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Overview of VA Education Benefits

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Benefit Eligibility & Applying

- There are currently 6 different VA Education benefits (GI Bills).
- Most common:
 - Ch. 33 – The Post 9/11 GI Bill
 - Ch. 30 – The Montgomery GI Bill
- The following slides will explain the differences in all 6.

Ch. 30 – The Montgomery GI Bill

- To be eligible:
 - Must serve at least 2-3 years on Active Duty.
 - Must contribute \$1200 to participate in the program.
 - Can use as a veteran or while serving on active duty.
- Delimitating Date: 10 years from separation

Ch. 30 – The Montgomery GI Bill cont.

- While on active duty:
 - If not using TA, Ch. 30 reimburses the service member up to the cost of their tuition and fees.
 - If using TA, the service member must submit their TA authorization form to their VA Regional Processing Office to be reimbursed for the portion of the tuition not covered by TA, this is called Tuition Assistance Top-Up.

Ch. 30 – The Montgomery GI Bill cont.

- As a veteran who has separated from Active Duty, the benefit pays:
- \$1473 per month for full-time enrollment.
- \$736.50 per month for half-time enrollment
- There is no difference in benefit rates with online vs. on campus modalities for this benefit

Ch. 33 – The Post 9/11 GI Bill

- Benefit Rate - based on months of active duty for purposes other than training since 9-11-2001.
- Transferability – The active duty service member can elect to transfer part or all of their entitlement to spouses or dependent children.
- Three payments associated with Post 9/11:
 - Tuition benefit
 - Books and Supplies Stipend
 - Housing Benefit
 - Note: Only dependent children, veterans, and spouses of veterans are eligible for the housing benefit. Active Duty service members and their spouses are not eligible.
- Delimitating Date: 15 years from separation

Transferability

- The service member may elect to transfer some of all of their entitlement to their spouse or dependent child.
 - Spouse or Dependent child must be enrolled in DEERS system, child must already be born.
- The DoD must approve transfers.

Benefit Rate

- Based on number of aggregate months on active duty since 9-11-2001 for purposes other than training:
 - 100% - 36 months
 - 90% - 30 months
 - 80% - 24 months*
 - 70% - 18 months
 - 60% - 12 months
 - 50% - 6 months
 - 40% - 90 days – 6 months**
- *At 24 months for other than training, the VA will consider entry level basic and skills training (Basic training, AIT, MOS, A-School)
- **Service of 30 days or more where the veteran received a discharge related to a disability entitles 100% Post 9/11 Benefits.

Post 9/11 Tuition benefit

- VA pays 100% of in In State Tuition charges at public schools.
- For private school the VA will pay a maximum of:
 - \$18,077.50 for academic year 2012-2013
 - Enrollments beginning August 1, 2012-July 31, 2013.
- If the student is less than 100% eligible, the VA will pro-rate each tuition payment.
 - For a 60% eligible student, the VA will pay an annual maximum tuition benefit of \$10,846.50 (60% x \$18,077.50)

Post 9/11 Books and Supplies Stipend

- The VA pays a maximum annual books and supplies stipend of \$1000 for a 100% eligible student, this is pro-rated based on the students benefit level.
- The VA pays this stipend per credit of enrollment, based on a 24 credit per year course load.
- For example: A 100% eligible student will receive $\$1000/24 = \41.67 per credit of enrollment, or \$125 for every 3 credit course they take until the annual maximum is reached.
- A 60% eligible student will receive $\$600/24 = \25 per credit of enrollment, or \$75 for every 3 credit course.

Post 9/11 Housing Stipend

- Not payable to active duty service members or their spouses.
- Pays either a distance (online) or in residence monthly rate.
 - Distance or online rate: \$684 per month
 - If there is at least one in residence credit hour the rate is based on the BAH for an E-5 with Dependent BAH for the zip code of the Campus the student is attending.

Post 9/11 Housing Stipend cont.

- Student must be enrolled with a Rate of Pursuit greater than 50%.
 - For traditional terms where 12 hours is full-time, 7 credits is the minimum to receive a monthly stipend.
- The VA does not pay for remedial (prep) courses which are taken online.

Post 9/11 Housing Stipends cont.

- The VA will pro-rate housing stipends based on:
 - The start and end dates of the term
 - The VA does not pay for breaks in enrollment.
 - The student's eligibility level
 - Monthly payment reduced if the student's benefit level is less than 100%.
 - If the student exhausts their total months of entitlement during the term.

Ch. 30 to Ch. 33 Conversion

- Students can only use 1 benefit at a time for a maximum of 36 months, but may use a combination of benefits for a total of 48 months, Examples below:
 - Student may use 36 months of Ch. 30, then use an additional 12 months of Ch. 33 (student must completely exhaust Ch. 30 entitlement to gain the additional 12 months).
 - If the student begins using Ch. 30, they may convert to Ch. 33 before exhausting all 36 months of benefits. They would receive the remaining months of benefits to use under Ch. 33. Ex: 12 months Ch. 30, then 24 months of Ch. 33.
 - Once the student applies for Ch. 33 they must permanently relinquish one other benefit they are eligible for, if they are only eligible for Ch. 30 this means they can never go back to Ch. 30.

Ch. 1606 – The Selective Reserve Montgomery GI Bill

- To qualify for the benefit, the service member must have signed a 6 year reserve commitment, and remain in satisfactory drilling status.
- If the reservist separates from the drilling service component, they lose eligibility for the benefit.
- Service members are not eligible for this benefit while serving on active duty.
- Full-time payment rate effective 10-1-2012: \$356 per month

Ch. 1607 Reserve Education Assistance Program

- Eligibility: serve on active duty at least 90 days since 9-11-2001.
- Benefit Level based on length of consecutive active service*.
 - 40% - At least 90 days but less than 6 months
 - 60% - At least 6 months but less than 12 months
 - 80% - At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- Delimitating Date: 10 years from separation
- *Consecutive active service means the VA will determine benefit level by the longest period of active duty, and not aggregate multiple tours.
- Pays percentage (40%, 60%, 80%) of the Ch. 30 rate
- Full-time rates effective 10-1-12: \$625.60, \$938.40, \$1251.20 for 40%, 60%, and 80% eligibility, respectively.

Ch. 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

- Eligibility: Service Connected disability of 20% or greater or upgraded rating within the past 11 years.
 - The Veteran must apply and be approved for the benefit, this can take up to 6 months and several interviews.
- Benefit: Pays 100% of tuition and all fees associated with the program, to include books, software, laptop computer, or any other required materials.
 - Also pays the veteran a monthly subsistence allowance.
 - If the veteran is concurrently eligible for Ch. 33, the veteran may elect to receive the higher Ch. 33 stipend in lieu of the subsistence allowance.

Ch. 35 Dependents Education Assistance

- Effective 10-1-12, this benefit pays a full-time benefit of \$987 for up to 45 months education training.
- Eligibility: Generally, One must be the child or spouse of a 100% Service Connected Permanently and Totally Disabled Veteran, or who died as a result of their disability or military service.
- Generally, eligibility for children is from age 18-26, but can be extended, and 10 years from becoming eligible for spouses.

VA Forms

- To initiate the process an application should be submitted to the VA:
 - Application for VA benefits: 22-1990
 - Dependents (Ch. 35) Application for VA Benefits: 22-5490,
 - Dependents (Ch. 33) Application for VA Benefits: 22-1990E.

Questions?