

Post 9/11 Educational Benefits (Chapter 33)

HOW TO APPLY

The student must obtain a copy of VA Form 22-1990 (Application for VA Educational Benefits) from the college's Veterans Certifying Official or from the VA Web site: <http://www.gibill.va.gov>. The student must submit the completed form to the college's Veterans Certifying Official, along with Member-4 copy (showing the character of service) of their DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) for each enlistment period.

WHAT DETERMINES ELIGIBILITY?

Individuals who have served in the Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001, will be eligible for at least three kinds of educational benefits: tuition benefits, housing stipends, and an allowance for books. Benefits are contingent on service in the Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001, and an honorable discharge or a discharge due to a medical condition that did not result from an individual's own willful misconduct. There are eight separate categories of veterans for purposes of awarding these benefits, defined according to the length of time served on active duty (generally aggregated and including training):

1. Individuals who have served for at least 36 months.
2. Individuals who have served for at least 30 days (continuous) on active duty and were then discharged for a service-related disability.
3. Individuals who have served for at least 30 months and but less than 36 months. These students may receive 90 percent of the maximum benefits outlined in the law.
4. Individuals who have served at least 24 months and less than 30 months on or after 9/11. These students may receive 80 percent of the maximum benefits outlined in the law.
5. Individuals who have served at least 18 months and less than 24 months on or after 9/11. These students may receive 70 percent of the maximum benefits outlined in the law.
6. Individuals who have served at least 12 months and less than 18 months on or after 9/11. These students may receive 60 percent of the maximum benefits outlined in the law.
7. Individuals who have served at least six months and less than 12 months on or after 9/11. These students may receive 50 percent of the maximum benefits outlined in the law.
8. Individuals who have served at least 90 days and less than six months on or after 9/11. These students may receive 40 percent of the maximum benefits outlined in the law.

Certain periods do not count, such as active duty as an officer pursuant to certain agreements or as a result of defective enlistment and induction.

HOW ARE THE RECIPIENTS SELECTED?

The Department of Veterans Affairs reviews the applications and makes the selection based on their guidelines.

HOW IS THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD DETERMINED?

Benefit amounts are based on the amount of time a veteran has served in the military. Qualified individuals enrolled in approved programs are entitled to receive education benefits equal to 36 months (i.e., the equivalent of four-years of college) to pay for living expenses, tuition, fees, and other costs incurred while pursuing the education. The book allowance is paid to the student at the beginning of each term; housing stipends are paid to the student monthly. Tuition payments are made directly to the student's institution.