

Veteran Frequently Asked Questions

- Do I have to attend the apprenticeship academy before I can sign up for VA benefits?

No, once you have signed your DOL form you are eligible to start the Veteran education benefits.

- Can I receive back pay for hours that I completed prior to starting the VA education benefits?

Yes, the VA will pay back pay for hours completed prior to enrolling in the program. It is advised that you can go back 6 months from your enrollment date. However, if you complete your program or the number of hours for your program and receive payments for any extra time period the VA will require you to return any extra education benefits.

- Can I extend the 10 year period to use the VA education Benefits?

Yes, however you have to request it from the VA through a letter stating the reason why you could not complete your education in the 10 year time period (personal illness, ill family member, death in family, etc.). The letter is sent to the VA and the Veteran will receive a response from the VA.

- The VA reached out and wanted to know where my VA 22-1995 is, how do I get a VA 22-1995?

The VA 22-1995 is for a Veteran to change to school that they are using their education benefits with. When the VA requests a VA 22-1995, the Veteran will need to log onto their VONAPP and submit a change of schools request (VA 22-1995).

- How do I submit my monthly work process hours?

The monthly work process hours can be submitted on a work process sheet or on a memo. The work hours must be verified by your Supervisor or Apprenticeship manager with their signature. The monthly hours should be submitted by the Apprenticeship manager each month not by the Veteran directly.

- What if I worked more hours than stated in my work process form?

Add the excess hours worked in the Comment section on the bottom of your work process sheet, this sheet is sent to the VA along with your hours to verify the hours worked each month.

- How do I transfer benefits to the Post 9-11 GI Bill now that the new rules are in affect?

To transfer benefits between the two programs you will have to complete a new VONAPP on the VA.gov website. The VONAPP will ask you if you want to relinquish your benefits under the other programs, this is your choice. When the form is completed you will receive a new certificate of eligibility in the mail.

- If someone was enrolled in Apprenticeship/OJT training can they receive a partial payment if they do not work a full month?

Yes, the VA will pay partial payments for the month worked. The payments will be prorated based on the amount of hours worked.

- Will submitting hours for a partial month use a full month of benefits or just prorated?

The VA will prorate the number of months used based on number of hours worked. Since the hours will be prorated it will not use up a full month of benefits, just a portion of that month.

- What area code is used to calculate the MHA for an apprenticeship program? Is this based off the students home address or the school's address, many of the Veterans do not work at the location of the school but at remote forests. based on the zip code of the school.

The MHA is based off the zip code for the school. Current rates for the zip code:95652 are \$1749.

- How is someone granted an extension of GI Bill benefits beyond the 36 months, for the additional 12 months of training?

A Veteran is only granted an extension if they have exhausted their education benefits under another education program and switch to use the GI Bill. The Veteran will complete a new VONAPP requesting to use the benefits under the new GI Bill if the extension is granted the Veteran will receive a new certificate of eligibility.

- I am a reservist can I still use my benefits?

Yes, for a reservist to utilize their education benefits they will apply under the REAP program. The VA just allowed Veterans to utilize their VEAP benefits for an apprenticeship program on October 1, 2011. The work hours can only be back dated 6 months under this program.

- How do I contact the VA directly?

The Veteran can call the VA at (888) 442-4551 or can submit a question online using the VA's ask a question program. The link to access this website is: https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/utils/login_form/redirect/ask/session/L3RpbWUvMTMxNzE1ODA5MC9zaWQvNUtFUfo5Rms.

The Veteran will need to set up an account the first time they access the website. Any updates to questions asked will be sent to the Veteran's email address.

- How much money will I get under the new Post 9/11 GI Bill?

The payment rate will be as follows:

1. you will receive 100% of your applicable BAH during the first 6 months of training
2. you will receive 80% of your applicable BAH during the second 6 months of training
3. you will receive 60% of your applicable BAH during the third 6 months of training
4. you will receive 40% of your applicable BAH during the fourth 6 months of training
5. you will receive 20% of your applicable BAH during the remainder of the training

Post-9/11 GI Bill recipients will also receive up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.

For more information on enrolling in apprenticeship or on-the-job training contact your local VA office by clicking on the "Ask a Question" tab at the top of this page or call 1-888-GI BILL 1 (1-888-442-4551).

- How much money will I get under the Montgomery GI Bill?

OJT Rates effective October 1, 2011

Apprenticeship and On-Job Training	
Training Period	Monthly rate
First six months of training	\$1,104.75
Second six months of training	\$810.15
Remaining pursuit of training	\$515.55

- How much money will I receive under the REAP education programs?

Apprenticeship and On-Job Training			
Training Period	Service of 90 days but less than one year	Service of 1 year +	Service of 2 years +
First six months of training	\$441.90	\$662.85	\$883.80
Second six months of training	\$324.06	\$486.09	\$648.12
Remaining pursuit of training	\$206.22	\$309.33	\$412.44

- (Rates are proportionally reduced if less than 120 hours is worked.)

If you are eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill, REAP, VEAP, or DEA you can receive benefits from the VA in conjunction with your salary while you are enrolled in the program. You will receive approximately:

1. 75% of the fulltime benefit for each full month of training during the first 6 months of training
2. 55% of the fulltime benefit for each full month of training during the second 6 months of training
3. 35% of the fulltime benefit for each full month of training during the remainder of the training

These payment rates do not include any applicable College Fund ("kicker") or \$600 Buy-Up payments that you may be eligible for.