

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

Preparation and Implementation



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Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility Criteria

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

- Served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days.
- Served at least 30 continuous days and received a disability discharge.



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.



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.



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.



Approved Programs

- All programs approved under chapter 30 and offered at 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)



Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefit Payments

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



Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility Criteria

Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 serve an aggregate of)	% 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



Tuition and Fees Charged

- Individuals 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)



Monthly Housing Allowance

- Equivalent to DoD's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents
 - Amount determined by zip code of the IHL where the student is enrolled.
 - Prorated based on the percentage of the maximum benefit payable.
 - Active duty and anyone training at ½ time or less, and those pursuing exclusively distance learning are not eligible for the monthly housing allowance.



Books and Supplies Stipend

- Up to \$1,000 per year
 - Prorated based on the percentage of the maximum benefit payable.
- Paid proportionally for each quarter, semester or term attended.
- Active duty members are not eligible.



Transfer of Entitlement

- DoD determined eligibility
- 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.



Yellow Ribbon Program

- IHLs may voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to pay tuition and fees charged that are not 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 tuition and fees charged.
- Only individuals entitled to the 100 percent benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive this funding.



Tent. Yellow Ribbon Program Impl. Timeline

- **12/01/08** – Send YR Program info letter to IHLs.
- **January 2009** – Send YR inquiry letter to IHLs.
- **Mar-Apr 2009** – Finalize regs, establish T&F caps, & solicit YR agreements
- **May 2009** – Publicize YR participating institutions.
- **08/01/09** – Begin processing YR payments.



Overpayment of Benefits

The veteran is responsible for any overpayment incurred as a result of not completing courses.

In the event a veteran does not complete a course, schools should follow their established student refund policy. VA will work with student to resolve overpayment.

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



Phase 1 Milestones

Milestone	Date
✓ Established Ch. 33 PEO and governance structures	October 30, 2008
✓ Finalized Ch. 33 business requirements	December 16, 2008
✓ Drafted and published proposed regulations	December 23, 2008
✓ Developed Risk Management Plan and established Risk Review Board	January 2009
✓ User Acceptance testing completed	February 11, 2009
✓ Complete hiring of 530 term employees	March 1, 2009
✓ Ch. 33 Contingency Plan finalized	March 1, 2009
✓ Deploy Interim Solution Phase 1	March 6, 2009
✓ Begin Ch. 33 Phase 1 employee training	March 6, 2009
Ch. 33 Beta Testing of Phase 1 using live data	March 30, 2009



Phase 2 Milestones

Milestone	Date
✓ Ch. 33 Phase 2 Requirements locked down	January 23, 2009
Begin accepting applications for Certificates of Eligibility	May 1, 2009
✓ Final regulations published	May 11, 2009
Begin Ch. 33 Phase 2 training	May 13, 2009
Solicit schools for Yellow Ribbon agreements	May 15, 2009
Full occupancy of new space (4 RPOs)	June 1, 2009
Complete Interim Solution Phase 2 testing	June 19, 2009
Deploy Interim Solution Phase 2	July 7, 2009
Publish list of participating Yellow Ribbon schools on GI Bill website	June 30, 2009
Begin administering Ch. 33 benefits	August 1, 2009



Phase 3 Milestones

Milestone	Date
Chapter 33 Phase 3 Requirements locked down	April 10, 2009
Begin Chapter 33 Phase 3 training	August 17, 2009
Complete Interim Solution Phase 3 testing	September 14, 2009
Deploy Interim Solution Phase 3	September 17, 2009



Elections – What should a vet consider?

- Which benefit pays *them* more?
 - Are they receiving other aid?
 - Will entitlement to that aid change?
 - What Chap 33 tier are they eligible for?
 - Generally, if BAH exceeds current monthly benefit, they gain under Chap 33.
- What type of training?
- Is delimiting date important to them?
- On active duty on 8-1-09?
 - Eligible for T of E? Want to transfer?



Student Experience Timeline

- **VA begins processing applications for Certificates of Eligibility** **May 1, 2009**
 - Eligibility data provided from DoD via existing feed
 - VA mails C of E to student showing:
 - Months of entitlement
 - Tier of eligibility
 - Delimiting date

- **Veteran enrolls in school and provides C of E to school** **May-Jul 2009**

- **VA begins accepting enrollment information from schools** **Jul 6, 2009**
 - School reports enrollment and charges to VA via existing mechanism (VA-Once) including Yellow Ribbon data

- **VA begins processing claims** **Jul 6, 2009**
 - VA pays first tuition and fees payments to schools Aug 3, 2009
 - VA pays first books and supplies stipend to student Aug 3, 2009
 - VA provides notice to student of:
 - Tuition and fee payment amount (including Yellow Ribbon amounts)
 - Book stipend payment amount
 - Monthly housing payment amount
 - Need to notify VA of changes in enrollment
 - Obligation to repay any O/P resulting from changes in training

- **VA pays partial housing allowance for August attendance** **Sep 1, 2009**
- **VA pays first full monthly housing allowance** **Oct 1, 2009**



Performance and Assumptions

- **Timeliness**
 - Original Claims 24 Days
 - Supplemental Claims 10 days
- **Accuracy 96%**
- **Assumptions**
 - 20% increase in usage
 - All apply beginning May 1, 2009 – Worst Case
 - Approximately 900 Veterans Claims Examiners (VCEs)
 - 535,962 Certificates of Entitlement (COEs) produced by August 1, 2009
 - FTE process 6.5 COEs per day
 - Mandatory overtime (if needed)



Tuition and Fee Challenges

- Determining maximum tuition and fee charges has required VA to consider many variables:
 - Institutions determine charges in a variety of ways, including:
 - One tuition rate for full time pursuit vs. per credit hour
 - Varying terms (semester, quarter, summer, mini-terms, etc)
 - Varying mandatory fees (by academic program, state, etc)
 - Courses at flight and maritime programs typically have very high tuition rates that impact averages
 - Institutions update tuition and fee information on different schedules
 - Students may enroll at more than one institution simultaneously
- VA has developed a mechanism that establishes the maximum in-state tuition on a separate “tuition per credit hour” and “fees per term” basis. This allows for flexibility in circumstances including:
 - Courses at flight and maritime programs typically have high tuition rates that impact averages
 - Student enrollment in overlapping terms or at two schools concurrently
 - Variance in course loads or charges unique to programs
 - Student estimates of tuition and fee costs



Determining T&F Payments

■ Assumptions:

- Student qualifies at the 100% tier
- Highest public school charges by credit hour.
- Private school charges flat rate of \$36,000 tuition and \$1,000 fees per year.
- Private school YR agreement is at 50% level
- Both the public school and private school offer three enrollment periods (fall, spring, summer)
- Student takes 30 hours per year
- Student is attending the highest cost public school in the state



Non-Yellow Ribbon Calculation

Non-YR calculation

Private school tuition per credit hour	State maximum public tuition per credit hour	Private school fees/term	State maximum public fees/term	Potential annual Yellow Ribbon amount shared by VA and private school
N/A	\$500.00	N/A	\$2,000.00	N/A

Annual tuition and fee amount determined by:

- 1) Determining maximum public tuition charges per credit hour(\$500)
- 2) Multiplying credit hour charge by credit hours taken ($\$500 \times 30 = \$15,000$)
- 3) Determining maximum public fees per term (\$2,000)
- 4) Multiplying fees by terms taken ($\$2,000 \times 2 = \$4,000$)
- 5) Adding together the two numbers determined under steps 2 and 4 ($\$15,000 + \$4,000 = 19,000$)

VA T&F payment:	19,000
VA YR payment:	N/A
Total VA pmnt:	\$19,000



Yellow Ribbon Calculation

<u>Yellow Ribbon Calculation</u>				
Private school tuition per credit hour	State maximum public tuition per credit hour	Private school fees/term	State maximum public fees/term	Potential annual Yellow Ribbon amount shared by VA and private school
\$1,200	\$500.00	\$333	\$2,000.00	\$21,000
<p>* Annual Yellow Ribbon amount determined by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Determining maximum public tuition charges per credit hour (\$500) 2) Determining maximum public fees per term (\$2,000) 3) Determine private school fees that do not exceed the public maximum fees (\$667) 4) Determining private school tuition charges per CH exceeding the state max public tuition charges per CH ($\\$700 \times 30 = \\$21,000$) 5) Determining private school fee charges per semester exceeding the state max public fee charges per semester (in this case \$0) 6) Adding together the two numbers determined under steps 4 and 5 (\$21,000) 				
VA T&F payment:	\$15,667 ($\500×30) + (\$667)			
VA YR payment:	\$10,500 ($\$21,000 / 2$)			
Total VA pmnt:	\$26,167			



Others Issues

- Final regs published yesterday
 - Yellow Ribbon Flexibility
 - NOAA/PHS basic entitlement
 - Not to T of E
- Yellow Ribbon solicitations imminent
- Acknowledgements



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)