



# Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

State Approving Agency for Veterans Education

## The Post-9/11 GI Bill

### What is the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

On June 30, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law the Veterans Education Assistant Act of 2008. This act amended Title 38, United States Code to include a new Chapter 33. Veterans who have served for a minimum of 90 days active duty on or after September 10, 2001, may qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This program provides increased benefits for veterans and eligible dependents pursuing an approved education program at approved colleges or universities, non-college degree institutions, flight schools, or correspondence schools. Benefits can also be used for on-the-job training, apprenticeship, licensure and certification tests, as well as national exams (SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT, etc.)

### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, individuals must have:

- ◆ Received an honorable discharge; and
- ◆ Served at least 90 aggregate days on or after September 10, 2001; or discharged with a service connected disability after 30 continuous days.

Length of service determines the maximum benefit:

| Service Requirements (after 9/10/01)                      | % of Maximum Benefit Payable |
|---|------------------------------|
| 36 months   | 100                          |
| 30 continuous days (Must be discharged with a disability) | 100                          |
| 30 months, but less than 36 months                        | 90                           |
| 24 months, but less than 30 months                        | 80                           |
| 18 months, but less than 24 months                        | 70                           |
| 12 months, but less than 18 months                        | 60                           |
| 06 months, but less than 12 months                        | 50                           |
| 90 days, but less than 06 months                          | 40                           |

### Benefits

Based upon the length of service, veterans and eligible dependents are entitled to receive a percentage of the following:

- ◆ Cost of tuition and fees paid directly to the institution as defined by below:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Public Colleges &amp; Universities</b>       | All in-state tuition and fees are paid.  |
| <b>Private Colleges &amp; Universities</b>      | Tuition and fees are capped at \$20,235.02 per academic year.  |
| <b>Non-College Degree Programs</b>              | All public institution in-state costs are paid. Private institution costs are capped at \$20,235.02 per academic year. |
| <b>Flight Training</b>                          | Training costs are capped at \$11,562.86 per academic year.  |
| <b>Apprenticeship &amp; On-the-job Training</b> | Monthly benefit is prorated based on time in the program.  |
| <b>Correspondence Training</b>                  | Tuition and fees are capped at \$9,828.43 per academic year.   |
| <b>Licensure &amp; Certification Tests</b>      | Reimbursement is capped at \$2,000 and entitlement is charged.   |
| <b>National Exams</b>                           | One month of entitlement is charged for the lesser of each test taken or each \$1,688.18 reimbursed.                   |

- ◆ A monthly housing allowance equal to the Department of Defense (DoD) E-5 with dependents based on the zip code of the institution and prorated by the rate of pursuit, paid directly to beneficiary.
- ◆ A book stipend of \$1,000 per academic year, paid directly to beneficiary.

## How is Chapter 33 Different?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) includes several other provisions that make it more flexible in meeting the needs of today's service men and women. Other items included in the New Post-9/11 GI Bill are:

- ◆ Eligibility timeframe extended from 10 to 15 years;
- ◆ No \$1,200 contribution required to participate in the benefit; and
- ◆ Provision to transfer benefits to a dependent.

Veterans who are currently using GI Bill benefits and those who have paid into Chapter 30 may also qualify for Chapter 33. The decision to opt into Chapter 33 is irrevocable. Since there are many tiers of eligibility, all beneficiaries are encouraged to discuss their benefits under each chapter before electing into Chapter 33 with a VA Representative.

## Yellow Ribbon Program

The Yellow Ribbon Program allows colleges and universities to voluntarily enter into an annual agreement with VA to fund tuition and fee expenses that exceed the maximum tuition and fees rates. Under this program, institutions may contribute up to 50% of these unmet charges and VA will match dollar per dollar of this amount.

Only veterans and eligible dependents who qualify for **100%** of the full Chapter 33 benefit are eligible to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Students who participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program during one academic year must be offered Yellow Ribbon Program benefits throughout their education as long as the institution continues to participate in the program, the student remains in good academic standing, and the student has remaining entitlement. Yellow Ribbon contributions may change each academic year.

A complete list of participating institutions is available on VA's GI Bill website: <http://www.gibill.va.gov>

## Contact Information

### Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

454 Broadway, Suite 200

Revere, MA 02151

(617) 391-6072 · [veted@bhe.mass.edu](mailto:veted@bhe.mass.edu)

<http://www.mass.edu/veterans>

### U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Washington D.C. Central Office

1-888-GI BILL1 (1-888-442-4551)

<http://www.gibill.va.gov>