



Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, “Forever GI Bill”



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



What is the Forever GI Bill?

Since 1944, the GI Bill® has represented this nation's commitment to Veterans.

On August 16, 2017, the President signed into law the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48), or the Forever GI Bill, which includes the most comprehensive changes to GI Bill benefits since enactment of the Post 9/11 Veterans' Educational Assistance Act in 2008.

The Forever GI Bill expands and enhances Veterans' education benefits.

The updates in this law benefit both Veterans and their families.



How Long Will My Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits Last?

The key date is January 1, 2013

If any of the following apply to you *on or after January 1, 2013*, your GI Bill benefits do not have a time limit:



You left active duty and that discharge was from a period of at least 90 days.



You are a child or spouse who became eligible for a Fry Scholarship.*



You are a spouse who received a transfer of entitlement (TOE).

- If you left active duty before January 1, 2013, you have 15 years from the date of your release to use your benefits.
- If you are a spouse using transferred benefits and your spouse left active duty before January 1, 2013, you have 15 years from your spouse's date of release to use your benefits.
- If you are a Fry Scholarship child and your parent's death occurred before January 1, 2013, you have until age 33 to use your benefits.

**Spouses who received a Fry Scholarship do not have a time limit regardless of when they became eligible.*



What Are the Changes to Your GI Bill?

Highlights include:

- ▶ **School Closure Eligibility Restoration:** VA is now authorized to restore benefits to Veterans affected by school closures or some program disapprovals.
 - ▶ Restore entitlement used during the term when the school closed.
 - ▶ Can continue receiving housing payments until the original end of the term or for 120 days (whichever occurs sooner).



For more information visit: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/fgib/restoration.asp>



Do I Qualify for GI Bill® Restoration?

You May Qualify...

if your school closed between Jan. 1, 2015 and Aug. 16, 2017.

if your school or degree program closed after Aug. 16, 2017 and you could not complete your course.

You Don't Qualify...

if you did not attend a college, university, or other degree program.

if you have transferred credits to another college or degree program.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.



Changes to Your GI Bill

- ▶ **Priority Enrollment:** You will soon be able to find out if schools offer priority enrollment for Veterans with the GI Bill Comparison Tool. Visit [Vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov) to begin your search.
- ▶ **Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) Eligibility Credited Toward Post-9/11 GI Bill Program:** Individuals who lost their eligibility to REAP because of its sunset may apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VA sent letters with instructions to eligible individuals.



Changes to Your GI Bill

- ▶ **Work Study Expansion:** The law removes the expiration date for qualifying work-study activities.
- ▶ **Beginning Date of Enrollment Certifications:** Educational institutions can treat courses that begin seven or fewer days after the first day of the academic term as the first day of the academic term for enrollment reporting purposes.
- ▶ **Use the GI Bill at Technical Schools and non-Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs):** Allows GI Bill students to take independent study programs at career and technical education schools, or a postsecondary vocational school.
- ▶ **DOD-VA Housing Allowance Alignment:** Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) payments for those using the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be realigned to match DoD's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) payments to active duty service members.



Changes to Your GI Bill

▶ Changes to Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)

- ▶ The new law significantly increases the amount of educational assistance payable under DEA. The increase will be effective Oct. 1.
- ▶ Decreases the amount of entitlement that new eligible individuals will receive from 45 months to 36 months.



Changes to Your GI Bill

GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance: Housing will be paid based on the “campus” where the student attends the majority of classes. Campus includes:

- ✓ The individual campus of a school where the student is taking classes (i.e. the school’s science center, humanities building, or athletic center)
- ✓ The physical location where a student is learning in a study abroad program
- ✓ Any internship, externship, practicum or student teaching site



Changes to Your GI Bill

GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance

- On July 17, VA notified School Certifying Officials to resume submitting enrollment certifications for terms that begin on or after August 1, 2018
- Any enrollment where the majority of the training is taken in a zip code outside of the location shown in the public version of the Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS), must be resubmitted after the VA-ONCE changes are implemented
- System modifications are expected in mid-August
- VA will continue to update students and stakeholders via our social media outlets: GI Bill Facebook page, Twitter, and our website



Changes to Your GI Bill

- ▶ **Informing Schools About Beneficiary Entitlement:** VA will share entitlement information with schools, but students may opt out if they choose.
- ▶ **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 based on the actual amount of the fee charged for the test.



Changes to Your GI Bill

- ▶ **Changes to Transfer of Benefits (TEB):** Veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies.
 - ▶ If the Veteran dies, a dependent who received transferred entitlement can now designate a new eligible dependent of the Veteran to receive any of that dependent's remaining entitlement.
- ▶ **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.



Changes to Your GI Bill

- ▶ **Yellow Ribbon Extension to Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart Recipients:** Extends the Yellow Ribbon Program to students receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits through the Fry Scholarship and those who received a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001.



Changes to Your GI Bill

- ▶ **Reserve Component Service under 10 U.S.C 12304a and 12304b counts toward Post-9/11 GI Bill:** VA will consider time National Guard and Reserve members spend called to service on or after June 30, 2008, as active duty to establish Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits eligibility, including:
 - ▶ Major disasters or emergencies, as authorized under section 12304a of title 10, U.S. Code.
 - ▶ Pre-planned missions in support of combatant commands, as authorized under section 12304b of title 10, U.S. Code.



Changes to Your GI Bill

- ▶ **Monthly Housing Allowance During Active Duty Service (Including Reserve Components performing Active Duty Service):**
 - ▶ VA will prorate the monthly housing allowance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
 - ▶ With this change, the student will receive housing payments effective the day after discharge.
- ▶ **Medical Orders Equity:** The time that a Reservist was ordered to active duty to receive authorized medical care, to be medically evaluated for disability, or to complete a Department of Defense health care study on or after September 11, 2001, now counts as active duty toward eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.



VET TEC *Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses*



VET TEC's Five Areas of High Tech Training

COMPUTER SOFTWARE



INFORMATION SCIENCE



COMPUTER PROGRAMMING



MEDIA APPLICATION



DATA PROCESSING

VET TEC is designed to give Veterans an edge in the high tech job market.

VA will launch the VET TEC pilot in

2019!



VA



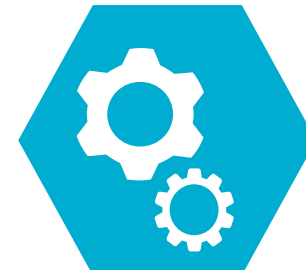
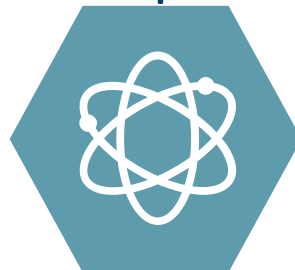
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



What Changes Impact Me in the Future?

Effective August 1, 2019

- ▶ **Up to nine extra months of benefits (may not exceed \$30,000) for STEM Programs, if you:**
 - ▶ Are currently enrolled in a STEM program.
 - ▶ Completed 60 standard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours.
- ▶ Additional benefits can't be transferred to dependents.
- ▶ Priority is given to those entitled to 100% of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and to those who require the most credit hours.



What Changes Impact Me in the Future?

Effective 2020 - 2022

- ▶ **Consolidation of Benefit Levels:** The 40 percent benefit level will be eliminated and the 60 percent level expanded under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- ▶ **Yellow Ribbon Extension to Active Duty Service members:** Expands the Yellow Ribbon program to include active duty service members.



Where Can I Find More Info on Forever GI Bill?



For more information go to www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp

Our Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST)

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