

## **The Montgomery GI Bill® Chapter 1606**

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### **Eligibility Criteria for Chapter 1606 Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)**

The MGIB-SR program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. Chapter 1606 can be used for:

- College
- Technical or Vocational Courses
- Correspondence Courses
- Apprenticeship/Job Training
- Flight Training
- High-tech Training
- Licensing & Certification Tests
- Entrepreneurship Training
- Certain Entrance Examinations

### **Eligibility**

Eligibility for this program is determined by the Selected Reserve components. VA makes the payments for this program. To qualify, you must meet the following requirements:

- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your original obligation. For some types of training, it is necessary to have a six-year commitment that begins after September 30, 1990;
- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT);
- Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT. You may not use 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement;
- Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit. You will also retain MGIB - SR eligibility if you were discharged from Selected Reserve service due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct. Your eligibility period may be extended if you are ordered to active duty.

Your eligibility for the program normally ends on the day you leave the Selected Reserve. One exception to this rule exists if you are mobilized (or recalled to active duty from your reserve status), in this case your eligibility may be extended for the amount of time you are mobilized PLUS four months. For example, if you are mobilized for 12 months your eligibility period is extended for 16 months (12 months active duty PLUS 4 months.) So even if you leave the reserves after mobilization, you may have additional eligibility to the MGIB-SR.

If your unit is deactivated during the period beginning on October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2014 or you are involuntarily separated (for reasons other than misconduct) you will retain your original period of eligibility which is 14 years from the date of your first 6 year obligation with the selected reserves.

### **Payment Rates**

For the current payment rates under Chapter 1606 please follow the link below.

[https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib\\_sr.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_sr.asp)

### **Your Responsibilities to the VA**

Notify the VA and UA Rich Mountain if you:

- Change your enrollment
- Change your address
- Change in Selected Reserve Status

### **Steps to Follow**

- Apply for VA benefits on-line at <https://www.vets.gov/>
- Compare all benefit chapters to decide if Chapter 1606 is right for you. To do this, please follow the link below. [https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/education\\_programs.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/education_programs.asp)
- Bring your DD214 and Letter of Eligibility to the UA Rich Mountain Financial Aid / VA Certifying Officials.
- Register with UA RICH MOUNTAIN as early as possible to ensure eligibility and timeliness of payments.
- Certify your enrollment every month!! Call in and certify at 1-877 VA-ECERT (1-877-823-2378) or certify on-line at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>
- Get to know the VA Certifying Officials for UA RICH MOUNTAIN
- Visit The VA Academic Advisor often to ensure that you are staying on the correct degree plan.
- The monthly benefit paid to you is based on the type of training you take, length of your service, your category, and if DOD put extra money in your MGIB Fund (called "kickers"). You usually have 10 years to use your MGIB benefits, but the time limit can be less, in some cases, and longer under certain circumstances. (see the pay rate links above in paragraph 2)
- Do not forget to get a copy of your military transcripts to submit to the college for possible college credit.
- Important: If you Drop one or more classes you should notify the VA certifying officials as soon as possible. If you do not it could cause an over payment that you as the student will be responsible for paying back!**

- If you drop one or more of your courses, you should always notify VA and UA RICH MOUNTAIN’s Certifying Officials as soon as possible. If you drop after the end of UA RICH MOUNTAIN’s drop period, you’ll need to let us know the reasons for the change. Unless you can show that the change was due to mitigating circumstances, the VA must reduce or stop your benefits from the beginning date of the term. You may have to repay all benefits for the course or courses.
- **“Mitigating circumstances”** are unavoidable and unexpected events that directly interfere with your pursuit of a course and are beyond your control. If you can show mitigating circumstances, VA can usually pay benefits up to the last date of your attendance. Examples of reasons VA may accept are extended illness and unscheduled changes in your employment. Examples of reasons VA may not accept are dropping a course to avoid a failing grade or dislike of the instructor. The VA may ask you to furnish evidence to support your reasons for dropping one or more courses. If a serious illness or injury caused the drop, obtain a statement from your doctor. If a change in employment caused the drop, obtain a statement from your employer. The first time you drop up to six credit hours, the VA may “excuse” the drop and pay benefits for the period you attended. You won’t have to explain the reasons for dropping the course or courses. Remember, this only applies to the first drop.
- If you need further information on Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill® please refer to this pamphlet [https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch1606\\_pamphlet.pdf](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch1606_pamphlet.pdf)
- Please take advantage of the Veteran Resource Center located in the student center of UA RICH MOUNTAIN.
- Are you interested in joining a school organization? Talk with the VA Academic Advisor about the Student Veterans of America organization on campus.

All information above obtained at <https://benefits.va.gov/>. For a complete list of Chapter 1606 benefits and information please log on to the link above.

**UA RICH MOUNTAIN VA Official’s Contact Info:**

**School Certifying Official (SCO)      479-394-7622 ext. 1420 or 1421**

**VA Academic Advisor (AA)              479-394-7622 ext. 1460**