

## Chapter 33 Benefits Checklist and Tips for Students

### Eligibility Criteria for Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits

You are eligible if you served a minimum of 90 days on active duty after September 10, 2001. This covers active duty served as a member of the Armed Forces or as a result of a call or order to active duty from a reserve component (National Guard and Reserve) under certain sections of title 10.

As of August 1, 2011 active service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency, could count toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.

However, some periods of active duty service are excluded. Periods of service under the following do not count toward qualification for the Post 9/11 GI Bill: (Chapter 33)

- ROTC under 10 U.S.C. 2107(b);
- Service academy contract period;
- Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement;
- Service used for loan repayment; *and*
- Selected reserve service used to establish eligibility under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB Chapter 30), MGIB for Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR Chapter 1606), or the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP Chapter 1607).

### Steps to Follow

- Apply for VA benefits on-line <https://www.vets.gov/> then click on Apply for Education benefits.
- Compare all benefit chapters to decide if Chapter 33 is right for you. Once you choose Chapter 33, you cannot switch back for any reason!!!!!! 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.
- Get to know the VA Certifying Officials at UA RICH MOUNTAIN
- Visit the VA Academic Advisor often to ensure that you are staying on the correct degree plan.
- Remember that you are entitled to a housing benefit regardless if you are an on-campus student or an on-line student.

- The percentage amount of tuition, fees and housing is based on total aggregated days of active duty service occurring during your military career. See VA site for eligibility: <https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool>
- Ensure that the VA has your correct direct deposit information.
- Depending on your percentage rate the VA will pay up to \$1000 a year for books.
- Remember that housing allowances and book stipends are paid directly to you by direct deposit. Housing allowance is based on the Standard BHA for an E-5 with dependents for the zip code of UA RICH MOUNTAIN. Check this web site for up to date BHA rates. <https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool>
- Tuition and Fees are paid directly to UA RICH MOUNTAIN by the VA.
- This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits; generally benefits are payable for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days. If you were released for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service, you will also be eligible for benefits for 15 years.
- **Important: If you decrease your training time (i.e. drop classes, leave school, etc.) UA RICH MOUNTAIN has already processed a payment for tuition and fees, an overpayment will occur.** When the School Certifying Official (SCO) notifies VA of a change, a debt is created against your account. The school will issue any refunds in accordance with their internal policy, which may not fully cover the debt with the VA. If the amount refunded by the school does not satisfy the debt, you are responsible for the remainder.
- A decrease in your credit hours could also result in changes to your housing allowance and books & supplies stipend. If VA has already issued you a payment for the term, a debt will be created on your account.
- You are responsible for keeping track of your tuition and fee account balance and payments. Visit UA RICH MOUNTAIN's Financial Aid Office regularly to review your account, to ensure the charges are correct and that payments and refunds are processed correctly. Contact your SCO to ensure the certification information they send to VA matches your schedule.
- The Post-9/11 GI Bill also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer eligibility to dependents.
- Do not forget to get a copy of your military transcripts to submit to the college for possible college credit.
- 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.

**Access the following link for percentage of benefit payable:**

[https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/947](https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/947)

All information above obtained at <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/> . For a complete list of Chapter 33 benefits and information please click on the 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**