

Review of VA Education Benefits

Current as of 2/23/07



U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Education Service

Washington, DC

This Presentation Will Cover:

- Who is eligible for VA Education and Montgomery GI Bill benefits?
- How do benefits work?
- What programs are offered?
- What happens when I'm called to duty?
- What information is on the GIBILL web site?



VACO Education Service

VACO EDU Service establishes policies and procedures for four Regional Processing Offices. Only the 4 RPOs process education claims. Each RPO has jurisdiction over separate states and territories.



Atlanta



Buffalo

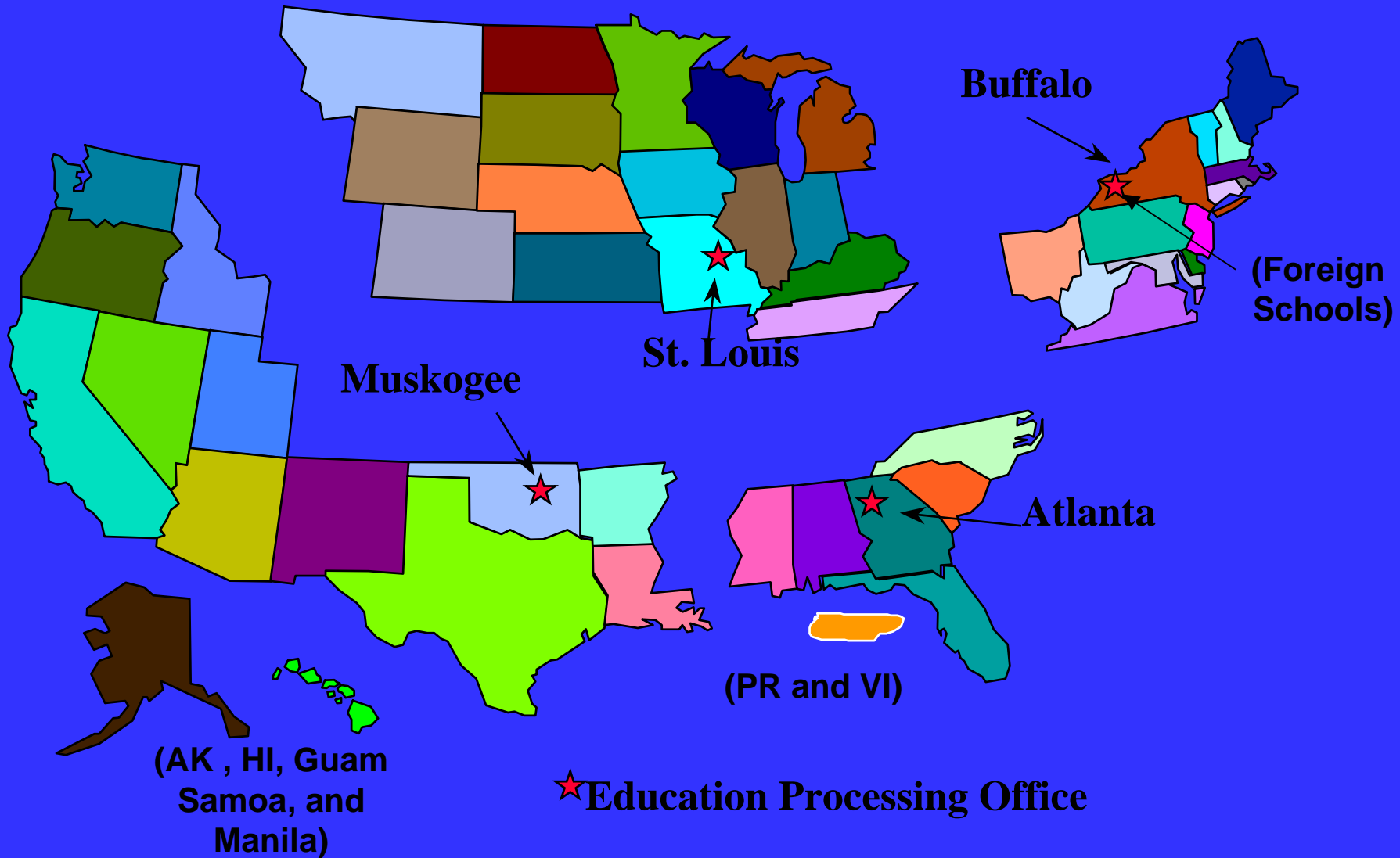
Muskogee



St. Louis



Which office will process your claim?



Education Benefit Payments FY 2006

MGIB	1.995 Billion
DEA	494 Million
MGIB-SR	190 Million
REAP	88 Million
VEAP	<u>1 Million</u>
Total Paid	2.76 Billion

Benefits Administered by VA

- Veterans Educational Assistance Program Chapter 32 (VEAP).
- Dependent's Educational Assistance Chapter 35 (DEA).
- MGIB-SR Chapter 1606.
- REAP Chapter 1607.
- MGIB Active Duty Chapter 30.

VEAP Chapter 32

- First entered active service between January 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985.
- Contributed funds to a VEAP account.
- Has funds remaining to use.
- Benefit amount depends on amount contributed.
- Discharge can be anything other than Dishonorable.

DEA Chapter 35

Spouse, widow or dependent children of a claimant who:

- Died from a service connected disability,
- Died while having a service connected disability evaluated as permanent in nature,
- Is rated as permanently and totally service connected disabled,

- Is a member of the Armed Forces and has been determined by VA to have a service connected permanent and total disability, and is hospitalized or receiving outpatient care, and is likely to be discharged or released from duty for the service connected disability.
- Was held captive as a POW or was MIA for more than 90 days.

MGIB-SR Chapter 1606

- First entered Guard/Reserves after June 30, 1985.
- Remain in an active drilling status with a Unit.
- Must have a minimum 6 year obligation.
(Must continue drilling to use benefits.)
- Completed IADT.
- Have a high school diploma or GED before applying for benefits.

REAP Chapter 1607

- For Guard/Reservists called to active duty under a Federal contingency operation, and who served 90 continuous days or more after 9/11/01.
- Pays a portion of the MGIB Active Duty 3-year enlistment rate.
- Members must remain in their component to use benefits.

Category I

Category II

MGIB Active Duty-
Chapter 30

Category III

Category IV

Category I

IA

- First entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985.
- Paid \$1200 to participate.
- Initial term of service was 2 years.
- Honorable discharge.
- High school diploma or GED prior to applying for benefits.

(Some Guard/Reservists returning home from the Mid East may now qualify for this.)

IB



- First entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985.
- Paid \$1200 to participate.
- First term of service was 3 years or more.
- Honorable discharge.
- High school diploma or GED prior to applying for benefits.

IC



- First entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985.
- Paid \$1200 to participate.
- Served 2 years active duty plus an additional 4 years in the Reserves.
- Honorable discharge.
- High school diploma or GED prior to applying for benefits.

Honorable Discharge Requirement

Claimants who don't receive an Honorable Discharge may still be eligible for MGIB benefits.

Claimants may use any qualifying period of service to apply for benefits.

Additional \$600 MGIB Buy Up

Claimants eligible for Chapter 30 Active Duty benefits under MGIB Category I are eligible to contribute an additional \$600 while on active duty. This will give the claimant as much as an additional \$150 per month for full time training.

Category II 34/30 Conversions

- First entered active service prior to January 1, 1977, or by delayed entry before January 2, 1978.
- Must have remaining entitlement to the Vietnam Era GI Bill as of December 31, 1989.
- Any time not in service between January 1, 1977, and July 1, 1985, must be deducted from the eligibility period.



- If the claimant left service, he/she must have returned between October 19, 1984, and June 30, 1985, and served through June 30, 1988, or
- If not on duty on October 19, 1984, returned at any point after that date and served 3 years after July 1, 1985, or two years plus four years in the Reserves.
- Honorable discharge.

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Category II Recipients

May receive additional benefit payments if they have dependents including:

- Spouse.
- Children under 18.
- Children between 18 and 23 and still in school.
- Dependent Parents.

Category III

IIIA Involuntary Separation

- Entered active duty before September 30, 1990, or on or after November 30, 1993.
- Elected MGIB just before separation and paid \$1200 to participate.
- Separation was after February 2, 1992.

IIB Voluntary Separation

- Discharge on or after January 23, 1992.
- Separation was voluntary.
- Elected and paid \$1200 for MGIB before separation.



Category IV 32/30 Conversions

Predominately, those enrolled in the Chapter 32 VEAP program who chose to elect MGIB during one of two open window periods in 1996 and 2000.

IVA and IVB paid \$1200 to elect MGIB.

IVC paid \$2700 to elect MGIB.

IVA

- On active duty on October 9, 1996.
- Enrolled in VEAP and had funds remaining.
- Elected during the 1996 open window period.
- Completed high school or GED.
- Honorable discharge if before October 9, 1997.



IVB

- Full time National Guard under Title 32 between July 1, 1985 and November 29, 1989.
- Elected MGIB during the 1996 open window period.
- Meets all service requirements of Category IA, IB, or IC.

IVC

- Enrolled during the 2000 open window period.
- Participated in VEAP on or before October 9, 1996.
- Served continuously from October 9, 1996, to at least April 1, 2000.
- Completed high school, GED, or 12 hours of college credit.
- Honorable discharge.

Bars to MGIB Eligibility

Claimants are not eligible if commissioned after 12/31/76 upon completing an ROTC scholarship or graduating from any service academy, unless...



ROTC

Eligibility Is Retained If You:

- Became eligible for MGIB before receiving commission,
- Received a commission after 9/30/96 and received less than \$3,400 during any one year of a ROTC program,
- Declined ROTC scholarship money the last term before graduation, or
- Were eligible for MGIB under Category 3 or 4.

What Is Entitlement?

Entitlement is the amount of monthly full time benefits a claimant will receive.

- Up to 36 months for MGIB.
- Up to 48 months for combined benefit types. (Example: If a claimant used 10 months under the old Vietnam Era GI Bill, she may now use an additional 36 months of MGIB chapter 30 benefits.)

Entitlement Charges

Entitlement is charged one day for each day of full time training.

For example: A claimant attending school ½ time for 60 days is charged 1 month of entitlement.



Early Release

- Reduction in Force.
 - Disability.
 - Hardship.
 - Physical condition which interfered with duty.
 - Medical condition existing prior to service.
- Convenience of the Government.
 - Requires 20 months minimum service for 2 year enlistment and 30 months for a 3 year enlistment.

Delimiting Date

The amount of time a claimant has to use his/her EDU benefits.

- Ten years from the last release from Active Duty (90 days or more) for MGIB.
- Fourteen years after eligibility begins, for MGIB-SR for claimants entering after Oct. 1992.

- There is no delimiting date for REAP participants provided they remain within their component. Once a member leaves his/her component, eligibility to REAP ends.

College Funds

VA refers to these as “**kickers.**” There are kickers for chapters MGIB, VEAP, and MGIB-SR.

- Dollar amount established by DoD.
- Prorated for non completion of contract (MGIB).
- Paid in addition to monthly benefits.
- Prorated monthly for less than full time training.

Benefits: In Service VS. After Service

- Claimants may begin using MGIB benefits after serving 2 years active duty.
- Active duty claimants are only reimbursed for tuition and fees up to the veteran's rate.
- Active duty claimants are not paid for breaks between terms, and may not receive college fund payments or \$600 MGIB buy up payments.

Active Duty: Paying Tuition and Fees

Example:

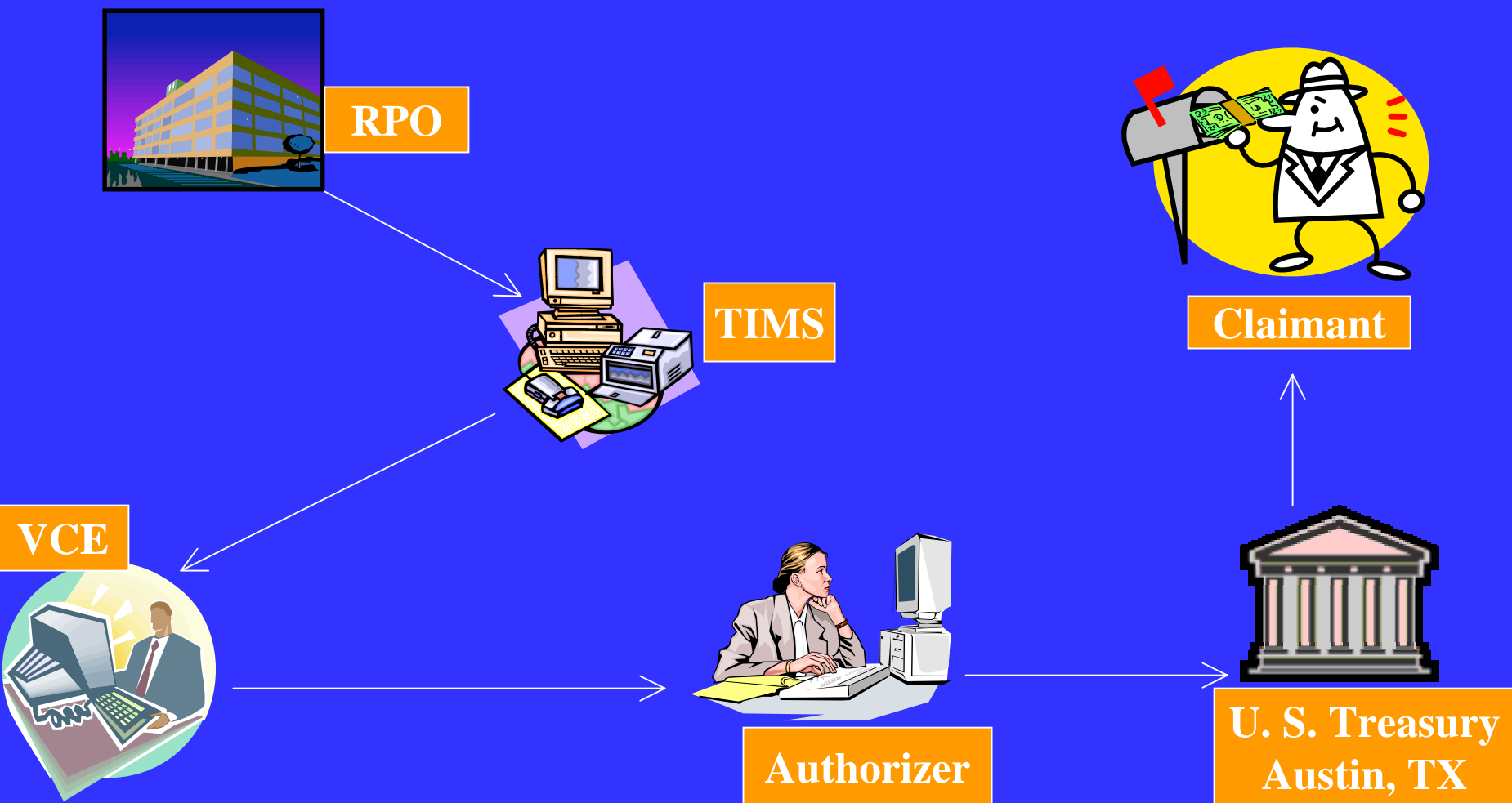
- \$1075 is the full time MGIB rate.
- Term is Jan. 6 to May 5, for FT (120 days).
- Tuition and Fees are \$1250.
- **Veteran** would receive \$1075/month; \$4299.60 for the term.
- **Active Duty claimant** gets \$312.50/month; \$1250 for the term.
- Entitlement used by both is 4 mos. and 1 day.

How To Apply For Benefits

- Completed VA Form 22-1990.
 - Send your signature if you're using the VONAPP online application.
- Include direct deposit information.
- Attach copies of DD Form 214/215, NOBE(for 1606), Call Up Orders, etc..
- Copies of College Fund Contracts.

Application

What Happens When a Claimant Applies?



How Long Does Processing Take?

Processing times depend on a number of variables such as the time of year, the current workload pending at the RPO, the amount of development needed on the claim, etc..



Who Reports Enrollment?

- A school VA certifying official for college, vocational, flight and correspondence training.
- Claimant for TA top up requests and reimbursement of licensing and certification tests.
- Employer for OJT/APP.



How Are Benefits Paid?

- Benefits are paid monthly for the previous month.
- TATU, Accelerated Pay, and LAC are paid in a lump sum.
- Correspondence and flight are paid by lessons completed.



Monthly Payments

Monthly payments are:

- Based on a 30 day calendar month.
- Prorated for partial months.
- Prorated for less than full time training.
- Include college funds or kickers.
- Always paid in arrears.

Monthly Certification

- MGIB claimants certifying enrollment may do so at the end of a month by:
- **W**eb **A**utomated **V**erification of **E**nrollment on the GIBILL web site.
- **I**nteractive **V**oice **R**esponse at 1-877-823-2378.

How Long Does It Take To Get My Payment?

After successful certification:

- Claimants with domestic direct deposit should receive payment within 3-5 days.
- Claimants receiving mailed checks from the Treasury Department in Austin, TX, should receive a check within 10-14 days. (International delivery time will vary.)

Monthly Rates

Monthly rates usually increase each year.

Rates are found on:

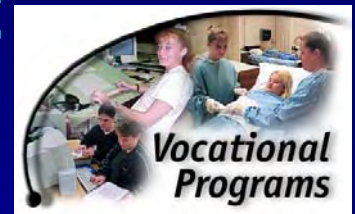
- Claimant's EDU Award Letter.
- GIBILL website (the rates here don't include college fund kickers or the additional MGIB \$600 buy up program).

Programs Paid By VA

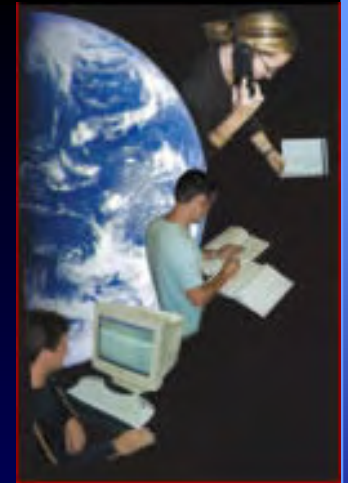
College Degrees (all benefits):
Associates, Bachelors, Masters,
Doctorate.



Vocational Programs (all benefits):
Certificates and Diplomas



Independent Study (all benefits):
Generally the same as the above. Also
knows as Distance Learning.



Correspondence courses (all benefits except DEA children):

Leading to a degree and taken online or by mail. Benefits are paid after lessons are completed at 55% of the cost.



Flight training (all benefits except DEA):

Courses such as commercial pilot license, helicopter flight training, etc.. Requires a private pilot's license and medical certification. Reimbursement of up to 60% of the cost as reported by the school and approved by SAA.



Increased
by 10%
through 12/2007

OJT/APP (all benefits):

Training leading toward employment in a given job such as prison guard, firefighter, etc..

Benefits are paid on a sliding scale of 75% for the first 6 months, 55% for the next six months, and 35 % for the remainder of the program.



Tuition Assistance Program

GI Bill

Tuition Assistance Top Up (MGIB-AD):

“Top up” of portion of school cost that DoD TA doesn’t cover. VA pays top up of any course paid by DoD.

**New for REAP
And MGIB SR**



Licensing and Certification (all benefits):

Reimbursement of the cost of tests leading to licensing and certification requirements such as a real estate license, etc.. Pays up to \$2000 per exam, pass or fail.



Accelerated Pay (MGIB-AD only):

For high tech courses leading to a job in a high tech industry as defined by the National Science Foundation, such as Bio Med Tech, Engineering, Military Tech, etc..

Cost of the course must exceed 200% of the MGIB benefits otherwise payable.
VA will reimburse 60% of the cost.



Entrepreneurship Courses (All benefits except DEA):

Non-degree non-credit entrepreneurship courses offered by the Small Business Development Center or the National Veterans Business Development Corporation. To assist the veteran in starting or enhancing a small business.

Reimbursement for National Admission Exams and National Exams for Credit (all benefits except for REAP and MGIB-SR):

Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), Graduate Record Exam (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

The logo for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), featuring the letters "LSAT" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "S" is partially overlaid by a yellow and orange graphic element.The logo for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), featuring the text "Graduate Record Examination (GRE)" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word "Record" is flanked by two small black circles.The logo for the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), featuring the text "College Level Examination Program (CLEP)" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word "Program" is flanked by two small black circles.

Army Transfer of Entitlement Program (MGIB-AD only):

Allows eligible participants to transfer up to 18 months of MGIB-AD entitlement to a spouse.

This is a DoD program. Refer questions to an Army Retention Career Counselor.

National Call to Service (MGIB-AD only):

Recruitment tool for all branches effective October 2003. Expires in 2007.

New recruit serves 15 months of active duty, 2 years in the Selected Reserves, then the remainder of an 8 year enlistment in Selected Reserved, IRR, Peace Corps, AMERICORP, etc..

Call To Active Duty

- Interaction with Certifying Officials.
- Restoration of Entitlement.
- Extensions to Delimiting Date.
- Suspension of debt collection.
- Death benefits.

www.gibill.va.gov



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Benefits



Burial & Memorials



Education Benefits



Information for
Benefit Recipients



Information for
Schools



Questions &
Answers



Office Locations



Related Links



WELCOME TO THE GI BILL WEBSITE

Important Information

We have redesigned the GI Bill website to make it easier to use. You may find some links relocated. The WAVE link has been located under "Information for Benefit Recipients" and there is new education benefits information available in Spanish that can be accessed by clicking on the link at the bottom of this page.

Hot Topic - New education benefit for Activated Reservists

There is a new education benefit available to certain reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001. We call this benefit the "Reserve Educational Assistance Program" (REAP) or Chapter 1607.

General information on REAP is available in the "Questions & Answers", and [GI Bill Information](#) section of this web site.

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MGIB Website

GI Bill Information

How to Apply for Benefits

Payment Rates

Education Forms

Certify Your Attendance (WAVE)

Operation Enduring Freedom & Operation Iraqi Freedom Vets

Transition Assistance Information

Going to a Foreign School

Education Advisory Committees

- Search tools.
- Links to all 4 RPOs.
- Contact information.
- Current Pay Rates.
- Online Forms.
- Certify online.
- Overview of EDU programs.

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Montgomery GI Bill Web Site Search Tools


Ask a Question and Find Answers

Questions &
Answers

- Available 24 hours / day.
- More secure than sending an e-mail.
- Log-on from anywhere.
- Receive a response / answer on an average of 5 business days.

MGIBILL Website


Answers Ask a Question My Questions and Answers Login Help


Category  All Categories

Search Text (optional) Search Tips

Search

Search by Phrases Sort by Default Sort

Powered by 

150 Answers Found Page: 1 of 8 Go 

Subject
1 Verify Enrollment
2 How do I choose between REAP and MGIB-SR
3 Are VA Education Benefits Taxable?
4 How do I apply for Chapter 1607?
5 How do I apply for benefits?
6 Can I be eligible for two or more education benefits?
7 What if I am beyond my original 10-year period of eligibility when called up?
8 Does the military collect \$1,200 from me if I am going to be eligible for MGIB?
9 What if I am called up and have to drop out without receiving credit?
10 Can I use the same period to establish eligibility under two programs?
11 What is the effect of call-up on my period of eligibility for MGIB-SR?
12 Effects of call-up if I am within my original 10-year period of eligibility.
13 Can I receive MGIB benefits during the call-up period?
14 What if I am called up for two years or more under title 10?

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For More Information:

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

1-888-GIBILL1 (442-4551) – to speak with
a Education Case Manager.

1-800-827-1000 – Other benefits.

Questions?



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