The Post-9/11 GI Bill Spring 2010

The new Post-9/11 GI Bill is the most extensive education benefit package ever offered to our nation's Veterans, servicemembers, and their families. It has a potential to pay for your entire college education, to include housing, books, and supplies.

Unfortunately, many of the great features of this program have also made it far more complex to us to process than other benefit programs. This student guide contains some quick facts and tips to help you plan for the coming spring term.

The more you understand about this benefit and the process, the more you can assist us in moving your claim along.

If you have not already,

Meet your School Certifying Official (SCO) Today !

Locate and introduce yourself. SCOs play an important role in making sure you receive your benefits.

Enrolling for Spring?

Whether you are enrolling for the first time, or continuing your studies, we realize trying to get ready for school and getting your VA benefits together can be overwhelming. We've collected a few tips on making the process as smooth as possible.

TIPS

☑ **Get your school to submit enrollment certifications early (VA Form 22-1999).** Remind your school they do ***NOT*** need to wait for your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to submit enrollment certifications.

☑ **To qualify for the housing benefit, you must be enrolled in at least one on-campus class and be registered for at least 51% of full-time credit hours.** For example, if full-time at your school is 12 hours, you must take 7 hours or more to get the housing benefit.

☑ **Use the GI Bill website to explore answers to questions (www.gibill.va.gov); most are there.** You can use our "Ask A Question/Get An Answer" feature to ask questions you can't find.

☑ **Be sure to inform VA if you change your direct deposit information.**

Reminders

☑ **Remember that the Post-9/11 GI Bill housing and books and supplies stipends are paid "in arrears."** This means that your housing stipend for January won't be received until February. Also, if you are starting school for the first time, your first payment may not be for a full month of housing because we pay from the actual day you start school. So, if you start January 8th, your February payment will be for 23 days you attended in January.

☑ **Get to know your VA School Certifying Official (hint: check with the Financial Aid Department or Registrar).** They certify your actual enrollment (that's what triggers your payments). We've noticed some schools wait until the drop/add period is over to certify your enrollment, so check out the policy for your school.

☑ **Tuition and fee payments go directly to the school.**

Other Financial Help:

If your personal financial situation makes it difficult for you to cover your living expenses, you may want to apply for either federal or private loans. Many of these loans are available interest free until graduation. You can also check with your local school for any scholarship or grants that are available in your local area, *www.studentaid.ed.gov*.

Not Yet Signed Up for Benefits?

Before applying for education benefits, investigate your options where you want to go to school, look at what benefits you are eligible for, and how much you are entitled to under each benefit. The decision to elect the Post-9/11 GI Bill is irrevocable.

Go to the GI Bill website (www.gibill.va.gov) and use the "What Benefit Is Best For Me" button to help you decide.

Once you make your decisions, VA will need two things:

☑ Your Application
(VA Form 22-1990 or 22-1990E)
- Submitted by ***you***

☑ Your Certificate of Enrollment
(VA Form 22-1999)
- Submitted by your ***school***

Remember: The sooner you get these documents to VA, the sooner VA can begin processing your claim.

Did You Collect an Advance Payment?

If you received an advance payment check during fall semester, you will receive notice about repayment of funds.

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www.facebook.com/GibillEducation

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, DC 20420

GI Bill Hip-Pocket Guide

January 2010

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Hip-Pocket Guide to Spring 2010 Semester

Going to College on the Post-9/11

GI BILL

Department of Veterans Affairs