

Initial Entry and Skill Level Training Handout

[Title 38] §3301. Definitions

(2) The term "entry level and skill training" means the following:

- (A) In the case of members of the Army, **Basic Combat Training** and **Advanced Individual Training** or **One Station Unit Training**.
- (B) In the case of members of the Navy, **Recruit Training (or Boot Camp)** and **Skill Training (or so-called "A" School)**.
- (C) In the case of members of the Air Force, **Basic Military Training** and **Technical Training**.
- (D) In the case of members of the Marine Corps, **Recruit Training** and **Marine Corps Training (or School of Infantry Training)**. *See additional clarification
- (E) In the case of members of the Coast Guard, **Basic Training** and **Skill Training (or so-called "A" School)**. **See additional Clarification

Additional Clarification

Army: Enlisted Soldiers attend Basic Training (BCT):

- Either combined with Advanced Individual Training (AIT) also known as One Station Unit Training (OSUT) or AIT occurs at another location to earn an military occupational skill (MOS)
- Additional skill identifier or other training should not be identified as training. (i.e., Airborne School, Defense Language Institute, Ranger or Special Forces Training...). This time is fully creditable under Chapter 33 unless performed by a member of the National Guard. For National Guard members it may or may not be creditable service

Navy: Enlisted Sailors attend Recruit Training or Boot Camp (RTC):

- Many attend advanced skill training (apprenticeship) or "A" School to earn a "rating"
- Others go directly into the fleet without additional training serving as an airmen, fireman or seaman

Air Force: Enlisted Airmen attend Basic Military Training (BMT):

- Attend Technical Training to earn their Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) which is similar to a Navy "Rating" or the Army and Marines MOS job identification.

Marines: United States Marine Corps (USMC) enlistees enter Boot Camp:

- Then will attend either School of Infantry (SOI) or Marine Combat Training (MCT)
- *Subsequent job skill training or MOS training should not be identified as training. This time is fully creditable under Chapter 33.

Coast Guard: Enlisted Guardians attend Basic Training:

- Similar to the Navy, attend "A" School to earn a rating.
- **NOTE: Only Basic Training should be identified for those enlisting and entering service prior to January 4, 2011. [PL 111-377 added A-school to the definition of entry level and skill training for Coast Guard.]

Initial Entry and Skill Level Training Handout

When it is needed to Identify Initial Entry and Initial Skill Level Training?

ID Key: O = Optional. Y = Required entry. N = Do not Identify as "Training"

Scenario	ID	Reason
30 continuous days of creditable service, separated for a service connected disability	O	Enter Initial Entry and Initial Skills Training into the Long Term Solution (LTS) if known, and remove if system does not calculate correct benefit level. Known issue: In certain instances LTS will not indicate 100% benefit level.
No honorable or creditable service	O	Enter Initial Entry and Initial Skills Training into LTS if known, do not develop. Eligibility will not change.
30 months or more of creditable service	O	Enter Initial Entry and Initial Skills Training into LTS if known, do not develop. Benefit level will not change.
Less than 30 months of creditable service <u>with more than one year of service prior to 9/11/01</u>	O	Enter Initial Entry and Initial Skills Training into LTS if known, do not develop. Presumed to have been completed prior to 9/11/01.
Any length of service and excluding first 3 years for Loan Repayment Plan (LRP)	O	Enter Initial Entry and Initial Skills Training into LTS if known, do not develop. Benefit level will not change.
Less than 30 months of creditable <u>service as an officer</u>	N	Do not identify officer training, this is fully creditable.
Less than 30 months of creditable <u>service as an enlisted member</u>	Y	Identify initial entry and skill level training and enter this data into LTS. Develop when not in block 12h of a DD214, not listed in VIS or whenever uncertain.

NOTE:

- *All Reserve and National Guard required Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) is ordered under title 10 USC 12301(d)*
- *Some portions of IADT may not need to be identified, only those courses codified in 38 USC 3301 are to be identified as training under Chapter 33*
- *Title 10 Active Duty Training (ADT), Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS) and Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) is performed under 12301(d) and is creditable service*

Initial Entry and Skill Level Training Handout

- *Title 32 ADT, ADOS and ADSW is not creditable service unless in support of a National Emergency and supported by Federal Funds (which is rare.) Do not enter non-creditable service into the LTS*

Acronyms for some initial training performed by Officers (Do not ID as Training):

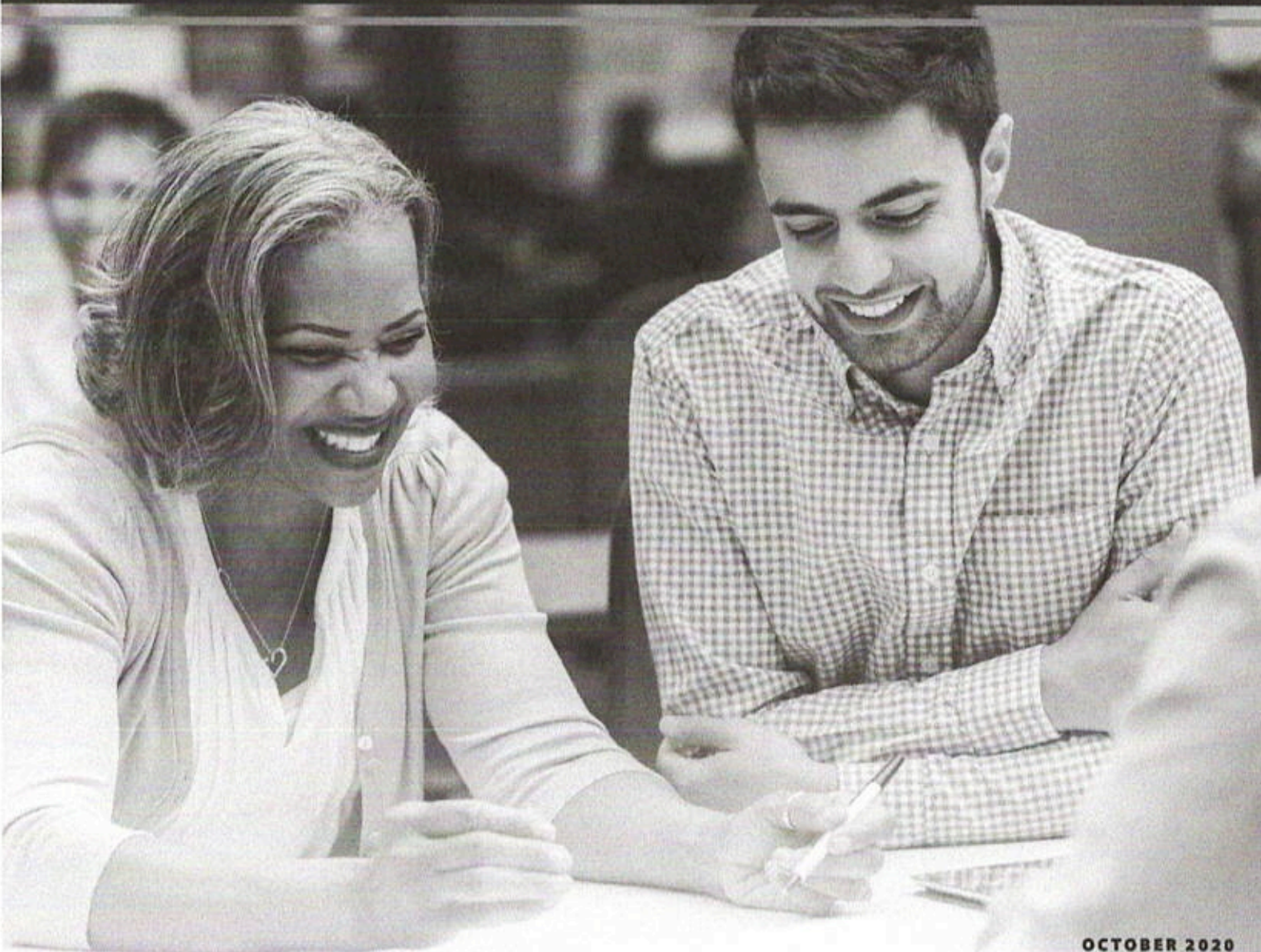
BOLC – Basic Officer Leaders Course (Army)	TBS – The Basic School (USMC)
DCOs – Direct Commission Officers	USAFA – United States Air Force Academy
OBC – Office Basic Course	USCGA – United States Coast Guard Academy
OCS – Officer Candidate School	USNA – United States Naval Academy
ROTC – Reserve Officer Training Corps	USMA – United States Military Academy
SMCs - Senior Military Colleges	WOBC - Warrant Officer Basic Course

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1. NAME (Last, First, Middle)		2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
		USAICA.X1			
4a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK	b. PAY GRADE	5. DATE OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy)	6. RESERVE OBLIGATION TERMINATION DATE (mm/dd/yyyy)	20191123	
PVT	BI	b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and State, or complete address if known)			
7a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY		PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15222			
8a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND		b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED		10. SGLI COVERAGE	
US ARMY TRNO CTR (STUD PERS), FORT LEONARD WOOD MO		MARINE CORPS DETACHMENT (54065)		AMOUNT: \$400,000 <input type="checkbox"/> NONE	
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED		12. RECORD OF SERVICE			
CO, H&S Co, HQ BN, 4TH MARDIV, USMC, P.O. BOX 11706		a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD			
11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, list end year and month in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and dates involving periods of one or more years.)		b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD			
3531, MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR, 00 YEARS, 03 MONTHS		c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD			
8011, BASIC MARINE W/OUT GUARANTEED, 00 YEARS, 04 MONTHS		d. TOTAL PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE			
		e. TOTAL PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE			
		f. FOREIGN SERVICE			
		g. SEA SERVICE			
		h. INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING			
		i. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PAY GRADE			
		14. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number of weeks, end month and year completed)			
		MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR (35X), 6 WKS, 01/2013			
		13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (All periods of service)			
		NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL			
		MARKSMAN RIFLE QUALIFICATION BADGE			

Building Your Future With the GI Bill®

PART TWO: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING YOUR BENEFITS



The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) offers education benefits to eligible Service members, Veterans and their dependents who wish to further their education and advance their career. Understanding the variety of education benefits available will help you determine the appropriate VA benefit based on your eligibility and goals. This guide is meant to provide details on supplemental programs and offer a way to compare your options. Furthermore, this guide encompasses information on additional grants, scholarships, state benefits and student loans, to give you a wholistic view of resources available at your fingertips. This guide, part two in a three-part series, is meant to assist future GI Bill beneficiaries, like you, in navigating the VA education benefits that can lead to a fulfilling career.

VA Education Benefits

VA Education Service administers five benefits programs to provide benefits and resources to help Service members, Veterans and their dependents or eligible family members achieve their education goals. These benefits include financial support for undergraduate and graduate degrees, non-college degree programs, licensing and certification tests, apprenticeships, on-the-job training and more.

You may be eligible for one or more of the following VA education benefit programs:*

- » Post-9/11 GI Bill
- » Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD)
- » Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)
- » Veterans' Education Assistance Program (VEAP)
- » Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance (DEA) Program

If you pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees, you may be eligible for:

- » Tuition Assistance Top-Up
- » Tutorial Assistance

If you want to train for a specific career, trade, or industry, you may be eligible for:

- » Personalized Career Planning and Guidance
- » Vocational/technical training and non-college degree programs
- » On-the-job training and apprenticeships
- » Entrepreneurship training
- » Flight training
- » Test fees

- » Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC)
- » Edith Nourse Rogers Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Scholarship

If you want to work while you study, your education benefits may help pay for:

- » Co-op training
- » Work study

If you want to take classes from home, your education benefits may help pay for:

- » Correspondence training
- » Independent and distance learning

**You may qualify for more than one education benefit; however, you cannot receive benefits under more than one program at a time and cannot exceed 48 months of entitlement.*

Annually, VA processes approximately 4 million education claims and distributes approximately \$12B in education benefits to 1 million beneficiaries.

Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) is the most frequently used VA education benefit. It provides up to 36 months of benefits to help pay for school or job training for Veterans, Service members, survivors and dependents.

Your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits may include financial support for school tuition, fees, books, supplies, and housing. You may also receive reimbursement for license or certification tests, national exams or assistance for apprenticeships or on-the-job-training. A one-time benefit to help you relocate from certain rural areas to attend school is also available.

Based on length of active service, you are entitled to a percentage of each type of benefit, up to 100% of the maximum benefit.

You may be eligible if you:

- » Served at least 90 aggregate days of qualifying active service on or after September 11, 2001.
- » Received a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001 and were honorably discharged after any amount of service.
- » Served for at least 30 continuous days on or after September 11, 2001, and were honorably discharged with a service-connected disability.
- » Are a spouse or dependent child using benefits transferred by a qualifying Veteran or Service member.

Your benefits expiration dates depend on when you were discharged from active duty. If your service ended before January 1, 2013, your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits will expire 15 years after your last separation date from active service. If you do not use all of your benefits within 15 years, any remaining benefits will expire and will no longer be available. If your service ended on or after January 1, 2013, your benefits do not expire thanks to a section of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the "Forever GI Bill".

Some education benefits may be transferred to your spouse and child(ren) before leaving active duty. Learn more about transfer of benefits [here](#) and learn more about Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and apply for education benefits at VA.gov.

“

The GI Bill enabled my husband and I to go to school at the same time and not have to worry so much about finances... we could pursue our educations more vigorously and with less stress than we would have otherwise.

— GI Bill Student and Military Spouse

GI Bill Highlights



GI Bill Mission and Goals

- Expands opportunities for Veterans and eligible family members to pursue their academic goals.
- Enhances the nation's economic strength with innovative programs that support employment in high demand fields.
- Enriches lives by giving beneficiaries the tools they need to further their education that leads to a fulfilling career.

Signed into law in 2017, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act greatly expands your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. The Act:

- Eliminates time limit for using benefits for Veterans discharged from Active Duty on or after January 1, 2013.
- Changes basis for Monthly Housing Allowance to the campus location GI Bill students attend the majority of their classes.
- Awards all Purple Heart Recipients the 100% education benefit level.
- Reduces amount of benefits used for licensing or certification exams.
- And more.

Benefits Rates

(effective August 1, 2020)

The Colmery Act Increases benefits for qualifying Veterans who served less than 12 months. Check [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) for the latest benefits rates.

The act also introduces additional funding opportunities through VET TEC and the Rogers STEM Scholarship, and expanded eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Member Serves	Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable
At least 36 months	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty and must be discharged due to service-connected disability or received a Purple Heart	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%

Veterans Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC)

VET TEC is a five-year pilot program for eligible Veterans to help them secure meaningful employment in the fast-growing technology sector. The program pairs eligible Veterans with market-leading training providers that offer training and skills development in areas such as information science, computer programming, data processing, media applications and computer software programs. Veterans with at least one day of unexpired GI Bill entitlement may be eligible. This program does not utilize GI Bill entitlement. Participants receive tuition for a full-time high-tech training program and money for housing during training. VET TEC is subject by law to a \$15 million annual budget. In the event that the annual budget cap is hit, VA will no longer accept new VET TEC student enrollments until additional funding is secured or the new fiscal year starts on October 1. View a full list of training providers and apply on [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov).

Edith Nourse Rogers Science Technology Engineering and Math (Rogers STEM) Scholarship

The Rogers STEM Scholarship provides up to nine months of additional Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits (with a maximum of \$30,000) to qualifying Veterans and Fry Scholars seeking an undergraduate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) degree or who have earned a STEM degree and

are now seeking a teaching certificate. Priority is given to students who are entitled to 100% of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and those who require the most credit hours. Review the STEM Designated Degree Program List and apply on [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov).

Yellow Ribbon Program

The Yellow Ribbon program provides additional financial support if you are eligible at the 100% benefit level and attend a school where tuition and fees exceed the maximum Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit available by law. Fry Scholars and Purple Heart recipients are also eligible for Yellow Ribbon. Check the Yellow Ribbon Search Tool to see if a school participates.

“

You have options, and they are good options ... I never would have been able to do any of this without the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Otherwise, I'd be stuck doing a 9-to-5 job, instead of following my dreams. That's possible because of the GI Bill.

— GI Bill Student at Divers Institute of Technology

Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD)

MGIB-AD, or Chapter 30, provides up to 36 months of financial assistance for educational pursuits, including college, vocational/technical training, correspondence courses, apprenticeships/on-the-job training, flight training, high-tech training, licensing and certification tests, entrepreneurship training courses, and national examinations. Generally, your MGIB-AD benefits are paid directly to you on a monthly basis.

You may be eligible for MGIB-AD benefits while you are on or after you separate from active duty. At a minimum, you must have a high school diploma or GED. To receive benefits after separating, you must have received an honorable discharge. You generally have 10 years from your last date of separation from active duty to use your MGIB-AD benefits.

Learn how you can use your MGIB-AD benefits and apply for education benefits at [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov).

Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)

MGIB-SR, or Chapter 1606, provides up to 36 months of financial assistance for educational pursuits, including college, vocational/technical training, correspondence courses, apprenticeships/on-the-job training, flight training, high-tech training, licensing and certification tests, and national examinations. If you are a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard, you may qualify for this program. Generally, your MGIB-SR benefits are paid directly to you on a monthly basis.

You may be eligible for MGIB-SR benefits if you have a 6-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve, complete your Initial Active Duty for Training, serve in a drilling unit and remain in good standing, and obtain a high school diploma or equivalency. The Guard and Reserves decide if you are eligible, while VA makes the payments for the program. Generally, your eligibility for MGIB-SR benefits ends on the day you leave the selected reserve.

Learn how you can use your MGIB-SR benefits and apply for education benefits at [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov).

Veterans' Education Assistance Program (VEAP)

VEAP, or Chapter 32, is a \$2-for-\$1 matching program that provides up to 36 months of education benefits to those who elected to make contributions from their military pay before April 1, 1987. You can use these benefits for degree, certificate, correspondence, apprenticeships/on-the-job training, and vocational flight training programs.

You have 10 years from your release from active duty to use your VEAP benefits. If you have not completely used your entitlement after 10 years, your remaining contributions will be automatically refunded. For those who are eligible, VEAP can provide assistance for education programs similarly covered by other VA benefits. If you are currently on active duty and wish to receive VEAP benefits, you must have at least three months of contributions available.



Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance (DEA) Program

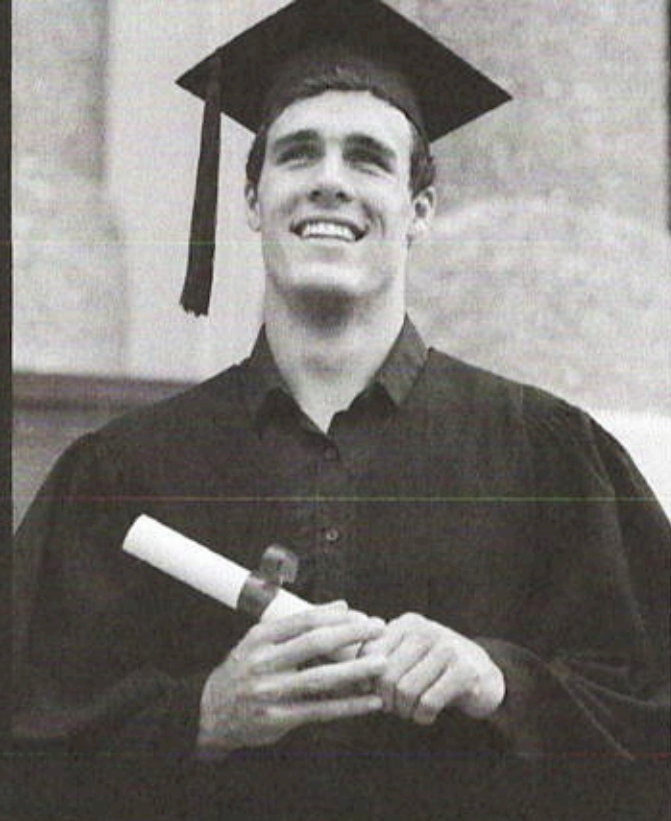
DEA program, or Chapter 35, provides a monthly payment to help you cover the cost of a degree, certificate, correspondence, apprenticeships/ on-the-job training, correspondence courses and other programs. Individuals who first use DEA after August 1, 2018 qualify for a maximum of 36 months of entitlement. You may be eligible if you are the child or spouse of:

- » A Veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability.
- » A Veteran who died of any cause while such permanent and total service-connected disability existed.
- » A Service member who died during active military service.
- » A Service member missing in action or was captured in the line of duty by a hostile force.
- » A Service member forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign entity.
- » A Service member who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service-connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability.

A child of a Veteran or Service member can receive these benefits between the ages of 18-26. A spouse of a Veteran or Service member can receive these benefits:

- » Within 10 years from the date of the Veteran's death.
- » For 20 years if VA rated the Veteran as permanently and totally disabled, with an effective date that is three years after discharge.
- » Within 20 years from the date of death if the Service member died on active duty.

Find more information on the DEA program at [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov).



A Comparison of Education Benefits Programs

Please note that this chart provides general information and exceptions may apply.

	Minimum Length of Service	Maximum Months of Benefits	Duration of Benefits	Benefits can Include
Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)	90 days total active service after 9/10/01 or 30 days continuous if discharged for service-connected disability	36	Service ended on or after 1/1/2013: No expiration Service ended before 1/1/2013: 15 years from last day of active duty	Tuition, housing stipend, books & supplies, non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance, rural relocation
MGIB-AD (Chapter 30)	2 years continuous enlistment (minimum duty varies by service date, branch, etc.)	36	Generally 10 years from last day of active duty	Degree training, non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance
MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606)	6-year commitment after 6/30/85	36	Generally ends the day you leave Selected Reserve	Degree training, non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance
VEAP (Chapter 32)	181 continuous days active service between 1/1/1977 and 6/30/1985	36	10 years from last day of active duty	Degree training, non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance
DEA (Chapter 35)	Not applicable	36 or 45**	Spouse: 10 or 20 years depending on eligibility Child: Ages 18-26	Degree training, non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance

****Note:** If you began using this program to pay for your school or training before August 1, 2018, you can get benefits for up to 45 months. If you began using the program on or after August 1, 2018, you can get benefits for up to 36 months.

Check out the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) to learn about education programs and compare benefits by school.

Additional Resources

If your VA benefits do not fully cover all of your education expenses, additional resources may be available that can help bridge the gap.

Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)

Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) services can provide help with job training, employment accommodations, resume development, and job seeking skills coaching. If you're an eligible Service member or Veteran with a service-connected disability, you can learn more on the VR&E Process page.

Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG)

VA's Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG)/Chapter 36 benefit offers enhanced career counseling, assessment, education planning, and guidance resources to achieve personal, career and education goals. PCPG is available to transitioning Service members 6 months prior to separation, Veterans who have transitioned from active service in the last year, and any beneficiary eligible for a VA educational benefit. Learn more and apply for education and career counseling.

Invest in Your Future

Apply Today: Applying is the best way to determine your eligibility. To apply, visit [ebenefits.VA.gov](https://ebenefits.va.gov), your one-stop shop to learn about and apply for benefits. For further assistance, see the links below.

Resource	Link
eBenefits	<u>ebenefits.VA.gov</u>
VA Education Web Page	<u>VA.gov/education</u>
GI Bill Comparison Tool	<u>VA.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/</u>
Education Call Center	1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) (inside the U.S) 001-918-781-5678 (outside the U.S.)
Veterans Crisis Line	1-800-273-8255 and press 1
VA Regional Office Location	<u>VA.gov/find-locations</u>

Now that you have a good understanding of VA education benefits, what's next? Part three in the *Building Your Future with the GI Bill series* offers "A Guide to Furthering Your Career" equipping you with resources you need to successfully transition from completing your education to pursuing your career goals.

Grants & Scholarships

Scholarships offer additional funding to support your education based on academic achievement or other qualifications. Scholarships are usually school-specific, but some are offered nationally, and application processes will vary. You can research various grants and scholarships at your prospective school's website or check out types of scholarships [here](#).

State Benefits

Some states offer education benefits and/or scholarships for Veterans who are residents or planning to attend a state school. Contact your [State's Veterans Affairs Office](#) for more information.

Student Loans

Student loans can help cover the additional costs of pursuing an education. Federal and private loans are borrowed funds that you must repay with interest. Federal loans typically offer lower interest rates and more flexible repayment terms than private loans. You can learn more about your options using the [Federal Student Loans Programs](#) guide, visiting studentaid.gov and Department of Education's [Financial Aid Shopping Sheet](#).

Select One

Transition and Economic

Development

Compensation

Education & Training

Veteran Readiness & Employment

Home Loans

Life Insurance

Pension

Appeals Modernization

Special Groups

Services

Applying for Benefits

Locations


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Forever GI Bill - Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act

Summaries

Reserve Duty That Counts Toward Post-9/11 Eligibility

The time that a Reservist was ordered to active duty to receive authorized medical care, be medically evaluated for disability, or complete a Department of Defense (DoD) health care study on or after September 11, 2001, now counts as active duty toward eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

Purple Heart Recipients

Servicemembers and honorably discharged Veterans who were awarded a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001 will be entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at the 100-percent benefit level for up to 36 months. This was effective on August 1, 2018.

Yellow Ribbon Extension to Fry and Purple Heart Recipients

Recipients of the Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart will be covered under the Yellow Ribbon Program. This was effective August 1, 2018.

Yellow Ribbon Extension to Active Duty Servicemembers

Active duty Servicemembers may use the Yellow Ribbon program effective August 1, 2022.

Consolidation of Benefit Levels

Eliminates the 40-percent benefit level and expands the 60-percent benefit level under the Post 9/11 GI Bill program. An individual with aggregate service of 90 days but less than six months of active-duty service (excluding entry and skill training) now qualifies at the 50-percent benefit level. An individual with aggregate service of at least six months but less than eighteen months of active-duty service (excluding entry and skill training) now qualifies at the 60-percent benefit level. This removes the 40-percent benefit level. This section will take effect August 1, 2020.

Member Serves	Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable
At least 36 months	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty and must be discharged due to service-connected disability or received a Purple Heart (Purple Heart effective August 1, 2018)	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 06 months	50%

REAP Eligibility Credited Toward Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Members of the Reserve who established eligibility to educational assistance under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) before November 25, 2015, and lost it due to the sunset provision may elect to have that service credited towards the Post-9/11 GI Bill program.

Monthly Housing Based on Campus Student Attends the Majority of their Classes

The law requires the monthly housing allowance (MHA) under the Post-9/11 GI Bill program to be calculated based on the zip code of the campus where the student physically attends the majority of classes, rather than the location of the institution of higher learning where the student is enrolled. This applied to the first enrollment in an educational program on or after August 1, 2018.

Changes to Licensing and Certification Charges

Entitlement charges for licensing and certification exams and national tests under the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be prorated based on the actual amount of the fee charged for the test.

Assistance for Students Affected by School Closures and Certain Disapprovals

VA is now authorized to restore benefits and provide relief to education beneficiaries affected by school closures or certain disapprovals. This means payments of educational assistance will not be charged against an entitlement of educational assistance, or counted against the total period for which a beneficiary may receive educational assistance under two or more programs, if VA finds that the individual was unable to complete such course or program of study as a result of:

- the closure of an educational institution; or
- the disapproval of the course or a course that is a necessary part of that program by reason of a new law, regulation, or policy implemented after the individual enrolls.
- not receiving credit, or losing training time, toward completion of the program being pursued.

VA may treat a course of education that is disapproved under this chapter as being approved, if VA determines, on a case-by-case basis, that the course was disapproved for one of the reasons stated above and continuing the course is in the best interest of the individual

This provision takes effect 90 days after August 16, 2017 and applies to courses and programs of education discontinued after August 1, 2015. For courses or programs discontinued during the period beginning January 1, 2015, and ending on August 16, 2017, an individual who *does not transfer* credits can have all his/her entitlement restored.

VA may also continue awarding a monthly housing allowance stipend under the Post-9/11 GI Bill program following a permanent school closure or certain disapproval of a course of study. The changes to monthly housing allowance took effect on August 1, 2018, and apply to courses and programs of education discontinued on or after August 16, 2017. [Click here to find out more and apply.](#)

Assistance for Post-9/11 GI Bill students impacted by Colmery Act MHA changes

On December 1, 2019, VA implemented new Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) rules to pay housing benefits to Post-9/11 GI Bill students in accordance with the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act.

Some students may see a decrease in their MHA payments because of these changes and may apply for one-time financial assistance from VA to aid in their transition and financial planning to a lower MHA.

When relief is granted under these circumstances:

- VA will pay the difference between the previous MHA payment, and the new MHA payment.
- It will only be applicable for the student's first affected term.

Students impacted by Colmery Act MHA changes can apply in three ways:

- **Online** – The quickest way to receive an answer from VA is to submit a completed Housing Relief Request through the Ask A Question portal.
- **By phone** – call the Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 to have a request submitted on your behalf.
- **By mail** – send a completed Housing Relief Request by mail to the Regional Processing Office of Jurisdiction.

To learn more about these MHA rate changes and how they may impact you, review the [MHA Rate Change infographic](#) , and [Rate Change Letters Infographic](#) .

Changes to Transfer of Benefits (TEB)

Veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies before using the entitlement.

Dependents who received transfer of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill can transfer their entitlement to another eligible dependent if the Servicemember or Veteran who made the transfer subsequently dies.

This law applies to deaths on or after August 1, 2009. This took effect August 1, 2018.

Find more information at our [Reallocation Webpage](#).

More Benefits for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs

VA will provide up to nine months of additional Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to certain eligible individuals who:

- have or will exhaust Post 9/11 GI Bill entitlement within six months based on your current enrollment.
- apply for assistance, and
- are enrolled in a program of education leading to a post-secondary degree that, in accordance with the guidelines of the applicable regional or national accrediting agency, requires at least 120 standard semester (or 180 quarter) credit hours for completion in a standard, undergraduate college degree in **biological or biomedical science; physical science; science technologies or technicians; computer and information science and support services; mathematics or statistics; engineering; engineering technologies or an engineering-related field; a health profession or related program; a medical residency program; an agriculture science program or natural resources science program;** or other subjects and fields identified by VA as meeting national needs.
- has completed at least 60 standard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours in a field listed above, or has earned a post-secondary degree in one of these fields and is enrolled in a program of education leading to a teaching certification.

Priority would be given to individuals who are entitled to 100 percent of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and to those that require the most credit hours.

VA can pay each eligible individual the benefits for up to nine additional months, but the total may not exceed \$30,000. VA will not be authorized to issue any Yellow Ribbon payments.

These additional benefits cannot be transferred to dependents.

This expansion became effective on August 1, 2019.

Elimination of 15-year Limitation to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

The law removes the time limitation for the use of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for individuals whose last discharge or release from active duty is on or after January 1, 2013, children of deceased Servicemembers who first become entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill program benefits on or after January 1, 2013, and all Fry spouses.

All others remain subject to the current 15-year time limitation for using their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Reserve Components Monthly Housing Allowance

VA will prorate the monthly housing stipend (also referred to as the "monthly housing allowance") under the Post-9/11 GI Bill for members of the reserve components of the armed forces.

This change will be applicable to a quarter, semester or term that commenced on or after August 1, 2018.

Pilot Programs for Technology Courses

Established a five year pilot program for Veterans to train in the high tech industry. Find out more on our [VET TEC](#) page.

Work Study Expansion

The law removes the expiration date of June 30, 2022, for certain qualifying work-study activities for which an individual may be paid an additional educational assistance allowance. These activities include outreach services for an SAA, providing hospital and domiciliary care and medical treatment to Veterans in a State home, or performing an activity relating to the administration of a national cemetery or a state Veterans' cemetery.

Changes to Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance

The new law decreases the amount of entitlement that new eligible individuals will receive under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program from 45 months to 36 months. This change applies to individuals who first enroll in programs of education on or after August 1, 2018. Individuals who first enrolled in a program of education prior to August 1, 2018, would still qualify for a maximum of 45 months of entitlement.

This law also increases the amount of educational assistance payable for pursuit of institutional courses and institutional courses under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program. An eligible person will be entitled to a monthly allowance of \$1,224 for full-time coursework, \$967 for three-quarter time, and \$710 for half-time coursework. The increases were effective October 1, 2018.

Using the GI Bill at Technical Schools and non-Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs)

Beneficiaries will now be able to use their Post-9/11 educational assistance to pursue accredited independent study programs at the following educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning (IHLs): area career and technical education schools that provide postsecondary level education and postsecondary vocational institutions. This change went into effect August 16, 2017.

Priority Enrollment

VA will improve outreach and transparency to Veterans and Servicemembers by providing information on whether institutions of higher learning administer a priority enrollment system that allows certain student Veterans to enroll in courses earlier than other students. This change went into effect August 16, 2017.

Informing Schools about Beneficiary Entitlement

VA must make available to educational institutions information about the amount of educational assistance to which a beneficiary is entitled under chapter 30, 32, 33, or 35. This information would be provided to the educational institution through a secure information technology system accessible by the educational institution and would be updated regularly to reflect any amounts used by the Veteran or other individual. A beneficiary pursuing a course of education may elect not to provide the information to an educational institution. This section was effective on August 1, 2018.

Reserve Component Benefits

The law authorizes service by Guard and Reserve members under 10 U.S.C 12304a and 12304b to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. An individual entitled to educational assistance as a result of this section was authorized to use such entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

This applies to service in the Armed Forces occurring on or after June 30, 2008.

GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance

Individuals who first used the Post-9/11 GI Bill program on or after January 1, 2018 will receive monthly housing allowance based on DoD's reduced basic housing allowance (BAH) for monthly housing rates. Those that began using benefits prior to January 1, 2018 will continue to receive a higher monthly housing rate based in the non-adjusted BAH rates.

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2021 Advanced Training Education Scenarios

1. Spouse of veteran John Doe, applied for Chapter 35 DEA benefits on July 25, 2021. How many months of entitlement is she eligible to receive and why?
2. Mary Doe, John Doe's daughter, graduated from high school on May 25, 2018. She used her Chapter 35 benefits to take one college class from June 2, through July 2, 2018. Mary has decided to go back to college, she stated classes on August 25, 2021. How many total months of entitlement to Chapter 35 is Mary eligible for and why?
3. James Davis was honorably discharged from the Navy on May 31, 2021, after serving four years. James doesn't know what he wants to do with regarding his career and education. He wants to maximize his benefits but isn't sure if he wants to go to college. Does VA have a program that can help him decide his best course of action for the future? If so, what is that Program called?
4. Who is entitled to receive the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship?
5. Susie Thomas was released from active duty on July 31, 2021. Can she now transfer her Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to her children?
6. What program may be able assist a Veteran receiving Post 9/11/ GI Bill at the 100% rate pay for out of state tuition?
7. Name the five support and service tracks to help Veterans find a job and live independently in the Vocational Readiness and Employment Program

2021 Advanced Training Education Scenarios Answer Key

1. What program provides up to nine months of additional Post 9/11/ GI Bill benefits to qualifying Veterans and Fry Scholars seeing an undergrad degree in certain areas of study? Name at least one of the areas of study.
 - a. Rogers STEM Scholarship, Science, Technology, Engineering or Math - slide 26
2. Spouse of veteran John Doe, applied for Chapter 35 DEA benefits on July 25, 2021. How many months of entitlement is she eligible to receive and why?
 - a. She will be eligible for 36 months of entitlement because she had not used any Ch 35 benefits prior to August 1, 2018. Slide 35
3. Mary Doe, John Doe's daughter, graduated from high school on May 25, 2018. She used her Chapter 35 benefits to take one college class from June 2, through July 2, 2018. Mary has decided to go back to college, she stated classes on August 25, 2021. How many total months of entitlement to Chapter 35 is Mary eligible for and why?
 - a. She is entitled to 45 months total because she used at least one day of her entitlement prior to August 1, 2018. Slide 35
4. James Davis was honorably discharged from the Navy on May 31, 2021, after serving four years. James doesn't know what he wants to do with regarding his career and education. He wants to maximize his benefits but isn't sure if he wants to go to college. Does VA have a program that can help him decide his best course of action for the future? If so, what is that Program called?
 - a. Chapter 36, Personalized Career Planning and Guidance, slide 40
5. Who is entitled to receive the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship?
 - a. Spouse and children of service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001 slide 36
6. Susie Thomas was released from active duty on July 31, 2021. Can she now transfer her Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to her children?
 - a. No, service member must transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits while they are on active duty. Slide 19

7. What program may be able assist a Veteran receiving Post 9/11/ GI Bill at the 100% rate pay for out of state tuition?
 - a. Yellow Ribbon Program. Slide 11-12

8. Name the five support and service tracks to help Veterans find a job and live independently in the Vocational Readiness and Employment Program
 - a. Reemployment track
 - b. Rapid access to employment track
 - c. Self-employment track
 - d. Employment through long-term service track
 - e. Independent living track
 - f. Slide 32 & 33