

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS SERVICES DIVISION
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California Veteran Reintegration Program Fact Sheet Education

As a veteran there are several educational programs available which you may use for a wide variety of VA-approved education and training programs.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) have partnered together to assist service members, veterans, and family members by streamlining their application to a California Community College.

If you're not qualified for any VA education benefits, don't let that discourage you from enrolling in college. icanaffordcollege.com is a great tool to assist you in finding a way to further your education. Financial aid is available to cover enrollment fees and help with other costs such as books, supplies and even rent. Financial aid experts are located on all 112 campuses and are available to provide free one-on-one assistance.

You can also find contact information on the California Community College [financial aid offices](#) nearest to you. Depending on where you live, you might have received information for one office or for several.

The information includes the name of the college, its physical address (in case you want visit them in person), its web site address, a direct telephone number for the financial aid office, as well as an email address that you can use if you want to ask your questions online.

CCCApply.org is your online gateway to the California Community Colleges. Each year nearly three million students from all over the world build their career skills, prepare for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, or simply enrich their lives through learning at one of the 112 Community Colleges in California.

Visit CCCApply.org today and begin your path to higher education!

NON-RESIDENT COLLEGE FEE WAIVER

The Non-Resident College Fee Waiver waives non-resident fees at all State of California Community Colleges, California State University, or University of California campuses.

Who is Eligible?

- A student who is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in this state on active duty for more than one year immediately prior to being discharged is entitled to

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resident classification. This classification is valid for the length of time the veteran lives in this state after being discharged up to the minimum time necessary to become a resident.

- An undergraduate student who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in this state on active duty is eligible, except a member of the armed forces assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education.
- An undergraduate student who is a natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse who is a dependent of a member of the armed forces stationed in this state on active duty is eligible.
- A student seeking a graduate degree, who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in this state on active duty except a member of the armed forces assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education, is eligible. There is a two-year limit for graduate-level studies.
- A student seeking a graduate degree who is a natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse who is a dependent of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in this state on active duty is eligible. There is a one-year limit for graduate level studies.

To apply, contact the Admissions Office of any State of California Community College, California State University, or University of California campus or the local County Veterans Service Office.

TROOPS TO COLLEGE

Troops to College, was created to attract more veterans to California public universities and colleges by making campuses more veteran friendly. The initiative was designed to showcase the full range of curriculums and services available to veterans at California state universities.

The program is designed to help veterans, especially combat veterans, transition to civilian life and the college environment. Veterans and their families may enroll in a course about combat stress, post-traumatic stress disorders, and other issues affecting veterans returning to civilian life. The course is taught by a VA counselor who is also a combat veteran. The curriculum is specifically designed to increase the student veteran's academic, work, and social success. The class provides participants instruction in interpersonal skills, methods of adapting to civilian life and work careers, and techniques for managing military operational stress.

For more information, go to <http://www.calstate.edu/veterans/>

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AWARD PROGRAM (CNGEAAP)

The California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP) issues financial awards to qualifying members of the California National Guard (CNG) and State Military Reserve (SMR). This financial education benefit can pay for up to 100% of fees at the Universities of California, California State Universities, and California Community Colleges. It can also be used for eligible California proprietary and public institutions. With combined military training and a civilian education in areas such as engineering, nursing, communications and information technology, California's National Guard members will be able to serve on two fronts.

How to Apply

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) found at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Complete the CNGEAAP application found at <https://nationalguard.csac.ca.gov/Disclaimer.aspx>.
- Download and print the Statement of Understanding found at www.calguard.ca.gov/education and have it signed by the veteran's Commander.

Note: Discretionary summers will not be covered by the CNGEAAP. Only participants attending mandatory summers will be eligible for an award check.

For additional information visit the Commission's website at www.csac.ca.gov.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATION BENEFITS

EDUCATION BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS

There are several education programs veterans can use for a wide variety of VA-approved education and training programs, including: apprenticeship and on-the-job training, college degree and certificate programs, flight training, and correspondence courses. Each program provides different benefits to different groups of individuals and offers a specified number of benefits "months".

Typically, most education benefits can be collected for 36 months; however, the maximum that can be collected under any combination of VA education program is 48 months. Please note that veterans can only use one VA education benefit for training at a time. For more detailed information regarding VA education benefits, go to <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/> or call (888) GI BILL1 (442-4551).

Please note that the following list of education programs is not all inclusive and that each individual's situation is different. It is important to pay careful attention when choosing an education program. If a veteran gives up one education benefit in favor of another, it is an irrevocable choice. Veterans are encouraged to check with the school's certifying official to determine which benefit best meets their educational goals.

POST-9/11 GI BILL

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 also known as Chapter 33, boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944 by providing financial support for education and housing to eligible individuals.

A veteran may be eligible if they have at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001 or were discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. Veterans must also have received an honorable discharge or have been medically discharged to be eligible.

Based upon the length of aggregate active service, veterans are eligible for a percentage of tuition and housing benefits under Chapter 33 that range from 40% to 100%. The following depicts the percentage of benefit ranges:

- **100% of benefit** - 36 months of active duty service, or have been discharged for a service-connected disability after 30 days of continuous service
- **90% of benefit** - 30 total months of active service
- **80% of benefit** - 24 total months of active service
- **70% of benefit** - 18 total months of active service
- **60% of benefit** - 12 total months of active service
- **50% of benefit** - 6 total months of active service
- **40% of benefit** - 90 or more days of active service

Note: Qualifying service time excludes service on active duty in entry level and skill training; however, active service performed by National Guardsmen under Title 32 USC 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 now counts towards eligibility.

What Benefits do Students Receive under the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

This new education benefit goes well beyond only helping to pay for tuition. Depending on each individual's "rate of pursuit" (full- or part-time study) and situation, veterans may qualify for:

- **Tuition and Fees:** These payments are issued directly to the school on behalf of the individual at the time the certificate of enrollment is processed.

On Active Duty: Individuals on active duty may be allotted the total amount of tuition and fees for all public schools. The amount is not limited to the state maximum; however, effective August 1, 2011, private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually. Effective October 1, 2011, students on active duty may receive a books-and-supplies stipend.

Not On Active Duty: The amount allotted is prorated according to length of service. The amount is limited to the highest amount of tuition and fees charged for full-time, undergraduate training at a public institution of higher learning in the state in which the student is enrolled. Effective August 1, 2011, private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually. The Yellow Ribbon Program still exists for out-of-state fees and costs above the cap.

- **Monthly Housing Allowance:** This payment is issued directly to the student at the beginning of each month for education and training pursued the previous month. The amount is prorated based upon rate of pursuit, rounded to the nearest multiple of 10. If a student is training at a rate of pursuit of 75%, he/she would receive 80% of the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rate. In prior years, students enrolled exclusively in online training were not eligible for the housing allowance; however, it is now payable to students (other than those on active duty). The housing allowance payable is equal to ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents. In 2013, the payable rate for a full-time student online was \$684.00. Effective August 1, 2011, break or interval pay is no longer payable under any VA education benefit program unless under an Executive Order of the President or due to an emergency, such as a natural disaster or strike. That

means that if the semester ends December 15th, the housing allowance is paid for the first 15 days of December only. If the next semester begins January 10th, payment will be made for the remaining days of January.

Note: Students using other VA education programs are included in this change. Monthly benefits will be pro-rated in the same manner.

- **Books and Supplies Stipend:** This payment is issued directly to the student when the school certifies and VA processes the enrollment. This benefit is prorated based on length of service. The books and supplies stipend can also be paid to students attending school while on active duty.
- **Yellow Ribbon Payments:** This program allows degree-granting institutions to enter into a voluntary agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate for individuals eligible for the 100% payment tier. The institution can contribute up to 50% of those expenses and VA will match the same amount as the institution. This payment is issued to the school when the school certifies and VA processes the student's enrollment.
- **College Fund or "Kicker":** These payments are issued directly to the student based on "rate of pursuit" and the education benefits program under which the kicker is payable. These payments are now made on a monthly basis. In the past they were made through a lump sum.
- **Rural Benefit Payments:** This one-time, lump-sum payment of \$500 is issued directly to a student who resides in a county with six persons or fewer per square mile (as determined by the most recent decennial census), and who either:
 - physically relocates at least 500 miles to attend an educational institution, or
 - travels by air (any distance) to physically attend an educational institution, if no other land-based transportation exists.

What Kind of Education and Training Does the Post-9/11 GI Bill Cover?

- **Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees:** Courses must be offered by a degree-granting institution of higher learning and approved for GI Bill benefits.
- **Tutorial Assistance and Reimbursement:** Available for more than one "licensing or certification" test reimbursement; however, entitlement is now charged.
- **National Exams:** Reimbursement of fees paid to take national exams used for admission to an institute of higher learning (e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT).
- **Non-College Degree (NCD) Programs:** Pays actual net cost for in-state tuition and fees at public NCD institutions. At private and foreign institutions, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees or \$17,500, whichever is less. Also pays up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.
- **On-The-Job and Apprenticeship Training:** Pays a monthly benefit amount prorated based on time in program and up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.
- **Flight Programs:** Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$10,000, whichever is less.
- **Correspondence Training:** Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$8,500, whichever is less.

Transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits to a Dependent

The Post-9/11 GI Bill also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer their GI Bill to their spouse or children. Any member of the Armed Forces (active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted) on or after August 1, 2009, who is eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, and:

- Has at least 6 years of service in the Armed Forces on the date of election and agrees to serve 4 additional years in the Armed Forces from the date of election.;
- Has at least 10 years of service in the Armed Forces (active duty and/or selected reserve) on the date of election, is precluded by either standard policy (service or DoD) or statute from committing to 4 additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute; or
- Is or becomes retirement eligible during the period from August 1, 2009, through August 1, 2013. A service member is considered to be retirement eligible if he or she has completed 20 years of active duty or 20 qualifying years of reserve service.

An individual approved to transfer an entitlement to educational assistance under this section may transfer the individual's entitlement to:

- The individual's spouse;
- One or more of the individual's children;
- Any combination of spouse and child.

A family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and be eligible for benefits, at the time of transfer to receive transferred educational benefits

Note: After an individual has designated a child as a transferee under this section, the individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.

To apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefit, complete VA Form 22-1990 found at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1990-ARE.pdf> or apply online at <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) program, commonly known as Chapter 30, provides up to 36 months of education benefits. Generally, benefits are payable for 10 years following a veteran's release from active duty. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. The monthly benefit paid is based on the type of training taken, length of service, and whether the Department of Defense (DOD) put extra money in the veteran's MGIB Fund (called "kickers").

To be eligible, a veteran must have an honorable discharge, a high school diploma or GED or, in some cases, 12 hours of college credit, and meet the requirements of one of the categories below:

- **Category I:** Entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985; paid \$1,200 into the MGIB program; and continuously served for 3 years, or 2 years if that is what the veteran first enlisted for, or 2 years if the veteran 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 October 19, 1984 and June 30, 1985, and stayed on active duty through June 30, 1988, (or June 30, 1987 if the veteran entered the Selected Reserve within 1 year of leaving

active duty and served 4 years); and on December 31, 1989, the veteran had entitlement left from Vietnam-Era GI Bill;

- **Category III:** Not eligible for MGIB under Category I or II; on active duty on September 30, 1990 and separated involuntarily after February 2, 1991; or involuntarily separated on or after November 30, 1993; or voluntarily separated under either the Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI) or Special Separation Benefit (SSB) program; before separation, had military pay reduced by \$1,200;
- **Category IV:** On active duty on October 9, 1996, had money remaining in a VEAP account on that date, and elected MGIB by October 9, 1997; or entered full-time National Guard duty under Title 32, U.S.C., between July 1, 1985 and November 29, 1989, and elected MGIB during the period of October 9, 1996, through July 8, 1997; had military pay reduced \$100 a month for 12 months or made a \$1,200 lump-sum contribution.

APPRENTICESHIP AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

GI Bill benefits are available for more than college enrollment. Many veterans are not ready or able to commit to a college program, but few veterans and employers know that benefits are also paid to those who are employed and learning a new skill. Use MGIB benefits to learn new skills while training on-the-job and earning a full-time wage.

OJT training usually requires six months to two years for completion for professions such as a cook, machine tool operator, medical secretary, pharmacist assistant, police officer, or paramedic. Apprenticeship is usually much longer than OJT training, lasting from two to five years in length and includes occupations such as aircraft mechanic, automotive technician, electrician, and welder. Approved programs involve a combination of theoretical instruction and skill training.

For more information about eligibility, contact the VA at <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/> or call (888) 442-4551. For more information about OJT Programs, contact the CSAAVE at <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/CSAAVE> or call (916) 503-8007. For more information about Apprenticeship Programs, contact the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards at www.dir.ca.gov/das or call (916) 263-2877.

To apply for the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) education benefit, complete VA Form 22-1990 found at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1990-ARE.pdf> or apply online at <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL: SELECTED RESERVE

The Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) Program, Chapter 1606, may be available to a veteran who is 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. Veterans may use this education assistance program for up to 36 months on a degree program, certificate or correspondence courses, cooperative training, independent study programs, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and vocational flight training programs. Remedial, refresher and deficiency training are available under certain circumstances.

Eligibility for this program is determined by the Selected Reserve components; the VA only

makes the payments under this program. Generally, a Reservist has 10 years from the date they first become eligible under this program to use the benefits, provided he/she remains in the Selected Reserve during this time. The 10-year period may be extended if the Reservist is unable to train because of a disability caused by service in the Selected Reserve. If the Reservist is called to active duty, the period of eligibility will be extended by the length of the period of active duty service plus four months.

To apply for the Montgomery GI Bill: Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) education benefit, complete VA Form 22-1990 found at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1990-ARE.pdf> or apply online at <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

POST-VIETNAM ERA VETERANS' EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VEAP)

The Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Education Assistance Program (VEAP), Chapter 32, is available if a veteran elected to make contributions from military pay to participate in this education benefit program. Contributions are matched on a \$2 for \$1 basis by the government. A veteran may use these benefits for degree, certificate, correspondence, apprenticeship/on-the-job training programs, and vocational flight training programs. In certain circumstances, remedial, deficiency, and refresher training may also be available.

Benefit entitlement is 1 to 36 months depending on the number of monthly contributions. A veteran has 10 years from the veteran's release from active duty to use VEAP benefits. If there is unused entitlement after the 10-year period, the veteran's portion remaining in the fund will be automatically refunded.

Contributions may be withdrawn if the veteran does not meet the basic eligibility requirements, or if the veteran formally request a refund of the contributions withheld.

To apply for the Post-Vietnam Veterans' Education Assistance Program (VEAP) education benefits, complete VA Form 22-1990 found at www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/vba-22-1990-are.pdf or apply online at www.gibill.va.gov.

SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DEA)

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, Chapter 35, provides education and training opportunities to dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled with a VA rating of 100% due to a service-related condition, or who died while on Active Duty or as a result of a service related condition. The program offers dependents up to 45 months of education benefits, which may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. In addition, spouses may take a correspondence course. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

To apply for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA), complete VA Form 22-5490 found at www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/vba-22-5490-are.pdf or apply for DEA online at www.gibill.va.gov.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (VR&E)

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program (VR&E) is authorized by Congress

under Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 31 (sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program). The mission of VR&E is to help veterans with service-connected disabilities of 20% or higher prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe they cannot immediately consider work, VR&E offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

The VR&E Program is designed to help a service-connected disabled veteran overcome employment handicaps imposed by such disability, so that the veteran is able to find and keep suitable employment as well as achieve maximum independence in daily living. The primary goal of the program is to train disabled veterans for appropriate employment. Education benefits for school attendance may be authorized if that is determined to be the best way to prepare a particular veteran for entry or re-entry into the labor force. Services generally last up to 48 months, but they can be extended in certain instances.

Who is Eligible?

Usually, a veteran must first be awarded a monthly VA disability compensation payment to be eligible for the VR&E Program. In some cases, a veteran may be eligible even if they are not receiving VA compensation. For example, a veteran who is awaiting discharge from the service because of a disability may be eligible. Veterans must also meet the following conditions:

- Served on or after September 16, 1940; and
- Service-connected disabilities are rated at least 20% disabling by VA; and
- Need vocational rehabilitation to overcome barriers to employment; and
- Less than 12 years since the VA notified the veteran of qualified service-connected disabilities.

Recent legislation now allows those who are eligible for both VR&E benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to choose the Post-9/11 GI Bill's monthly housing allowance instead of the VR&E subsistence allowance.

To apply for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program (VR&E), complete VA Form 28-1900 found at www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-28-1900-ARE.pdf or apply online at www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre.

VA WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

The VA Work-Study Program is available to any eligible veteran or their dependents who are receiving VA education benefits and attending school three-quarter time or more. An individual working under this program may work at a school's veterans office, VA Regional Office, VA Medical Facility, CalVet or other approved State employment office. Work-study students are paid at either the State or federal minimum wage, whichever is greater.

How does it Work?

To apply for an internship with an approved State Office, the student must attain an enrollment certification VA Form 22-1999-6 from their schools veterans office. The veteran will earn an hourly wage equal to the federal minimum wage or the state minimum wage, whichever is greater, for work completed during or between periods of enrollment. If a veteran is in a work-study job at a college or university, the school may pay the veteran the difference between the amount the VA pays and the amount the school normally pays other work-study students doing the same job as the veteran. A veteran may arrange with the VA to work any

number of hours during enrollment, but the total number of hours worked cannot be more than 25 times the number of weeks in the enrollment period.

What are Some Examples of Acceptable Work?

- Processing VA paperwork at schools or VA offices.
- Performing outreach services under the supervision of VA staff.
- Performing services at VA medical facilities or the offices of the National Cemetery Administration.

The work the veteran actually does will depend on the veteran's interests and the type of work available; however, it must be related to the VA. To apply, complete VA Form 22-8691. For more information about education benefits, contact the local County Veterans Service Office.