

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VA EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Check with the VA for official policy and procedures before you change anything!

<http://www.gbill.va.gov/>

Q: Who can CG Reservists contact for assistance concerning VA education programs?

A: The Coast Guard Reserve (CGR) now has a Reserve Education Office located in PSC-RPM-3. This office manages MGIB-SR (CH-1606), REAP (CH-1607) and Post 9/11 GI Bill (CH-33). This office also approves the TEB Requests when transferring education benefits to dependents. We coordinate with DEERS, VA, and CG-PPC so we can often assist to resolve eligibility issues.

To contact this office, please send an email to ReserveVAEducation@uscg.mil with your name and program inquiry in the subject line. Please be advised that this office has minimal staffing and your inquiry will be handled as quickly as possible.

Remember: MGIB-SR, REAP, Post 9/11 GI Bill and MGIB-AD each offers 36 months of benefits BUT 48 months of benefits is the maximum you may ever use. So, if you are eligible for several programs, choose wisely which to use.

MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606)

Q: How do I become eligible for MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606)?

A: You must incur a six year SELRES contract, sign a Statement of Understanding (SOU) (normally completed with the recruiter) and complete your IADT. You must have completed high school or received a GED. Your eligibility status can be found in Direct Access by going to My Page > Reserve Administration > MGIB Enrollments. Contact the Reserve Education Office for any issues.

Q: How long do I remain eligible for MGIB-SR?

A: You will remain eligible as long as you're a drilling reservist in good participation standing. Participation standards are outlined in the Reserve Policy Manual COMDTINST M1001.28 (series) and include but not limited to: completion of drills, two weeks ADT, meeting medical and dental readiness, and ASQ.

Q: I completed 4 of my 6 years of obligated SELRES service and have been approved to go IRR. Can I still use my MGIB-SR?

A: No. Benefits are suspended once you separate from SELRES. Also, you had a six year MGIB-SR commitment to the Selected Reserve which you did not complete. You have one year to return to SELRES status to restart your benefits. (Three years if authorized a break to fulfill a missionary obligation.) If you do not return within the authorized timeframe, your benefits will be terminated permanently. If you do not complete the required six years of SELRES and you received money from VA, they may begin recoupment action to get the money back from you.

Q: I enlisted for six years SELRES and completed IADT. Will my eligibility start automatically?

A: Eligibility should start upon graduation from "A" school. If the school house did not provide you with a Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE), contact the Reserve Education Office at ReserveVAEducation@uscg.mil for assistance.

Q: I just completed four years in the Active Component and now I'm completing my last four years as a reservist. Can I become eligible for MGIB-SR?

A: Yes, you can, **BUT** you must extend your current enlistment to meet the six year SELRES obligation. You must also complete a Statement of Understanding (SOU) CG-5482 which must be sent to the Reserve Education Office along with an email requesting that eligibility be granted. Once the requirements have been met, an eligibility code will be entered into Direct Access which will then transfer to VA.

Q: I applied to the VA for my MGIB-SR and I was told that I was not "coded as eligible". What does this mean?

A: Every eligible reservist should have a specific eligibility code in Direct Access. This information is transmitted to VA. There can be a variety of reasons why VA may not see your eligibility code. It could be that there was a data transmission error or that the eligibility code was never entered or was entered incorrectly. In any case, contact the CG Reserve Education office and someone will assist you.

Q: My school asked for my NOBE. What is a NOBE?

A: A Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE - DD Form 2384-1) certifies that you are eligible for MGIB-SR. If you do not have one, you can request one from the Reserve Education Office. **Be sure to look in your personal records at home and in your SPO PDR before you make a request.** Your records and information will be reviewed by CGR to confirm your eligibility. If eligibility is confirmed, you will be sent a request for certain information to complete the form. Once your reply is received, a completed NOBE will be sent to your **CG email address** for your signature. If eligibility cannot be confirmed, you will be notified and asked to send any appropriate documentation that can rectify the issue(s).

Q: How do I get my MGIB-SR benefits started?

A: If you have not already done so, you will need to apply to VA. You can do so by completing the form VA-22-1990 either electronically through the VA's VETS.gov website: <https://www.vets.gov> or with a paper application. Be sure to speak with your school's VA Certifying Official to ensure that they will be submitting VA-22-1999 (only available to school officials) to VA. This form verifies your school enrollment and permits VA to begin payments.

Q: Okay, I applied to VA for benefits and I met with my school's VA Certifying Official. Do I need to do anything once payments begin?

A: While receiving benefits, you must verify enrollment at the end of each month of school via VA's Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do> or phone 877-VA-ECERT (877-823-2378). *If you forget, you may miss a payment.*

REAP **(Chapter 1607)**

*****The National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended REAP on November 25, 2015. Members currently enrolled in an educational institution will remain eligible for REAP benefits until November 25, 2019; while others are no longer eligible for REAP benefits.**

Q: What are the requirements to become eligible for REAP?

A: As a Reservist, you must have served 90 consecutive days (or 30 consecutive days if released due to a service connected disability) in support of contingency operations (ONE, OIF, OEF) and you must return to the Ready Reserve category or greater from which you were mobilized (SELRES must return to SELRES; IRR must return to IRR or SELRES)

Q: I served two years on Title 10 Orders. Am I eligible for MGIB-AD instead of REAP?

A: Yes but you would have to make an election and pay the \$1200.00 within one year after RELAD. The Post 9/11 GI Bill may give you better benefits without any contribution.

Q: I spent 2 years on Extended Active Duty (EAD) orders. Am I eligible for REAP?

A: No. The only time considered qualifying time for REAP is "Title 10" Active Duty orders, or ADOS orders, in support of a named contingency operation on or after 11 Sep 2001. Your time may have made you eligible for MGIB-AD (Chapter 30) which requires a contribution of \$1200.00 within a required timeframe. EAD time is performed under authority of 10 USC 12311 and is not considered qualifying time for the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Q: I was in the Active Component for four years after 11 SEP 2001. I am now SELRES and have not yet mobilized in support of any contingency operation. Am I eligible for REAP now that I am SELRES?

A: No, time served in the Active Component does not count towards the requirements for REAP. This is a Reserve Education Program only. Your time would have counted towards MGIB-AD (if you paid into it) and/or the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Q: I was eligible for REAP, but when the program ended I lost my eligibility. Is there anything thing I can do to use my eligibility?

A: The Forever GI Bill – Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act provides reservists who established eligibility to educational assistance under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) before November 25, 2015, and lost it due to the sunset provision may elect to have that service credited towards the Post-9/11 GI Bill program.

POST 9/11 GI BILL (Chapter 33)

Q: I plan to use the Post 9/11 GI Bill and I was told that I if I have another VA education benefit, that I have to relinquish it in order to use Post 9/11 GI Bill. Is this correct?

A: Yes it is and because relinquishment rules are not the same for all programs, you should contact VA or your ESO for counseling prior to making any changes. Individuals transferring to the Post 9/11 GI Bill from the MGIB-AD will be limited to the amount of their remaining MGIB-AD entitlement. So if you have 35 months of MGIB-AD, you should get 35 months of Post 9/11. Likewise, if you have 5 months of MGIB-AD left, you will only get 5 months of Post 9/11. If you exhaust all MGIB-AD, you may be eligible for 12 months of Post 9/11. So, you can see how important to know the remaining balance of MGIB-AD benefits before making any **irrevocable** decisions.

Q: I paid for MGIB-AD while in the Active Component and I used 20 months of those benefits. I'm completing my last 2 years of my original 8 yr contract in the IRR and would like to switch my benefits to the Post 9/11 GI Bill. How many months will I be eligible for?

A: You should be eligible for 16 months. Confirm with the VA before making any decisions.

MGIB-AD:	36 months
Used:	<u>20 months</u>
Balance:	16 months

Q: I paid for MGIB-AD while in the Active Component and used 20 months of those benefits. I'm completing my last 2 years of my original 8 yr contract in SELRES and would like to switch my benefits to the Post 9/11 GI Bill. How many months will I be eligible for?

A: You should have 16 months of benefits left (see above). However, if you reenlist or extend for a 6 year SELRES contract, you may be eligible for MGIB-SR. Once eligible, you may relinquish MGIB-SR for Post 9/11 which gives you 48 months of total benefits instead of the 36 in the above example. You may choose to use the balance under Post 9/11 or a mixture of Post 9/11 and up to 16 months of MGIB-AD. Again, confirm with VA or your ESO before making any final decisions.

Max allowed for 2+ programs: 48 months
MGIB-AD Used: 20 months
Balance of Benefits to Use: 28 months

Q: I was a reservist for 6 years and was eligible for MGIB-SR. I then integrated into the Active Component where I paid into MGIB-AD. I used 3 months of MGIB-SR and 33 months of MGIB-AD. When I transfer my benefits to Post 9/11 GI Bill, what will I be eligible for?

A: Once you integrated into the Active Component, you lost eligibility for MGIB-SR. If MGIB-AD is the only program you currently have, you will have to relinquish it for Post 9/11. Here's how it should work.

MGIB-SR:	36 months	MGIB-AD:	36 months
Used:	<u>3 months</u>	Used:	<u>33 months</u>
Balance:	0 - not eligible	Balance:	3 months

****You will only be eligible for only 3 months of Post 9/11 benefits when MGIB-AD is relinquished.**

****However if you use up those three months of MGIB-AD completely before transferring to Post 9/11, then you may be eligible for up to 12 months of Post 9/11 benefits. In your case, here's how it should look:**

MGIB-SR Used:	3 months
MGIB-AD Used:	<u>36 months</u>
Total Used:	39 months
Total Allowed:	<u>48 months allowed under two or more programs</u>
Post 9/11:	9 months to use

***** These are only examples and not official calculations – only VA can give you exact balances. Even a balance of 3 days could change what you are eligible for. So it is extremely important to speak with VA concerning the number of months you are eligible for before transferring to Post 9/11 GI Bill. REMEMBER, this is an irrevocable decision.**

Q: I have applied for benefits with VA and they are asking me for a DD-214. I do not have one for each of my periods of active duty because they were shorter than 90 days. What should I do?

A: When you completed your VA Form 22-1990 (Application for VA education benefits), you should have listed all of your time as it requested. If there is a discrepancy between what you listed and what VA sees in their screen, they will contact USCGR for clarification. The Reserve Education office will review your records, verify your time, and respond back to VA. VA will then make a final decision on your eligibility.

Q: What active duty time counts as qualifying time for the Post 9/11 GI Bill?

A: All regular active duty time with the exception of time spent in Recruit Training and "A" School counts towards the Post 9/11 GI Bill. A member's time spent in Recruit Training and "A" School will count once the member has 2 years of other qualifying time. For Reserve members, time spent on active duty under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, 12304, or section 712 of Title 14 (after 31 December 2011). Beginning 01 August 2018, time spent on active duty under 10 U.S.C. 12301(h) (Med Hold) on or after 11 September 2001 will count towards qualifying time. Time spent on active duty under 10 U.S.C. 12304(a) or 12304(b) on or after 30 June 2008 will also qualify beginning 01 August 2018

Q: How do I transfer my benefits to my dependents?

A: You must access, via your CAC card, the Transfer Education Benefits (TEB) portal at <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil>. There is a power point presentation on the Reserve Homepage for more guidance on completing and tracking your TEB request. TEB also has a Help Page.

Q: *I'm in the IRR, why was my request to transfer my benefits rejected?*

A: You must be in the SELRES or Active Component to transfer your benefits. If you return to the SELRES or Active Component you can reapply at that time.

Q: *I will retire in 2 months. Can I transfer my benefits to a dependent after I retire?*

A: No. You must transfer benefits prior to separation from the SELRES or Active Component. You will also be required to obligate additional service which would conflict with the ability to transfer benefits if retiring now.

Q: *I want to transfer benefits to my son & daughter but they are not showing up in DEERS. How do I fix this?*

A: When your child reaches the age of 21 and is not a full time college student, they will be dropped out of DEERS as a dependent (unless they fall under incapacitation rules). If they are a full time student and you have provided your ID Card Office the required verification from their college, they should stay in DEERS until the age of 23 or graduation from college (whichever is earlier). If you believe there is an issue with your dependents not being in DEERS, you can contact the DEERS Support Center by telephone at 1-800-538-9552.

Q: *I want to transfer my Post 9/11 benefits to my dependents but I was told that I must obligate additional service. Why?*

A: The Post 9/11 GI Bill is for recruiting and retention. Everyone transferring benefits on or after 1 August 2012 will be required to obligate an additional four years of continuous service in SELRES or Active Component.

Q: *What is the start date of my obligated service?*

A: The start date is the date which you submitted your TEB request.

Q: *Who can sign my CG-3307 when obligating additional service?*

A: It must have command signature; CO/XO, OIC/XPO, Admin or Personnel Officer. Be sure to have their name typed on the form so it doesn't get returned by the TEB Approval Official.

Q: *Do I have to do anything with the CG-3307 after it's signed?*

A: YES. Unless you or your SPO return the CG-3307 to ReserveVAEducation@uscg.mil, your TEB request will not be approved. It is the member's responsibility to ensure the CG-3307 is received by the RPM-3 Reserve VA Education staff.

Q: *I signed my CG-3307 for an additional four years. Do I still have to complete a new enlistment contract to cover this period?*

A: Yes, you do. You must still do a Career Intention Worksheet and complete the new contract.

Q: *I transferred my benefits but did not complete my obligated service requirement before I separated from the SELRES, what will happen now?*

A: Once you are identified as failing to complete your obligated service, your TEB will be revoked and any monies paid by the DVA to your dependents will be recouped.

Q: *If I use TEB to transfer my benefits, how do I know which benefit will be relinquished?*

A: When you apply to transfer your benefits, you have to acknowledge that you if are eligible for the MGIB (Chapter 30, 38 USC), or the MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606, 10 USC) or REAP (Chapter 1607, 10 USC) that you are converting from that program to the Post 9/11. This conversion is irrevocable.

Q: *I think I would like to transfer my benefits to my children but they are very young. Any recommendations?*

A: If you transfer now, your required obligated service period can begin now. You should also request a Certificate of Eligibility from VA so you know what your children are currently eligible for. Remember; if you ever used any benefits, it will impact what your dependents will receive. There are many instances where the member has forgotten that they took courses years ago which the VA paid for.

Q: *What's a Certificate of Eligibility and how do I get one?*

A: A Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is provided by VA to the member upon request via the Vets.gov website, <https://www.vets.gov>. VA will conduct a review of your records and generate COE(s) reflecting each program you are currently eligible for. You take the COE to your school when ready to use benefits

Q: *I transferred my benefits to my daughter. She applied for her Certificate of Eligibility but hasn't received it yet. Classes have already started and the school said they cannot submit an enrollment certification without the COE. Any suggestions?*

A: Your daughter should bring a copy of the TEB approval form to the school's VA Certifying Official. Schools do not have to wait for the COE before sending the enrollment certification to VA.

Q: *Can I still get the Monthly Stipend (living allowance) if I am enrolled in distance learning?*

A: A new change as of 5 Jan 2011 authorized individuals pursuing a program of more than a half-time basis, but solely thru distance learning, to receive a Monthly Stipend equal to 50% of the national average prorated on the rate of pursuit. This takes effect on 1 Oct 2011.

Q: *If I contributed \$600 Buy-Up towards the MGIB-AD or REAP, can I get that money back if I transfer to the Post 9/11 GI Bill?*

A: No, the Buy-Up contributions are not refundable nor transferrable.

Q: *Can I get a refund of the \$1,200.00 paid for MGIB-AD if I switch to the Post 9/11 GI Bill?*

A: Any individual who paid the \$1,200.00 for the Montgomery GI Bill and elects to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill may be refunded a proportional amount after all entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill is used. Individuals who do not use all their entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill will not receive a refund of contributions paid under the Montgomery GI Bill. This is refunded in conjunction with the monthly stipend if entitled. Check with VA for possible updates to this rule.

Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act

“FOREVER GI BILL”

(Chapter 33)

Q: What changes does this make to the Post 9/11 GI Bill program?

A: The following is a summary of the changes made by the “Forever GI Bill”.

1. Effective Immediately:

Work Study Expansion

The law removes the expiration date of June 30, 2022, for certain qualifying work-study activities for which an individual may be paid an additional educational assistance allowance. These activities include outreach services for an SAA, providing hospital and domiciliary care and medical treatment to Veterans in a State home, or performing an activity relating to the administration of a national cemetery or a state Veterans' cemetery.

REAP Eligibility Credited Toward Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Members of the Reserve who established eligibility to educational assistance under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) before **November 25, 2015**, and lost it due to the sunset provision may elect to have that service credited towards the Post-9/11 GI Bill program.

Elimination of 15-year Limitation to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

The law removes the time limitation for the use of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for individuals whose last discharge or release from active duty is on or after **January 1, 2013**, children of deceased Service members who first become entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill program benefits after January 1, 2013, and all Fry spouses. All others remain subject to the current 15-year time limitation for using their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

2. Effective August 16, 2017:

Using the GI Bill at Technical Schools and non-Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs)

Beneficiaries will now be able to use their Post-9/11 educational assistance to pursue accredited independent study programs at the following educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning (IHLs): area career and technical education schools that provide postsecondary level education and postsecondary vocational institutions. This change went into effect **August 16, 2017**.

Priority Enrollment

VA will improve outreach and transparency to Veterans and Service members by providing information on whether institutions of higher learning administer a priority enrollment system that allows certain student Veterans to enroll in courses earlier than other students. This change went into effect **August 16, 2017**.

3. Effective 90 days after August 16, 2017:

Assistance for Students Affected by School Closures and Certain Disapprovals

VA is now authorized to restore benefits and provide relief to education beneficiaries affected by school closures or certain disapprovals. This means payments of educational assistance will not be charged against an entitlement of educational assistance, or counted against the total period for which a beneficiary may receive educational assistance under two or more programs, if VA finds that the individual was unable to complete such course or program of study as a result of:

- the closure of an educational institution; or
- the disapproval of the course or a course that is a necessary part of that program by reason of a new law, regulation, or policy implemented after the individual enrolls.
- not receiving credit, or losing training time, toward completion of the program being pursued.

VA may treat a course of education that is disapproved under this chapter as being approved, if VA determines, on a case-by-case basis, that the course was disapproved for one of the reasons stated above and continuing the course is in the best interest of the individual.

This provision takes effect **90 days after August 16, 2017** and applies to courses and programs of education discontinued after August 1, 2015. For courses or programs discontinued during the period beginning January 1, 2015, and ending on August 16, 2017, an individual who *does not transfer* credits can have all his/her entitlement restored.

VA may also continue awarding a monthly housing allowance stipend under the Post-9/11 GI Bill program following a permanent school closure or certain disapproval of a course of study. The changes to monthly housing allowance will take effect on **August 1, 2018**, and apply to courses and programs of education discontinued on or after August 16, 2017.

4. Effective January 01, 2018

GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance

Individuals who first use Post-9/11 GI Bill program on or after **January 1, 2018** will receive monthly housing allowance based on DoD's reduced basic housing allowance (BAH) for monthly housing rates. Those that began using benefits prior to January 1, 2018 will continue to receive a higher monthly housing rate based in the non-adjusted BAH rates.

5. Effective August 01, 2018:

Informing Schools about Beneficiary Entitlement

VA must make available to educational institutions information about the amount of educational assistance to which a beneficiary is entitled under chapter 30, 32, 33, or 35. This information would be provided to the educational institution through a secure information technology system accessible by the educational institution and would be updated regularly to reflect any amounts used by the Veteran or other individual. A beneficiary pursuing a course of education may elect not to provide the information to an educational institution. This section will be effective on **August 1, 2018**.

Reserve Component Benefits

The law authorizes service by Guard and Reserve members under 10 U.S.C 12304a and 12304b to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. An individual entitled to educational assistance as a result of this section may use such entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after **August 1, 2018**. This applies to service in the Armed Forces occurring on or after June 30, 2008.

Reserve Components Monthly Housing Allowance

VA will prorate the monthly housing stipend (also referred to as the "monthly housing allowance") under the Post-9/11 GI Bill for members of the reserve components of the armed forces. This change will be applicable to a quarter, semester or term commencing on or after **August 1, 2018**.

Reserve Duty That Counts Toward Post-9/11 Eligibility

The time that a Reservist was ordered to active duty under 10 U.S.C. 12301(h) (Med Hold) to receive authorized medical care, be medically evaluated for disability, or complete a Department of Defense (DoD) health care study on or after September 11, 2001, now counts as active duty toward eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after **August 1, 2018**.

Purple Heart Recipients

Service members and honorably discharged Veterans who were awarded a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001 will be entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at the 100-percent benefit level for up to 36 months. This is effective on **August 1, 2018**.

Yellow Ribbon Extension to Fry and Purple Heart Recipients

Recipients of the Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart will be covered under the Yellow Ribbon Program. This is effective **August 1, 2018**.

Monthly Housing Based on Campus Student Attends the Majority of their Classes

The law requires the monthly housing allowance (MHA) under the Post-9/11 GI Bill program to be calculated based on the zip code of the campus where the student physically attends the majority of classes, rather than the location of the institution of higher learning where the student is enrolled. This applies to the first enrollment in an educational program on or after **August 1, 2018**.

Changes to Licensing and Certification Charges

Entitlement charges for licensing and certification exams and national tests under the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be prorated based on the actual amount of the fee charged for the test. This will apply to tests taken on or after **August 1, 2018**.

Changes to Transfer of Benefits (TEB)

Veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies before using the entitlement.

Dependents who received transfer of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill can transfer their entitlement to another eligible dependent if the Servicemember or Veteran who made the transfer subsequently dies. This law applies to deaths on or after August 1, 2009. A dependent to whom entitlement is transferred may use it beginning on or after **August 1, 2018**.

6. Effective 180 days after August 01, 2018

Pilot Programs for Technology Courses

VA will develop a pilot program to provide eligible Veterans who are entitled to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, United States Code, with the opportunity to enroll in high technology programs of education that VA determines provide training and skills sought by employers in a relevant field or industry. This change will take effect **180 days after August 1, 2018**.

7. Effective October 01, 2018

Changes to Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance

The new law decreases the amount of entitlement that new eligible individuals will receive under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program from 45 months to 36 months. This change applies to individuals who first enroll in programs of education **after August 1, 2018**. Individuals who first enrolled in a program of education **prior to August 1, 2018**, would still qualify for a maximum of 45 months of entitlement.

This law also increases the amount of educational assistance payable for pursuit of institutional courses and institutional courses under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program. An eligible person will be entitled to a monthly allowance of \$1,224 for full-time coursework, \$967 for three-quarter time, and \$710 for half-time coursework. The increases would be effective **October 1, 2018**.

8. Effective August 01, 2019

More Benefits for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs

VA will provide up to nine months of additional Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to certain eligible individuals who:

- have or will soon exhaust entitlement of Post-9/11 GI Bill program.
- apply for assistance, and
- are enrolled in a program of education leading to a post-secondary degree that, in accordance with the guidelines of the applicable regional or national accrediting agency, requires more than the standard 128 semester (or 192 quarter) credit hours for completion in a standard, undergraduate college degree in **biological or biomedical science; physical science; science technologies or technicians; computer and information science and support services; mathematics or statistics; engineering; engineering technologies or an engineering-related field; a health profession or related program; a medical residency program; an agriculture science program or natural resources science program**; or other subjects and fields identified by VA as meeting national needs.

- has completed at least 60 standard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours in a field listed above, or has earned a post-secondary degree in one of these fields and is enrolled in a program of education leading to a teaching certification.

Priority would be given to individuals who are entitled to 100 percent of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and to those that require the most credit hours.

VA can pay each eligible individual the benefits for up to nine additional months, but the total may not exceed \$30,000. VA will not be authorized to issue any Yellow Ribbon payments.

These additional benefits cannot be transferred to dependents.

This expansion becomes effective on **August 1, 2019**.

9. Effective August 01, 2020:

Consolidation of Benefit Levels

Eliminates the 40-percent benefit level and expands the 60-percent benefit level under the Post 9/11 GI Bill program. An individual with aggregate service of 90 days but less than six months of active-duty service (excluding entry and skill training) now qualifies at the 50-percent benefit level. An individual with aggregate service of at least six months but less than eighteen months of active-duty service (excluding entry and skill training) now qualifies at the 60-percent benefit level. This removes the 40-percent benefit level. This section will take effect on **August 1, 2020**.

Member Serves	Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable
At least 36 months	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty and must be discharged due to service-connected disability or received a Purple Heart (Purple Heart effective August 1, 2018)	100%
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90%
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80%
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	70%
At least 6 months, but less than 18 months	60%
At least 90 days, but less than 06 months	50%

10. Effective August 01, 2022:

Yellow Ribbon Extension to Active Duty Servicemembers

Active duty Service members may use the Yellow Ribbon program effective **August 1, 2022**.