

VA | **Veterans Benefits Administration**
Education Service

TVDS Annual Conference 2021 - VA Education Benefits
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Veterans Benefits Administration
October 15, 2021

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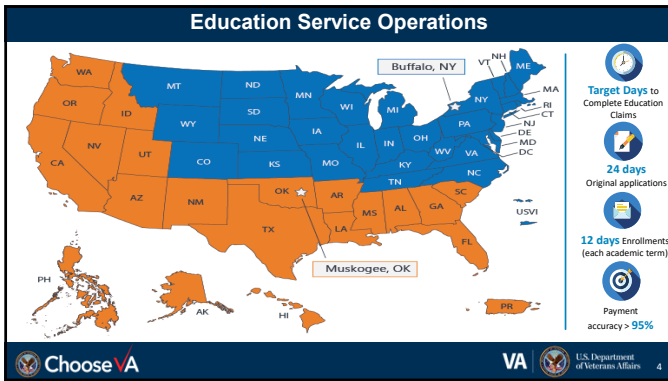
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GI Bill® Mission and Goals

Education Service supports service members, Veterans and their families by providing the benefits and resources to help them achieve their education goals.

- Expands opportunities for Veterans and eligible family members to pursue their academic goals.
- Enhances the nation's economic strength with innovative programs that support employment in high demand fields.
- Enriches lives by giving GI Bill beneficiaries the tools they need to further their education.

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Comparison of Education Benefit Programs

Min Length of Service or Requirements	Max Months of Benefits	Duration of Benefits	Benefits can include:
Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)	90 days total active service after 9/10/01 or 30 days continuous if discharged for service-connected disability	36	Service ended on or after 1/1/2013: No expiration Service ended before 1/1/2013: 15 years from last day of active duty
MGB-AD (Chapter 30)	2 years continuous entitlement (minimum duty varies by service date, branch, etc)	36	Generally 10 years from last day of active duty
MGB-SR (Chapter 1606)	6-year commitment after 6/30/95	36	Generally ends the day you leave Selected Reserve
VEAP (Chapter 32)	181 continuous days active service between 1/1/1977 and 6/30/1985	36	10 years from last day of active duty
DEA (Chapter 35)	Not applicable	36 or 45**	Spouse: 10 or 20 years depending on eligibility; Child: Ages 18-26

*****Note:** If you began using this program to pay for your school or training before 8/1/18, you can get benefits for up to 45 months. If you began using the program on or after 8/1/18, you can get benefits for up to 36 months

Please note that this chart provides general information and exceptions may apply.

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GI Bill® Impact on Veterans and Families

Education Service administers **5 education benefits** programs

Processed **3.5 million** education claims totaling over **\$11 billion** to nearly **900K beneficiaries** in FY2020

Over **400,000 approved education programs** at **20,000 campuses** across the globe

Paid **\$120.4 billion** to over **2.4 million** beneficiaries since 2001




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COVID-19 Updates

The following benefit protections expire December 21, 2021:

COVID-19 legislation that permits students to receive Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) payments at the resident rate for courses converted to online training due to COVID-19 will end on December 21, 2021.

- To continue receiving MHA at the resident rate after December 21, 2021, students must be enrolled in approved resident classes
- **Protects resident Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) rate if course converted to online**
- **Restoration of entitlement**
 - Can restore entitlement for temporary/permanent closure or program suspension due to COVID-19
 - Like with a normal school closure, student must also lose credit or training time to qualify
- **Work Study**
 - If students cannot continue to perform work study activities due to COVID-19, they will get paid as if they worked 25 hours/week
 - Allows student to extend current contract into follow-on terms
- **Delimiting date extensions**
 - Can extend delimiting date due to temporary/permanent school closures due to an emergency




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Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program

The [Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program \(VRRAP\)](#), enacted on March 11, 2021, is part of the American Rescue Plan. VRRAP is part of VA's continued effort to support Veterans seeking retraining and economic opportunities in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

VA in partnership with the Department of Labor published a list of [high-demand occupation](#). The list includes healthcare, education, media, engineering, and high-tech opportunities

- **Eligible Veterans** receive up to 12 months of tuition & fees and a monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill rates
- To be eligible for VRRAP, a Veteran must meet the following criteria:
 - At least 22 years of age and less than 67 years of age
 - Unemployed due to COVID-19 pandemic
 - Not eligible for GI Bill or VR&E benefits
- Limited to a maximum of 17,250 participants and up to \$386 million
 - Received 10,322 Veteran Applications
 - 6,879 Veterans have been issued Certificates of Eligibility
 - 820 [Educational Institutions](#) have been approved







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Isakson & Roe Improvement Act 2020

Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law No. 116-315; January 5, 2021)


- Transformative effect on Education Service
 - Expands EDU's ability to provide ready access to, and timely and accurate delivery of, education benefits to Veterans, service members, and their families
 - Leads the way into VA modernization of the GI Bill
- 27 of 32 sections that impact the administration/oversight of GI Bill benefits implemented as of August 1, 2021:
 - Sec. 1001, Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program expansion
 - Sec. 1002, Fry Scholarship expansion
 - Sec. 1006, Work Study at Congressional Offices
 - Sec. 1010, New enrollment verification for schools and students
 - Sec. 1011, Transfer of Entitlement for Post-9/11 GI Bill
 - Sec. 1021, Restoration of Entitlement
 - Sec. 4302, VET TEC program expansion







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Round Out Policy


- **New policy, effective August 1, 2021:**
 - “Round out” practice will continue but in a focused manner.
 - Old round out rule allowed student to choose any class regardless of its compatibility with the student’s program of education.
 - Now round out courses must be associated with the student’s program of education.
 - Round out courses will be limited to those that, even though not required for the specific beneficiary to graduate, are included within the beneficiary’s program of education and would count toward an enrolled individual’s graduation requirements for such program.
 - Round out classes must be specified by name in the approved program curriculum from which the student is graduating.



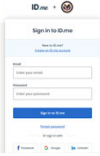
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“Ask a Question” Website Transition



The “Ask a Question” function on the GI Bill website will transition to “Ask VA,” a new system with the same functionality, on **October 18**.

- GI Bill students and schools use this system to communicate with VA or submit information and documents
- “Ask VA” will require a VA.gov account
- Creating one requires identity verification either through certain secure VA systems, like MyHealthVet, or by creating an ID.me account, which may require personal identity documents
- If you have questions about account creation:
 - <https://www.va.gov/resources/signing-in-to-vagov/>
 - <https://www.va.gov/resources/verifying-your-identity-on-vagov/>
 - <https://www.va.gov/resources/privacy-and-security-on-vagov/#whats-idme-and-why-should-i-tr>
 - <https://help.id.me/hc/en-us>
- The new system and account verification requirements will keep “Ask VA” secure and help protect students’ personal information
- A VA.gov account can also be used to access other VA benefits and systems




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GI Bill Comparison Tool




Use this tool to compare benefits by school, estimate your Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA), find tuition rates, and learn about approved educational programs.



Check out the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/) at www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/.

Follow the steps below to receive an estimate of your MHA.

1. Search and select your school’s main campus from the list.
2. Scroll down to “Where will you take the majority of your classes?”
3. Select “Other Location” or “An Extension Campus.”
4. Enter the zip code of the other location or select the location from the drop down.






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Yellow Ribbon Tool

The Yellow Ribbon Program can help pay for higher out-of-state, private school, or graduate school tuition that the Post-9/11 GI Bill doesn't cover.




Use the Yellow Ribbon tool to find out which schools participate in the Yellow Ribbon Programs.



Check out the [Yellow Ribbon Tool](https://www.va.gov/education/yellow-ribbon-participating-schools/) at <https://www.va.gov/education/yellow-ribbon-participating-schools/>


Follow the steps below to search for participating schools.

1. Enter the full name of the school
2. State or territory
3. City
4. Select "Search"




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VA Chapter 36 Benefits




Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (Chapter 36) provides guidance and assistance with professionals who will help you develop a personalized career/educational plan based on your own unique goals. Experts will:

1. Assess your skills, education, and training to help you determine your civilian career
2. Find the best training program to meet your job goals
3. Help you determine the right educational program and school based on your future plans
4. Provide guidance on adjusting to the civilian world post-transition




You may be eligible if you're leaving active service soon, if you've been discharged within the past year, or if you are a Veteran or dependent eligible for a VA educational benefit.




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Questions




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