POST-9/11 GI BILL // YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

CAPELLA UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER 33 // FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What you need to know about the Post-9/11 GI Bill

The newest VA education benefit, the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), is now available to eligible veterans and servicemembers. This new program offers more comprehensive education benefits to veterans and active duty servicemembers who served at least 90 aggregate days of active duty on or after September 11, 2001, or served 30 continuous days and were discharged with a service-connected disability.

THE POST-9/11 GI BILL

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS NEW BILL THAT CAN HELP PAY FOR ME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL. WHAT IS IT?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education to individuals—mostly the 1.8 million military personnel who have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001. But it also applies to Title 32 and Title 10 personnel with at least 90 days of total active duty service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. Veterans must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. It's the most comprehensive education benefit package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

DOES MY FAMILY HAVE ACCESS TO ANY OF THESE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS?

Yes. For the first time in history, active duty servicemembers may transfer all or a portion of their unused benefits to spouses and children. Guard, Reserve, NOAA, and PHS members may also transfer their benefits, provided they have at least four years left on their contract or are eligible for retirement.

HOW DO I KNOW IF THE POST-9/11 GI BILL IS THE RIGHT FIT FOR ME?

The new benefit program affects each servicemember differently. We encourage you to consult with the VA before making a final decision, as the decision to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits cannot be reversed. Contact the VA at 1.888. GI.BILL1 (442.4551) to learn more.

BENEFIT DETAILS

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT BENEFITS I'LL HAVE ACCESS TO?

TUITION AND FEES

The VA makes payments directly to Capella based on your eligibility, up to $17,500 per VA fiscal year for those eligible at 100%. Those eligible at a lower percentage will have their tuition and fees paid up to a prorated annual cap (for example, if you are eligible at 70%, your annual cap is $12,250; see chart on reverse side for more eligibility information). For 100% eligible veterans, any amount over $17,500 will be addressed by the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Active duty servicemembers are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon program, but any approved tuition and fees that exceed $17,500 will be covered by Capella University.

HOUSING

Veterans pursuing online programs at a 51% rate of pursuit or higher are eligible for monthly Basic Allowance for Housing payments at a rate of 1/2 the national average. Other factors—how many credits you are pursuing, the number of days you are in course each month, your overall eligibility rate—will further prorate this benefit. There is no 'break pay' for the housing stipend. The VA automatically processes this based on the information Capella sends them each term. Active duty servicemembers and their dependents are not eligible for this benefit.

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Up to $1,000 a year (based on your eligibility for the new GI Bill; see chart on reverse side) is available to be paid directly to the veteran. As of Oct. 1, 2011, active duty servicemembers and eligible dependents can receive this stipend too.

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

The VA will pay for some tests or exams necessary for licensure or certification in certain fields. The VA will also reimburse fees paid to take national exams (e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT) used for admission to institutions of higher learning.

WHAT IF I'VE ALREADY USED SOME OF MY MONTGOMERY GI BILL BENEFITS?

If you've already used some of your Montgomery GI Bill, you'll only be able to carry over your remaining months into the Post-9/11 GI Bill. For example, if you have 12 months of Montgomery GI Bill eligibility remaining, only 12 months will transfer into Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility. However, if you've used all your GI Bill eligibility (previous to applying for the Post-9/11 GI Bill), you may be able to receive up to an additional 12 months under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Know that the VA will not pay more than 48 months of combined benefits between VA education benefit programs.

When you apply for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, you irrevocably surrender your ability to receive benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill.

BENEFIT DETAILS CONTINUED

WILL I RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM BENEFITS?

Benefit eligibility is determined by the amount of time a servicemember has of active duty service (including Title 32 and Title 10 orders) since September 11, 2001. You're eligible for maximum benefit under the new bill after you have served a total of 36 months of active duty service or after 30 days of continuous service if you were discharged due to a service-connected disability. If you served between 90 days and 36 months of total active duty service you will be eligible for a percentage of the maximum benefit, as detailed below:

AGGREGATE ACTIVE DUTY AFTER SEPT. 10, 2001	% OF MAX, ELIGIBILITY
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty *(Discharged due to service-connected disability)*	100
At least 30 months, but fewer than 36 months	90
At least 24 months, but fewer than 30 months	80
At least 18 months, but fewer than 24 months	70
At least 12 months, but fewer than 18 months	60
At least 6 months, but fewer than 12 months	50
At least 90 days, but fewer than 6 months	40

HOW LONG AM I ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS AND HOW LONG WILL THEY LAST?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit is available for 15 years from the last period of 90 consecutive active duty days. Generally, you will receive 36 months of full-time education benefits.

ELIGIBILITY

CAN YOU DETERMINE MY ELIGIBILITY?

Capella is unable to make any determinations of eligibility for any VA-sponsored educational benefits. If you're unsure of your eligibility we recommend contacting the VA directly at 1.888.GI.BILL.1 (442.4551) for more information.

WHAT ARE MY FIRST STEPS TO APPLYING FOR BENEFITS?

Before any benefits are disbursed you must apply for, and receive, a Certificate of Eligibility. Your first goal in applying for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits is to receive this Certificate of Eligibility from the VA. In order to receive this certificate you must submit your application for VA benefits on their website, at http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp.

Once you've been approved and have received the Certificate of Eligibility, you must send it to Capella University in order for our VA Certifying Official to report your enrollment to the VA.

WHAT IS THE YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM?

The Yellow Ribbon Program is an extension of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. It enables the VA and private, degree-granting institutions like Capella to cover the approved tuition and fees balance not covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit. Capella University is proud to be a charter member in this program and has set no limit on the number of qualified veterans who can take advantage of it.

HOW CAN IT HELP ME COVER MY TUITION?

Under the Yellow Ribbon Program, half of remaining approved tuition and fee costs will be covered by the VA and the other half by Capella.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I QUALIFY?

Your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit eligibility
Currently, the program is only available to those who have served more than 36 months of active duty service since September 11, 2001, or served 30 continuous days on active duty and were discharged due to a service-connected disability. You must not currently be on active duty and your percentage for the benefit must be approved by the VA at 100% to use this program. If you attend Capella and you qualify, you will automatically be enrolled in this program upon receipt of your Certificate of Eligibility.

LINKS AND RESOURCES

United States Department of Veterans Affairs
http://www.gibill.va.gov

Veterans Online Application (VONAPP) Website
http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp

THE CAPELLA SERVICE GRANT BRIDGING THE GAP FOR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS

Because only veterans are eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program, Capella offers a grant program for active duty servicemembers (and their dependents) who are eligible at 100%. If tuition and fees exceed the Post-9/11 GI Bill's annual benefit limit, the Capella Service Grant will cover the funding gap.

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