



Voluntary Education

The Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33 of title 38 U.S.C.)

On August 1, 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs will begin the administration of a new education benefit called the Post-9/11 GI Bill (also known as chapter 33 benefits). The Post-9/11 GI Bill is the most comprehensive education benefit since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is responsible for determining eligibility under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Generally, to be eligible, a service member or veteran must serve on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, for at least 30 continuous days with a discharge due to a service-connected disability; or an aggregate period ranging from 90 days to 36 months or more.

Education benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill are based on a percentage of active duty service. These education benefits could include the following: cost of tuition and fees, a monthly housing allowance, a stipend for books and supplies, college ("kicker") payments, a rural benefit payment, and a Yellow Ribbon benefit.

Additionally, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned may permit an eligible Service member to transfer all or a portion of their education entitlement to one or more of their family members (subject to DoD governing policies and regulations). This transferability option was designed to promote the recruitment and retention of members of the Armed Forces.

A link for information on the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which includes a new fact sheet on transferability, is located at: http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409_gibill.

A copy of the OUSD Directive-Type Memorandum 09-003: Post-9/11 GI Bill, which includes the established DoD policy for authorizing the transferability of education benefits, can be found at: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/DTM%2009-003%20Post%209-11%20GI%20Bill%20Optimized1.pdf>.

New articles covering transferability under the Post-9/11 GI Bill are located at: (<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=54877>) and (<http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=12762>).

DVA is currently accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. For additional information, including how to apply for benefits, visit the DVA website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

