


The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008


Preparation and Implementation



U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

March 2009


Today's Objectives



- Understand the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) benefit
- Discuss VA's strategy for implementing Ch33 and how this impacts you
 - Claims Processing
 - Draft Regulations
 - Yellow Ribbon Program
 - Overpayments and Debt Collection
 - Approaches may change based on lessons learned
- Provide input to help identify areas that cause concern, need to be addressed, or need clarity

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Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility Criteria




Individuals who served on active duty after 09/10/01 may be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill if the individual:

- Served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days.

Note: Exceptions are made for individuals discharged due to a service connected disability and serving at least 30 continuous days on active duty after 9/10/01.

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Eligibility Criteria




Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 an individual must serve an aggregate of)	% of Maximum Benefit Payable
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Must be 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

*Excludes time served in Basic Military Training and/or Skill Training

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Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility Period




In general, individuals will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from:

- Date of last discharge; or
- Release from active duty of at least 90 continuous days.

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Post-9/11 GI Bill Entitlement



- Individuals will generally receive 36 months of benefits.
- Individuals are limited to 48 months of combined benefits under educational assistance programs administered by VA.

NOTE: Individuals transferring to the Post-9/11 GI Bill from the Montgomery GI Bill (chapter 30) will be limited to the amount of remaining chapter 30 entitlement.

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Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefit Payments

- Tuition and Fees Charged
- Monthly Housing Allowance
- Stipend for Books and Supplies

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Fees Defined

- FEES —
Any mandatory charges (other than tuition) that are universally applied by the IHL to each and every student enrolled in an undergraduate program for that quarter, semester, or term.

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Tuition and Fees Charged

- Individuals not on active duty are eligible for the applicable percentage (based on aggregate active duty service) of the lesser of—
 - Tuition and fees charged; or
 - Highest amount of tuition and fees charged for full-time, undergraduate training at a public IHL in the State the student is attending. (Determined by the State Approving Agency)

Note: Tuition and Fees payments are paid directly to the school

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Tuition and Fees Charged

- Individuals on active duty are eligible for the applicable percentage (based on aggregate active duty service) of the lesser of —
 - Tuition and fees charged; or
 - Tuition and fees charged minus any military tuition assistance (TA) received.

Note: Tuition and Fees payments are paid directly to the school

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Monthly Housing Allowance

- Equivalent to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents
 - Amount determined by zip code of the IHL where the student is enrolled
 - <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>
 - Prorated based on the percentage of the maximum benefit payable
- Active duty members, anyone training at ½ time or less, and those pursuing training solely by distance learning are not eligible for the monthly housing allowance.

Note: Benefit payments are paid directly to the eligible person on a monthly basis

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Books and Supplies Stipend

- Up to a \$1,000 per year
 - \$41.67 per credit hour
 - Up to 24 credit hours in a single academic year
 - Lump sum payment (each quarter, semester or term attended)
- Prorated based on the percentage of the maximum benefit payable
- Active duty members are not eligible

Note: Benefit payments are paid directly to the student

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Books and Supplies Stipend

- Example:
 - If Susan enrolls in 15 credit hours for the Fall Term, she will receive a lump sum payment of \$625.05 ($\$41.67 \times 15 \text{ credit hours} = \625.05)
 - During the Spring term she enrolls in an additional 12 hours. Susan is only eligible to receive the books and supplies stipend for 9 of the 12 credit hours, she can not exceed the maximum of 24 credit hours in a single academic year. Her payment for the Spring term will be \$375.03 ($\$41.27 \times 9 = \375.03)

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Approved Programs

- All programs approved under chapter 30 and offered by an IHL.
- Individuals who were previously eligible for chapter 30, 1606, or 1607 may continue to receive benefits for approved programs not offered by IHLs (i.e. flight, correspondence, APP/OJT, preparatory courses, and national tests).

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Post-9/11 GI Bill Elections

An individual who has met the requirements to establish eligibility under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) and, as of August 1, 2009 is:

- Eligible for either chapter 30, 1606, or 1607, (must make an *irrevocable* election to use benefits under chapter 33); 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.

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Refund of Contributions

- A proportional amount of the basic \$1200 contribution will be included in the last monthly housing allowance 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.
- Refund of \$600 additional contribution is not authorized.

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Transfer of Entitlement

(Department of Defense Benefit)

- On or after August 1, 2009, DoD may allow an individual to elect to transfer entitlement to one or more dependents if he/she —
 - Has served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces; and
 - Agrees to serve at least another 4 years in the Armed Forces.
- Spouses may use transferred benefits after 6 years of service; dependent children after 10 years.

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Transfer of Entitlement

(Department of Defense Benefit)

- DoD determines eligibility for transferability and may, by regulation, impose additional eligibility requirements and limit the number of months transferable.

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Post-9/11 GI Bill Effective Date

August 1, 2009

Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) benefits can be paid for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009.

No payments may be made for training pursued before that date.



Yellow Ribbon Program

- Institutions voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition costs above the highest in-state undergraduate tuition rate.
- VA will match each additional dollar that an institution contributes toward an eligible student's tuition costs, up to 50 percent of the difference between the student's tuition benefit and the total cost of tuition and mandatory fees.



Yellow Ribbon Program (Cont'd)

- Only individuals entitled to the 100 percent benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive this funding.
- Individuals receiving transferred benefits from a service member may also be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.



Yellow Ribbon Program (Cont'd)

- Yellow Ribbon Information will be displayed in the Web-Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS)
 - Maximum Yellow Ribbon Payment information
 - Number of participants at the Institution
- WEAMS updates will be available in phases
 - You may notice changes in WEAMS; however, we will notify you when they can be utilized



Yellow Ribbon Program Timeline

- 12/01/08 – Sent Yellow Ribbon Program informational letter to Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs).
- 01/05/09 – Sent Yellow Ribbon Program inquiry letter to IHLs to determine the level of interest.
- 04/01/09 – Plan to Publicize the list of IHLs who responded to the Yellow Ribbon Program inquiry letter.



Yellow Ribbon Program Outreach

- Information for Education Professionals:
 - General school information regarding the Yellow Ribbon Program.
 - Training guide including certification requirements.
 - Yellow Ribbon Agreement PDF file.



Yellow Ribbon Program Outreach

- Information for Benefit Recipients:
 - General student information regarding the Yellow Ribbon Program.
 - Link to participating institutions.



Yellow Ribbon Program Application and Certification Process

- Participating institutions will offer Yellow Ribbon to eligible students.
- VA-Once modifications will allow school to certify students for Yellow Ribbon.
- VA will verify student's eligibility for Yellow Ribbon and process payments.
- VA will provide notification to student, including decision regarding Yellow Ribbon.



Overpayment of Benefits

- VA will determine the amount of an overpayment for an individual in receipt of chapter 33 benefits
- An individual who does not complete one or more courses in the certified period of enrollment, and who does not substantiate mitigating circumstances for not completing such course(s), will be charged an overpayment equal to the amount of ALL educational assistance paid for such course(s) for that period of enrollment.



Overpayment of Benefits (Cont'd)

- This means, the student is responsible for any overpayment incurred as a result of not completing courses.
- In the event a student does not complete a course, schools should follow their established student refund policy.

Bottom Line: Tuition and Fees payments are paid to the school on behalf of the student; overpayments for Tuition and Fees will be charged to the student.



Overpayment of Benefits (Cont'd)

- In the event a student does not complete a course, the student may (or may not) receive a refund from the school.

Bottom Line: If an overpayment is charged, the student will make repayment arrangements with VA's Debt Management Center (DMC) regardless of whether or not a refund was received from the school.



Overpayment of Benefits (Contd)

- If an overpayment is charged, VA will notify the student.
- Overpayment notifications will inform the student of the overpayment amount and whom to contact to establish a repayment schedule.
- Overpayments are collected by the VA Debt Management Center.



Overpayment of Benefits (Contd)

- In most cases, overpayments will not be collected during the due process period, which is 30 days from the day of notification.

Bottom Line: Students with existing overpayments on their record may attend schools; however, their benefit payments (including Tuition and Fees) may be applied to the overpayment until it is repaid.



Claims Processing Strategies

- The application and payment process will be supported two ways:
 - Interim Solution (8/1/09 to 12/1/10)
 - Minimal modification to existing IT Infrastructure
 - Hire significant additional term staff
 - Long-term Solution (12/1/10 Onward)
 - Automated processing using "rules-based" technology



References

- GI Bill Website (www.gibill.va.gov)
 - Sign up for FAQ updates!
- GI Bill Hotline: 1-888-GIBILL-1
- Yellow Ribbon mailbox (yellow.ribbon@va.gov)



Discussion