

VA Education Programs Job Aid

Use the table below to assist students in gaining a basic understanding of VA's different educational benefit programs. Keep in mind the eligibility criteria and benefit aspects of the programs are complex and it is ultimately VA's responsibility to determine eligibility for individual programs. For additional information, refer to the GI Bill website or contact the Education Call Center at 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551).

	Post-9/11 GI Bill (CH 33)	Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (CH 30)	Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (CH 35)	Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (CH 1606)	Veterans Educational Assistance Program (CH 32)
Minimum Eligibility Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 aggregate days of active duty service after 9/10/01. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 or 3 years of active duty depending on branch and service dates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran's death or permanent and total disability as a result of service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active reservist with minimum six year commitment after 6/30/85. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 181 continuous active duty days between 12/31/76 and 7/1/85.
Maximum Number of Months of Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 months - may extend to end of term if expires during term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 months - may extend to end of term if expires during term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 months <i>(Colmery Act - 36 months)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 months
Entitlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 month maximum if combined with one or more program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 month maximum if combined with one or more program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 81 month maximum if combined with one or more program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 month maximum if combined with one or more program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 month maximum if combined with one or more program.
Duration of Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-year time limit on use of benefits if release from active duty was before 1/1/2013. Unlimited time to use benefits if release from active duty was on or after 1/1/2013. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 years from last discharge or separation. Duration may extend for disability that prevents completion of program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 years - children (ages 18-26) 10 years - spouse 20 years - spouses of Veterans rated permanent and total disabled within three years of discharge or death on active duty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 years from your beginning date of eligibility, or on the day you leave the Selected Reserve. May extend if disability incurred or aggravated by service in selected reserve prevents completion of program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 years from last day of active duty.
How Payments are Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition - paid to school Housing - paid to student monthly Books & Supplies - Paid to student at beginning of term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid to student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid to student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid to student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid to student