

APPLYING FOR YOUR FEDERAL GI BILL BENEFITS Montgomery (MGIB) & Post-9/11 GI Bills

Applying for the GI Bill can be a relatively easy process; however, there are a number of education benefit programs administered by VA.

- **Chapter 30 MGIB** for those whose entry into military service was on or after 7/1/1985 and contributed to the program.
- **Chapter 1606 Selected Reserve** benefit for those individuals in a drilling status with the reserve components or national guard and have a six year obligation of service.
- **Chapter 1607 Reserve Education Assistance Program** for those drilling in the reserves or national guard who have been mobilized or called to active military duty under DOD Title 10 orders subsequent to 9/10/2001.
- **Chapter 35 Dependent Education Assistance Program** for those who are a spouse or a dependent of a veteran who died in service, died as a result of a VA rated service connected disability or are living and have a VA rated service connected disability rating that is total and permanent.
- **Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill for those individuals with active military service after 9/10/2001** by either serving in the regular active duty military or by mobilization or call up from the reserves or national guard under DOD Title 10 orders.
- **Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill for those individuals who have been approved for transfer of education benefits** from the spouse or parent who is serving in the armed forces and meet DOD requirements to transfer benefits.
- **Fry Scholarship** is a benefit under Chapter 33 for those dependents whose parent died on active duty subsequent to 9/10/2001.

VA application form **22-1990** is the application form that all but Chapter 35 and Fry Scholarship CH33 individuals would use for initial application for these benefit chapters.

VA application form **22-1990e** is the application form that Chapter 33 Transfer of Benefit spouse and dependents use when applying to VA following DOD approval of transfer of benefits.

VA application form **22-5490** is the application form that all Chapter 35 and Chapter 33 Fry Scholarship individuals would use to apply to VA.

VA also provides for applications when a person wishes to transfer schools or select another educational objective at the same institution. This form is **22-1995** and **22-5495** (exclusively on this form for Chapter 35 and Fry Scholarship cases).

All application forms are available on the VA GI Bill web site www.gibill.va.gov under on line application VONAPP system. Individuals may also access the form and print the form to complete as a paper application based on individual needs or limitations. NOTE: Individuals who apply on line can also print the application that is submitted on line to VA.

Best practice is to diligently review the GI Bill web site www.gibill.va.gov for information and instructions on which education benefit they may have for potential eligibility. NOTE: Often individuals may have entitlement for multiple benefit chapters which can result in confusion as to which benefit offers best assistance and also what impact selection of a benefit chapter may restrict use of other benefit chapters.

VA does have extensive information on their GI Bill web site for assistance in these decisions by viewing the comparison of benefit chapter data as well as extensive Frequently Asked Questions.

NOTE: For those who have decided to switch benefit programs from prior application or usage with VA to Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill you must use VA Form 22-1990 to elect this benefit as well as declare an effective date of election and the benefit chapter (if eligible for one) that you are relinquishing. Make sure you follow the instructions on the application form to avoid delays in VA processing your claim and requesting additional evidence from you.

Supporting documentation may be essential when submitting applications to VA for education benefits. A copy of **DD214** for veterans or a copy of a **Notice of Basic Eligibility** for members of the reserve and national guard may be submitted with the on line application as an attachment or attach to the paper application if filing by US mail.

Individuals may desire to seek assistance on how to apply or where to apply by contacting their local County Veterans Service Officer or the designated VA School Certifying Official if unsure of the process when applying to VA. Be aware that the VA School Certifying Official can be a resource person but is not the individual who can assist in the completion of VA application forms or offer advice as to what is the best benefit program for students desiring to apply to VA for benefit eligibility determination.

VA has four (4) Regional Processing Offices located in Missouri, New York, Georgia, and Oklahoma. The VA application form instructions will identify these four locations and the States in which they have jurisdiction. The location of the school you plan on attending dictates the VA Regional Processing Office having jurisdiction and this information is also provided in the instructional pages of the application forms.

For those enrolling in schools located in Wisconsin, Wisconsin education claims are processed at the St. Louis, Missouri Regional Processing Office. The address is:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:
Regional Processing Office
P.O Box 66830
St. Louis, MO 63166-6830

If you have questions or need assistance, call the VA education benefits national help line:

Toll-Free Number: 1-888-GIBILL1
1-888-442-4551