

VA

Veterans Benefits Administration Education Service

American GI Forum - Mid-Year National Conference

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Veterans Benefits Administration

April 23, 2021



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GI Bill® Mission and Goals

Education Service supports service members, Veterans and their families by providing the benefits and resources to help them achieve their education goals.



Expands opportunities for Veterans and eligible family members to pursue their academic goals.



Enhances the nation's economic strength with innovative programs that support employment in high demand fields.



Enriches lives by giving GI Bill beneficiaries the tools they need to further their education.



GI Bill Impact on Veterans and Families

Education Service administers **5 education benefits** programs

Processed **3.5 million** education claims totaling **\$12 billion** to **900K beneficiaries** in FY2020

Over **400,000 approved education programs** at **43,000 campuses** across the globe

Paid **\$116.7 billion** to over **2.3 million** beneficiaries since Aug 2009



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GI Bill Highlights

By the Numbers



In FY20, processed over **3.5 million** claims



Education Call Center answered **2 million** calls



3,724 GI Bill beneficiaries receiving more benefits because expanded rate levels



\$135 million in STEM Scholarship benefits awarded



4,500 STEM Scholarships awarded



Over **2,300** Purple Heart Recipients had their benefits increased



862 Veterans have found employment after completing a VET TEC program



300% increase in Independent Study Program



18,000 months of GI Bill Entitlement have been restored



2,072 Schools offer priority enrollment

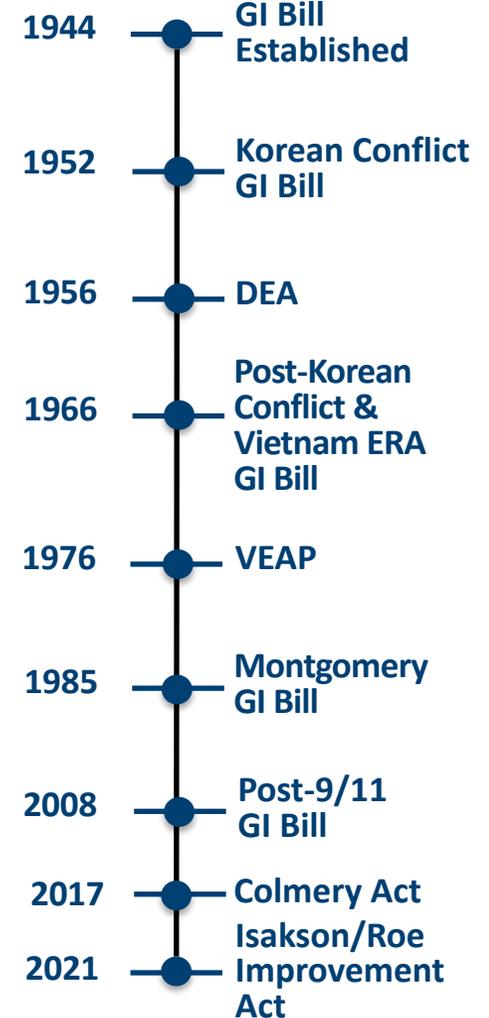


5,567 schools participating in Yellow Ribbon



4,934 GI Bill Beneficiaries have had their licensing & certification exam fees prorated

GI Bill: Key Events



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Comparison of Education Benefit Programs

	Min Length of Service or Requirements	Max Months of Benefits	Duration of Benefits	Benefits can include:
Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)	90 days total active service after 9/10/01 or 30 days continuous if discharged for service-connected disability	36 	Service ended on or after 1/1/2013: No expiration Service ended before 1/1/2013: 15 years from last day of active duty	Tuition, housing stipend, books & supplies, degree & non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance, rural relocation
MGIB-AD (Chapter 30)	2 years continuous enlistment (minimum duty varies by service date, branch, etc)	36 	Generally 10 years from last day of active duty	Degree training, non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance
MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606)	6-year commitment after 6/30/85	36 	Generally ends the day you leave Selected Reserve	Degree training, non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance
VEAP (Chapter 32)	181 continuous days active service between 1/1/1977 and 6/30/1985	36 	10 years from last day of active duty	Degree training, non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance
DEA (Chapter 35)	Not applicable	36 or 45** 	Spouse: 10 or 20 years depending on eligibility; Child: Ages 18-26	Degree training, non-college degree training, on-the-job and apprenticeship, flight training, correspondence courses, licensing and certification tests, national testing programs, work-study program, tutorial assistance

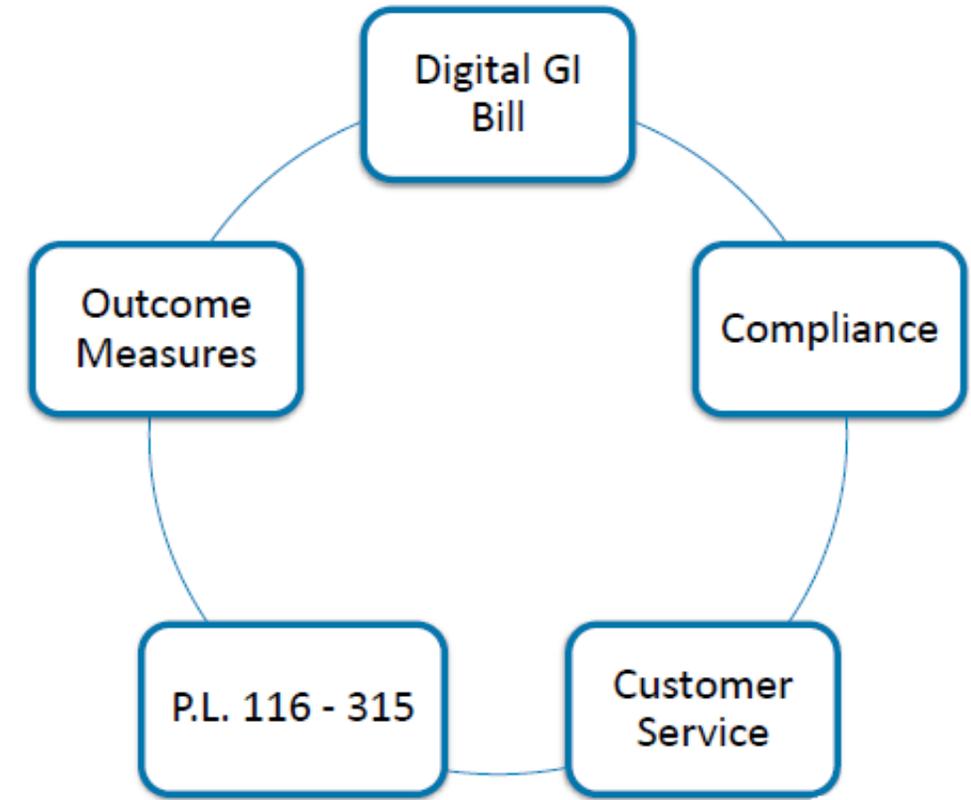


****Note: If you began using this program to pay for your school or training before 8/1/18, you can get benefits for up to 45 months. If you began using the program on or after 8/1/18, you can get benefits for up to 36 months**

Transformational Change in 2021

In 2021, Education Service will continue with transformational change

- **Modernize** and **create** world-class GI Bill customer service and benefit claim service through **Digital GI Bill**
- **Develop** end-to-end systems integration and business intelligence tools
- **Improve** benefit delivery through **outcome measures** and **feedback**
- **Expand** resources, communications, electronic outreach and intake tools to support beneficiaries
- **Strengthen** compliance and **oversight** activities
- **Support** new legislative requirements and **adapt** to policy changes



Future State: Digital GI Bill



Modernized Business Platform

Students receive GI Bill benefits uninterrupted and on-time – critical to maintaining livelihood and economic standing



Improved Customer Service

Allow for GI Bill students to engage with VA and their earned benefits through electronic outreach, intake, and communication tools for on-the-spot service



Business Intelligence Tools

Artificial intelligence and advanced analytics allows VA to be proactive with impacted GI Bill students and schools
Managed Service for claims processing offers full automation and electronic letter delivery



COVID-19 Updates

Applicable for “covered period” of March 1, 2020 – December 21, 2021

Public Law 116-128 and Public Law 116-140 were signed into law Spring 2020 and implement the following:

- Protects resident Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) rate if course converted to online
- Continuation of benefit payments for 28 days
 - **Provides authority to continue payments for terminated programs, even if the school remains open**
 - Can now continue to pay for temporary/permanent closure or program suspension due to COVID-19
- Restoration of entitlement
 - **Can restore entitlement for temporary/permanent closure or program suspension due to COVID-19**
 - Like with a normal school closure, student must also lose credit or training time to qualify
- Work Study
 - **If students cannot continue to perform work study activities due to COVID-19, they will get paid as if they worked 25 hours/week**
 - Allows student to extend current contract into follow-on terms
- Delimiting date extensions
 - **Can extend delimiting date due to temporary/permanent school closures due to an emergency under chapters 30, 31, and 33 of title 38, U.S.C., and chapter 1606 of title 10, U.S.C.**



Isakson & Roe Improvement Act 2020

Public Law 116-135 was signed into law January 5, 2021

Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020



- Transformative effect on Education Service
 - Mission: Expand EDU's ability to provide ready access to, and timely and accurate delivery of, education benefits to Veterans, service members, and their families
 - Vision: Further enable Education Service to empower GI Bill beneficiaries to achieve their vocational and career goals



- Over 30 provisions that impact the administration/oversight of GI Bill benefits
 - New requirements for enrollment verification
 - Expanded restoration of entitlement opportunities
 - Sunsetting of the Montgomery GI Bill
 - Substantial changes to VA oversight of GI Bill approved schools



- Education Service working to implement provisions timely and efficiently
 - 10 of 15 provisions effective January 5, 2021 are enacted; 14 more on or after August 1, 2021



Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program

The [Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program \(VRRAP\)](#), enacted on March 11, 2021, is part of the American Rescue Plan. VRRAP is part of VA's continued effort to support Veterans seeking retraining and economic opportunities in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

VA in partnership with the Department of Labor published a list of [high-demand occupation](#). The list includes healthcare, education, media, engineering, and high-tech opportunities



- Eligible Veterans receive up to 12 months of tuition & fees and a monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill rates



- To be eligible for VRRAP, a Veteran must meet the following criteria:
 - ✓ At least 22 years of age and less than 67 years of age
 - ✓ Unemployed due to COVID-19 pandemic
 - ✓ Not eligible for GI Bill or VR&E benefits



- Limited to a maximum of 17,250 participants and up to \$386 million



VET TEC



Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) is a five-year pilot program for eligible Veterans to help them secure meaningful employment in the talent-hungry tech sector.



What is VET TEC?

VET TEC pairs eligible Veterans with market-leading Training Providers offering sought after high-tech training and skills development.



Am I Eligible?

If you have at least one day of unexpired GI Bill entitlement, then you may be eligible for VET TEC.



What Types of Training are included?

VET TEC consists of information science, computer programming, data processing, media applications and computer software programs.



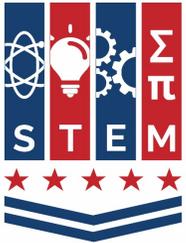
Where Can I Apply?

Visit the [Vet Tec Website](#) to apply.

The VET TEC [Employer Consortium](#) helps Veterans bridge the gap between program completion and meaningful employment as well as fosters a network of employers and training providers for graduates to leverage at the beginning of, and throughout, their careers.

For the full list of VET TEC providers, visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/FGIB/VetTecTrainingProviders.asp>.

Rogers STEM Scholarship



VA has launched the Edith Nourse Rogers Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Scholarship program for students training in high-demand STEM fields.

What is the Rogers STEM Scholarship?

The Rogers STEM Scholarship offers up to nine extra months of benefits (may not exceed \$30,000) for STEM undergraduate degree, dual-degree & certain clinical training programs. Scholarships are awarded on a monthly basis.



Am I Eligible?

Veterans or Fry Scholars who are currently enrolled in a STEM undergraduate degree program requiring at least 120 semester (or 180 quarter) credit hours for completion and have completed at least 60 semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours toward your degree are eligible.



Where Can I Apply?

Visit
<https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/fgib/stem.asp>



Which Applications Get Priority?

Priority is given to those entitled to 100% of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and to those who require the most program credit hours leading to an undergraduate degree, teaching certificate, dual-degree programs, undergraduate with clinical & graduate degree enrolled in covered clinical programs.



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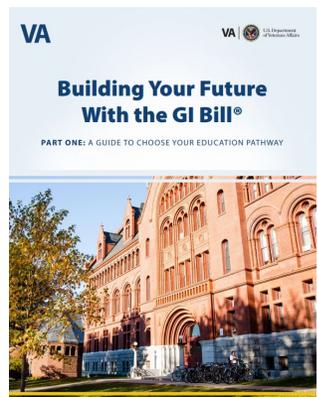
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Student Resources

Building Your Future With the GI Bill®



This series assist GI Bill® students in navigating their education pathways, using benefits and finding employment:

[Part One: A Guide to Choose Your Education Pathway](#)

[Part Two: A Guide to Understanding Your Benefits](#)

[Part Three: A Guide to Navigating your Career](#)



Test Proration Postcard

Dedicated Phone Line for Survivors



A child or surviving spouse can contact the Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 and select Option 5. A highly trained agent will be ready to assist the caller with their education benefits or survivor-related resources.

Agents will be available M-F from 7am-5pm CST

Note: All resources listed on this slide are clickable to their appropriate page.

Stay up to date on GI Bill benefits



@[GIBillEducation](#)



@[VAVetBenefits](#)



Website

www.benefits.va.gov/gibill



Ask a Question

<https://gibill.custhelp.va.gov>



Education Call Center

1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). For students outside the U.S., call 001-918-781-5678



GI Bill Feedback System

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Feedback.asp>



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GI Bill Comparison Tool

Use this tool to compare benefits by school, estimate your Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA), find tuition rates, and learn about approved educational programs.

Check out the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/) at www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/.



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Follow the steps below to receive an estimate of your MHA.

1. Search and select your school's main campus from the list.
2. Scroll down to "Where will you take the majority of your classes?"
3. Select "Other Location" or "An Extension Campus."
4. Enter the zip code of the other location or select the location from the drop down.

Yellow Ribbon Tool

The Yellow Ribbon Program can help pay for higher out-of-state, private school, or graduate school tuition that the Post-9/11 GI Bill doesn't cover.

Use the Yellow Ribbon tool to find out which schools participate in the Yellow Ribbon Programs.



Check out the **Yellow Ribbon Tool**
at <https://www.va.gov/education/yellow-ribbon-participating-schools/>

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Follow the steps below to search for participating schools.

1. Enter the full name of the school
2. State or territory
3. City
4. Select “Search”

VA Chapter 36 Benefits



Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (Chapter 36) provides guidance and assistance with professionals who will help you develop a personalized career/educational plan based on your own unique goals. Experts will:

1. Assess your skills, education, and training to help you determine your civilian career
2. Find the best training program to meet your job goals
3. Help you determine the right educational program and school based on your future plans
4. Provide guidance on adjusting to the civilian world post-transition

You may be eligible if you're leaving active service soon, if you've been discharged within the past year, or if you are a Veteran or dependent eligible for a VA educational benefit.



Questions

