

Eligibility Criteria for VA Educational Programs

Montgomery GI Bill/Active Duty (Chapter 30):

- Served two years active duty, 3 years active duty **OR** 2 years active duty and 4 years in the Reserves (Benefit amounts vary based on the amount of the Veteran's credible service)
- Had to have paid \$100.00 per month into the program for the first 12 months on active duty **OR**
- Be a retiree who entered the service or agreed to delayed entry before January 1, 1977, and was eligible for the Vietnam Era GI Bill (no pay-in required)
- Eligible personnel must have received an Honorable Discharge and have 10 years from date of discharge or retirement to use their entitlement

Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33):

- Served a minimum of 90 days on active duty beginning September 11th, 2001 **OR**
- Served a minimum of 30 days on active duty beginning September 11th, 2001 and been discharged due to a service connected disability **OR**
- Be the spouse or child of an **ACTIVE DUTY** service member who has received permission from the Department of Defense to transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill entitlement to the family member
- The percentage of benefit eligibility will be established by the VA based on the total number of months of credible service beginning September 11, 2001; Recruit and initial MOS/RATE/AFSC training does not count as credible service if member has less than 24 months of service
- Eligible personnel must have received an Honorable Discharge and have 15 years from date of discharge or retirement to use their entitlement

Montgomery GI Bill/Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)

- Be an active member of the Selected Reserve of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, or Air Force
- Be an active member of the Army or Air National Guard
- Requires a six year service obligation and satisfactory participation in required training
- Eligibility is determined by the Department of Defense. The Department of Veterans' Affairs administers the program and pays the benefits
- Eligible personnel may use their benefits for 14 years from their original date of entitlement, until their entitlement is exhausted, or they leave the service

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607)

- Be an active member of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, or Army or Air National Guard called to active duty for 90 days or more in response to a contingency operation declared by the President or Congress.
- Does not include time for Basic Training and/or Initial MOS/Rate/AFSC training
- Eligibility is determined by the Department of Defense. The Department of Veteran's Affairs administers the program and pays the benefits
- Eligible personnel have 10 years from their separation date if separated after completing their service contract **OR** 10 years from date of eligibility if separated for a disability.

Chapter 30, 33, 1606 and 1607 beneficiaries are eligible for a maximum of 36 months of full-time benefits under any one program and 48 months of full-time benefits under any two programs.

Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)

- Be the spouse or the son or daughter of:
 - a veteran who died while in service
 - a veteran who died, or is permanently and totally disabled, as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces
 - a veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence
 - a service member missing in action or captured in the line of duty by a hostile force
 - a service member who is listed as a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action
 - a service member hospitalized or receiving outpatient medical care, services, or treatment for a VA determined service-connected permanent and total disability.
- Regulations governing eligibility periods can be complex & claimant should carefully read their letter of eligibility and contact the VA if they have questions concerning their period of benefit eligibility.

Chapter 35 beneficiaries are eligible for a total of 45 months of full-time benefits.