

Eligibility Criteria for GI Bill® Benefits

Montgomery GI Bill/Active Duty (Chapter 30):

- Served a minimum of two years on active duty **OR** 2 year's 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)
- Must have received an Honorable Discharge. Eligible personnel have 10 years from date of discharge/retirement to use their 36 months of 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 11, 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 some or all of their Post 9/11 GI Bill entitlement to a 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 11th 2001; Recruit and initial MOS/RATE/AFSC training does not count as credible service if the member has less than 24 months of service
- Eligible personnel must have received an Honorable Discharge. Eligible personnel have 15 years from date of discharge/retirement to use their 36 months of 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 or the Army or Air National Guard
- Have a six year service obligation and satisfactorily participate in required training
- Eligibility is determined by the Department of Defense. The VA administers the program and pays the benefits
- Eligible personnel may use their 36 months of entitlement for 14 years from their original date of eligibility, until their entitlement is exhausted or they leave the Guard or Reserves

Reserve Education Assistance Program (Chapter 1607)

- This was a benefit for members of the Selected Reserve of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, or Air Force or the 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
- This benefit was "sunset" by the National Defense Authorization Act (ADAA) of 2016 on November 24th, 2015. Eligible personnel who were using this benefit on that date can continue to use the benefit until November 2018.

Survivors & Dependents Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)

Be the spouse or child of a Veteran or service member who:

- Died, or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of service-connected disability.

The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces

- A Veteran who died from any cause while such permanent and total service-connected disability was in existence

- Is listed as a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action

- A service member who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service-connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability

The benefit stops if the spouse remarries. The benefit can be restarted if the remarriage ends by death or divorce.

Marine GySgt John David Fry Scholarship

Provides 36 months of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit eligibility at the 100% level to the children and spouse of active duty members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty after September 10th, 2001.

Eligible Children:

- Have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on their 18th birthday
- May use the benefit until their 33rd birthday

- A child eligible for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty), or the Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve), must relinquish eligibility under one of those programs to receive benefits under the Fry Scholarship

Eligible Spouses:

- May use the benefit until the date that is 15 years after the date on which the Veteran died or the date on which the eligible spouse remarries, whichever is earlier

- Spouses eligible for both the Fry Scholarship and Dependents Educational Assistance are required to make an irrevocable election as to which benefit they wish to receive

The rules concerning on-line classes that apply to Chapter 33 also apply to the Fry Scholarship.