

The Montgomery GI Bill® Chapter 30

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Eligibility Criteria for Chapter 30 Active Duty Montgomery

The Montgomery GI Bill® - Active Duty, called "MGIB" for short, provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans for: With a possible 12 extra months of benefits if you qualify for Post 9/11 GI Bill®. Chapter 30 will pay for the following types of programs:

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

\$600 Buy-up Program

Some service members may contribute up to an additional \$600 to the GI Bill® to receive increased monthly benefits. For an additional \$600 contribution, you may receive up to \$5400 in additional GI Bill® benefits. The additional contribution must be made while on active duty. For more information contact your personnel or payroll office. For pay rates click the following link. https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp#Ch30 and for increased rates under the buy up program

https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rates/600_buyup.asp

You may be an eligible veteran if you have an Honorable Discharge, AND you have a High School Diploma or GED or in some cases 12 hours of college credit, AND you meet the requirements of one of the categories below:

CATEGORY I

- Entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985
- Had military pay reduced by \$100 a month for first 12 months
- Continuously served for 3 years, OR 2 years if that is what you first enlisted for, OR 2 years if you entered the Selected Reserve within a year of leaving active duty and served 4 years ("2 by 4" Program)

CATEGORY II

- Entered active duty before January 1, 1977

- Served at least 1 day between 10/19/84 and 6/30/85, and stayed on active duty through 6/30/88, (or 6/30/87 if you entered the Selected Reserve within 1 year of leaving active duty and served 4 years)
- On 12/31/89, you had entitlement left from Vietnam-Era GI Bill®

CATEGORY III

- Not eligible for MGIB under Category I or II
- On active duty on 9/30/90 AND separated involuntarily after 2/2/91,
- OR involuntarily separated on or after 11/30/93,
- OR voluntarily separated under either the Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI) or Special Separation Benefit (SSB) program
- Before separation, you had military pay reduced by \$1200

CATEGORY IV

- On active duty on 10/9/96 AND you had money remaining in a VEAP account on that date AND you elected MGIB by 10/9/97
- OR entered full-time National Guard duty under title 32, USC, between 7/1/85, and 11/28/89 AND you elected MGIB during the period 10/9/96, through 7/8/97
- Had military pay reduced by \$100 a month for 12 months or made a \$1200 lump-sum contribution

Steps to Follow

- Apply for VA benefits on-line at <https://www.vets.gov/>
- Compare all benefit chapters to decide if chapter 30 is right for you. To do this, please follow the link below. 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 official 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 we 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. 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, 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 30 Montgomery GI Bill® please refer to this pamphlet https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/education_programs.asp
- 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 30 benefits and information please log on to the link above.

UA RICH MOUNTAIN VA Official's Contact Info:

School Certifying Official 479-394-7622 ext. 1420 or ext. 1421

VA Academic Advisor 479-394-7622 ext. 1460