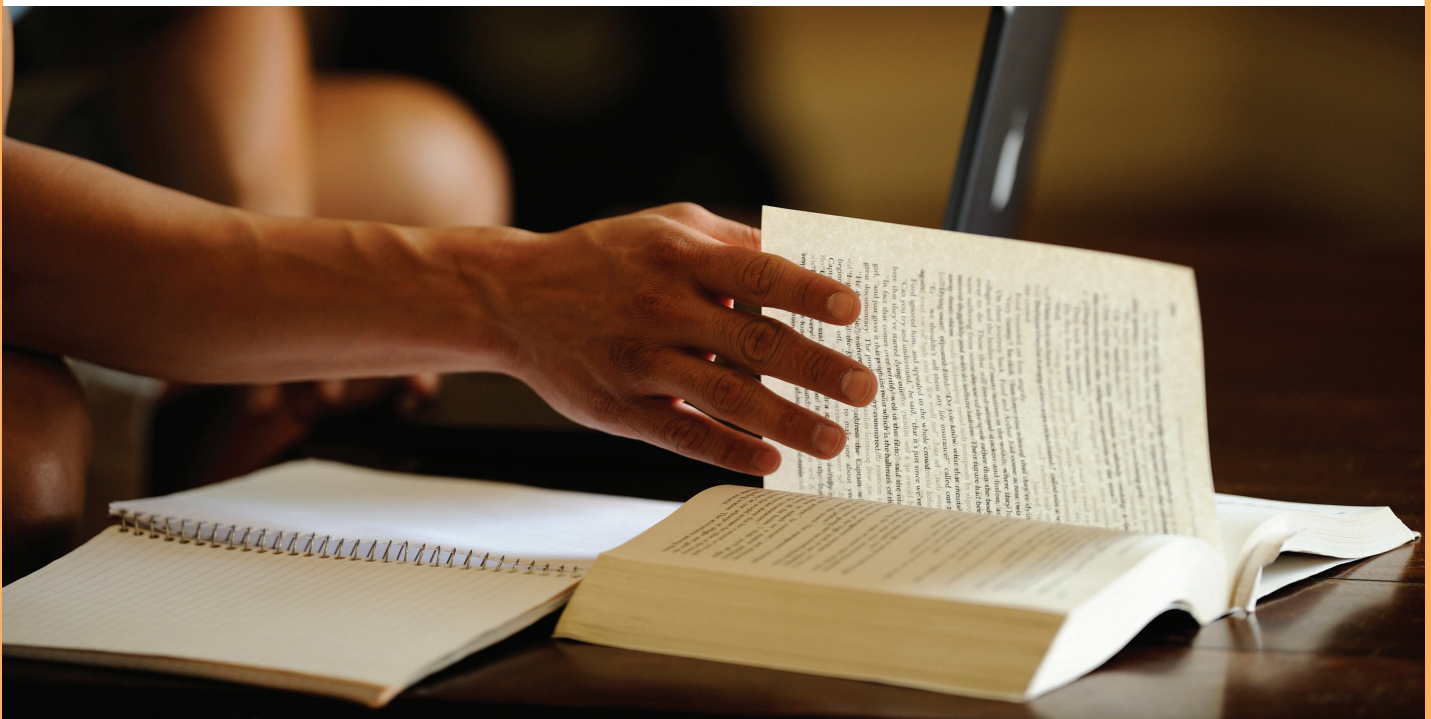
*NOTE: Individuals eligible under chapter 30 who elect to receive benefits under chapter 33 are only entitled to the number of months they had remaining under chapter 30 at the time of their election (including any revoked months of transferred entitlement) up to a maximum of 36 months. If a person has 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.)*

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.

*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.



## Period of Eligibility

- If your last day of qualifying Active Duty is on or after Jan. 1, 2013, your benefits never expire.
- If your last day of qualifying Active Duty is before Jan. 1, 2013, your benefits expire 15 years from your last day of Active Duty.
  - You can reset your expiration date by completing another qualifying period of service of at least 90 consecutive days.
  - Submit VA Form 21-4138 with your new DD214 to the VA Regional Processing Center.

## 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 6 months, but less than 18 months	60%
At least 90 days, but less than 6 months	50%

*Effective August 1, 2020*

## 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.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Tuition_and_fees.html)

**Maximum Tuition & Fee Reimbursement** \*Per academic year, based on 2014 rates

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

### 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 credit 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.

### 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 preceding chart.*





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

##### *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.



*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.
- Maximum Tuition & Fee Reimbursement

## 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  $\frac{3}{4}$  time or higher.

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.

## 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.***

***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.

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.

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





## Applying for Post 9/11

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 transfer benefits to their dependents will need to follow the process in Section 2. Furthermore, dependents planning to use the Post-9/11 benefits will need to follow the process outlined in Section 3.

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.

*For step-by-step instructions for Applying for Post 9/11, visit the Retention Sharepoint.*

## 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. 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).  
Or you may
2. Submit a request online to the VA by logging into the [www.gibill.va.gov](http://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).

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