



Post-9/11 GI Bill: Eligibility and Payments

Who is eligible for benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Eligible individuals include those who serve on active duty at least 90 aggregate days beginning on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days of continuous service. (Discharged individuals must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible, or have a discharge or release for a medical condition Existing Prior to Service (EPTS), Hardship (HDSP), or Condition Interfering with Duty (CIWD)).

What does the program pay for eligible individuals?

- **Tuition & fees** – paid directly to the school – not to exceed the maximum in-state undergraduate tuition & fees at a public Institution of Higher Learning. (A chart listing 2008 - 2009 maximum rates can be found at http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Tuition_and_fees.htm)
- **Monthly housing allowance** - paid to the student – equal to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents and the zip code for the location of the school. (A chart of BAH rates by ZIP code can be found at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiem/bah.html>).
NOTE: Individuals on active duty or who are enrolled exclusively in online training will not receive the housing allowance.
- An annual **books & supplies stipend** – paid to the student - up to \$1,000, paid proportionately based on enrollment.
NOTE: Individuals on active duty will not receive a books & supplies stipend.
- A one-time **rural benefit payment** of \$500 to individuals who reside in a county with six persons or fewer per square mile (as determined by the most recent decennial census), and who either:
 - physically relocate at least 500 miles to attend an educational institution or
 - relocate by air to attend an educational institution (if no other land-based transportation exists.)

What training and education programs will be paid for under the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

This benefit is payable only for approved training and education programs offered by a college or university.

What benefits are available for individuals who are not enrolled in a college or university program?

For those individuals who are eligible for other VA education programs and elect the Post-9/11 GI Bill, other training programs (such as on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, flight training, and non-college degree courses) may be covered at the same rate as the benefit the individual gave up, such as the Montgomery GI Bill and the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP).

(Information on the various education programs can be found on the web at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>).

When will benefits be paid?

Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date. Generally, benefits are payable for 15 years following the individual's release from active duty.