

GI Bill Information

The United States Veterans Administration operates various educational assistance programs for eligible veterans, war orphans, surviving spouses or children of veterans killed while on duty with the Armed Forces, disabled veterans, dependents of veterans with service related total disability, and certain members of the selected reserve.

Students who wish to use veterans' educational benefits must identify themselves to the Office of Financial Aid so that proper enrollment certification procedures can be initiated for the following entitlement programs. If you don't know what Chapter you are claiming, please contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (1-888-442-4551).

- Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve National Guard
- Chapter 1607 Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
- Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty
- Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation
- Chapter 32 VEAP Post Viet Nam Era
- Chapter 33 Post 9/11
- Chapter 34/30 Vietnam Era GI Bill
- Chapter 35 Survivors and Dependents Benefits
- VRAP

More information is available to all veterans from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

Overview of Veterans Education Benefits

Montgomery GI Bill — Chapter 30

Enlistment after July 1, 1985, is required. The service person must have participated in the pay reduction program. The monthly payment rates vary with the length and type of service. Monthly self-certification is required to insure benefit payments.

Montgomery GI Bill — Selected Reserve — Chapter 1606

Enlistment or extension for six years' Selected Reserve or National Guard duty after July 1, 1985 is required and does not require a contribution by the service member. You may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of educational benefits, which end 10 years from the date you become eligible for the program.

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) — Chapter 1607

This is a new education benefit available to certain individuals who were activated on or after September 11, 2001.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment — Chapter 31

This program is available to some veterans who have a service-connected disability of 20% or greater. Although the date of entry to active service is not considered, it is advised that students use this benefit within 12 years of the date of discharge. Eligibility

is determined on a case-by-case basis. Contact your state VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services Office.

VEAP Post Viet Nam Era — Chapter 32

Enlistment between January 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985 is required in order to participate in this program. To be eligible, contributions must have been made to VEAP accounts while on active duty while this program was open.

Viet Nam Era GI Bill — Chapter 34/30

Some members or veterans who entered active duty prior to January 1, 1977 and had remaining Chap 34 entitlement on January 1, 1990 were automatically converted to the Montgomery GI Bill Program. Breaks in service can affect this entitlement and the eligibility period for use. If you have questions concerning your eligibility for MGIB, contact your Service MGIB Program Manager or the VA directly for assistance, www.va.gov or toll-free at 1-888-442-4551. Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) — Chapter 35

A child or spouse of a deceased service-connected or 100% permanently disabled veteran may be eligible for VA educational assistance. The marital status of a dependent child is not a factor in determining eligibility. Benefits may be used until the dependent has reached the age of twenty-six, or for eight years from the date that eligibility is determined, whichever is later.

Educational Tuition Assistance

Those eligible for this program should already be aware of their eligibility. However, please contact the VA at www.va.gov or toll-free at 1-888-442-4551 to speak to a Veterans Benefits Counselor if you have questions about your eligibility.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

The post 9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill became effective for training on or after **August 1, 2009**. The amount of support that an individual may qualify for depends on where they live and what type of degree they are pursuing. For a summary of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, see [the benefit comparison chart](#). The Post-9/11 GI Bill also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer their GI Bill to dependents. For more information, see the [pamphlets and fact sheets about the Post-9/11 GI Bill](#).

Do These Benefits Expire?

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. You must use all of your benefits by that time or you'll lose whatever's left.

If your service ended on or after January 1, 2013, your benefits won't expire thanks to a new law called the Forever GI Bill - Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act.

VRAP - VOW to Hire Heroes Act

The VRAP is part of a government program called the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, launched in 2011 to help unemployed veterans (between the ages of 35 to 60) find career training assistance. The VRAP is offering 99,000 unemployed veterans up to 12 months of training assistance at the payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program. For more information about the VRAP program see [the VRAP Question and Answers website](#).

The VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to Veterans who:

- Are at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Are unemployed on the date of application
- Received an other than dishonorable discharge
- Are not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Are not in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
- Are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

Enrollment Certification Procedures

Chapter 1606, 1607 and 30:

1. Complete an online application (<http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/application/>) to the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - VA Form 22-1990 for new applicants
 - VA Form 22-1995 for transfer students
2. Provide a copy of your Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE) or Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to the VA School Certifying Official. This document will be mailed to you from the VA after your application has been processed and your educational benefits have been granted.
3. Send a request for certification to the VA School Certifying Official each semester you wish to claim VA educational benefits.

Chapter 31:

1. Your VA Rehabilitation Case Manager must provide you with VA form 28-1905 (Authorization and Certification of Entrance or Reentrance into Rehabilitation and Certification of Status). This form will detail the specific guidelines that the University must adhere to for credit approval, payment of tuition, and purchases of school supplies. A new form must be presented to the VA Certifying Official for each semester you wish to claim VA educational benefits.

2. Send a request for certification to the VA School Certifying Official each semester you wish to claim VA educational benefits.

Chapter 33 - Post 9/11:

1. Complete an online application (<http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/application/>) to the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - VA Form 22-1990 for new applicants
 - VA Form 22-1995 for transfer students
2. Provide a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to the VA School Certifying Official.
3. Send a request for certification to the VA School Certifying Official each semester you wish to claim VA educational benefits.

Chapter 35:

1. Complete an online application (<http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/application/>) to the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - VA Form 5490 for new applicants for Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance.
 - VA Form 5495 for transfer students.
2. Provide a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to the VA School Certifying Official.
3. Send a request for certification to the VA School Certifying Official each semester you wish to claim VA educational benefits.

Enrollment Certification Procedures for Continuing Students

1. Send a request for certification to the VA School Certifying Official each semester you wish to claim VA educational benefits.

Retroactive Enrollment Certification and Payment

Students have one year from the beginning date of their training in which to file an application and to receive benefits. The VA will only pay educational assistance allowance retroactively for school enrollment periods up to one year prior to the date the claim and certification of enrollment are received in the VA regional processing office.

Payment Procedures and Information

New and transfer students can expect to begin receiving VA funding, including book and housing stipends (BAH), approximately four to eight weeks from the date the certification is submitted to the VA. Remember that the payment is made to the student for the number of days the student is certified for the month. If a student is certified for a whole month, the full monthly benefit is paid. If the student is only certified for part of the month, the benefit is prorated.

Payment usually comes between the 1st and 15th of each month and is paid for the previous month. The VA does not consider a check as late until after the 10th of the month. Inquiries regarding check status or other payment issues may be made directly to the VA at: 1-888-442-4551.

Students planning to train under Chapter 1606 Selected Reserve, Chapter 1607 Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill, or Chapter 35 Survivors & Dependents, are required by the University to pay in advance for tuition, fees, books, and supplies when due.

Students receiving educational benefits under Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Chapter 33 Post 9/11 will have their tuition and fees paid (part or full) depending on eligibility, directly to the University.

Monthly Certification of Attendance – WAVE

All students who are receiving Chapter 1606 Selected Reserve, Chapter 1607 Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), or Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill benefits MUST verify their enrollment monthly to receive payment. This verification can be done either by using the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) application at: <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do> or by using the Automated Telephone System (IVR) at: 1-877-823-2378.

Pay Rates

For a list of current pay rates, visit the VA Education Website at: <http://gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits-resources/rates-tables.html>

Enrollment Certification Regulations and Student Responsibility

The State Approving Agency (SAA) approves programs and courses of instruction so that educational benefits may be paid to eligible students under the programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Therefore, students must be admitted as matriculated and pursuing an approved program of study for enrollment certification of VA benefits. Students are also expected to make satisfactory academic progress toward completion of a degree. Any changes in enrollment including change of course, course deletions, and complete or partial withdrawals must be reported in writing to the VA School Certifying Official via: mthompson@hcu.edu

Failure to comply with the official school withdrawal procedure may affect both past and future benefits. Payment of benefits will not be allowed for any course in which a non-punitive grade is assigned. Payment will not be allowed for repeated courses which were previously transferred or previously had a passing grade assigned. Payment will not be allowed for courses not required in a degree program.

Military Leave Policy

HCU's Policy for Military Leave, Academic Credit, and Tuition Refunds for students who are called to active duty is explained on the following link:

http://www.hcu.edu/share/pdf/HCU_Policy_for_students_called_to_active_duty1.pdf.

If you are called to active duty, immediately inform the HCU Registrar, the Academic Dean, and the VA School Certifying Official. Failure to comply could result in you incurring a debt to the VA.

Registrar: Nathan Daily ndaily@hcu.edu x319

Academic Dean: Dr. Michael Jackson mjackson@hcu.edu x 325

VA School Certifying Official: Mechelle Thompson mthompson@hcu.edu x303

...or call 800-367-3565 or 256-766-6610 and enter the appropriate extension as listed above.