



Post 9/11 GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon Program

What you need to know about the Post 9/11 GI Bill

The newest VA education benefit, the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), is now available to eligible learners. This new program offers more comprehensive education benefits to veterans who served at least 90 aggregate days of active duty on or after September 11, 2001, or served 30 continuous days and were discharged with a service-connected disability.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill

I've heard about this new bill that can help pay for me to go back to school. What is it?

The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education to individuals (mostly the 1.8 million military personnel who have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001) with at least 90 days of total service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-related disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. It's the most comprehensive education benefit package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

Does my family have access to any of these educational benefits?

Yes. For the first time in history, active duty service members may transfer all or a portion of their unused benefits to spouses and children.

How do I know if the Post 9/11 GI Bill is the right fit for me?

The new benefit program is complex and will impact each service member differently. Accordingly, we encourage those considering applying for benefits under the new GI Bill to consult with the VA before making a final decision, as the decision to receive Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits cannot be reversed. The VA Benefits Estimator on the GI Bill Web site is a great tool for estimating your benefits and determining which program best suits you: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/step-by-step.htm

Benefit details

What are the most important benefits I'll have access to?

Tuition and Fees – The VA makes payments directly to Capella based on the learner's eligibility (see chart on back for more eligibility information). The VA will also pay up to \$4,493 of a learner's fees per term. This amount includes application fees, colloquium registration, and graduation fees.

Housing – The housing allowance does not currently apply to learners pursuing degrees at Capella because of the distance-learning nature of our programs. Active duty service members are also not eligible for this stipend.

Books and Supplies – Up to \$1,000 a year (again, based on the learner's eligibility for the new GI Bill; see chart on back) is available to be paid directly to the veteran. Active duty service members cannot receive this stipend.

Active Duty Status – Learners with active duty status receive full tuition and fee coverage as long as the service member remains on active duty; this applies to active duty spouses as well.

Benefits are available for 15 years from the last period of active duty or at least 90 consecutive days. Like the Montgomery GI Bill and REAP, learners are eligible to receive this benefit for up to 36 months.

What if I've already used some of my Montgomery GI Bill benefits?

If you've already used some of your Montgomery GI Bill, you'll only be able to carry over your remaining months into the Post 9/11 GI Bill. For example, if you have 12 months of Montgomery GI Bill eligibility remaining, only 12 months will transfer into Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility. However, if you've used all your GI Bill eligibility (previous to applying for the Post 9/11 GI Bill), you may be able to receive an additional 12 months under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Know that the VA will not pay more than 48 months of combined benefits between the two programs.

When you apply for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, you irrevocably surrender your ability to receive benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill.

Benefit details continued

Will I receive the maximum benefits?

Benefit eligibility is determined by the amount of time a service member has of active duty service since September 11, 2001. You're eligible for maximum benefit under the new bill after you have served a total of 36 months of active duty service or after 30 days of continuous service if you were discharged due to service-related disability. If you served between 90 days and 36 months of total active duty service you will be eligible for a percentage of the maximum benefit, as detailed here:

Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of:

Percentage of Maximum Benefit	
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Discharged due to service-connected disability)	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	70
At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	60
At least 06 months, but less than 12 months	50
At least 90 days, but less than 06 months	40

How long am I eligible for benefits and how long will they last?

The Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit is available for 15 years from the last period of 90 consecutive active duty days. Generally, you will receive 36 months of full-time education benefits.

Eligibility

Can you determine my eligibility?

Unfortunately, no. Capella is unable to make any determinations of eligibility for any VA-sponsored educational benefits. If you're unsure of your eligibility we recommend contacting the VA directly at 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (442-4551) for more information.

What are my first steps to applying for benefits?

Before any benefits are disbursed you must apply for, and receive, a Certificate of Eligibility (form 22-0557). Your first goal in applying for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits is to receive this Certificate of Eligibility from the VA. In order to receive this certificate you must submit your application for VA benefits on their Web site, at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.

Once you've been approved, and have received the Certificate of Eligibility, you must submit it to Capella University in order for our VA Certifying Official to report your enrollment to the VA.

Yellow Ribbon Program



What is the Yellow Ribbon Program?

The Yellow Ribbon program is an extension of the new Post 9/11 GI Bill. It enables the VA and private, degree-granting institutions like Capella to cover the tuition balance not covered by the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit. Capella University is proud to be a charter member in this VA program and has set no limits on the number of qualified learners who can take advantage of it.

How can it help me cover my tuition?

Under the Yellow Ribbon Program, 50% of remaining tuition costs will be covered by the VA, and the other 50% by Capella.

How do I know if I qualify?

There are two important factors that will determine your eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Program:

Your Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit eligibility – Currently, the program is only available to those who have served more than 36 months of active duty service since September 11, 2001 and are qualified at the 100% payment benefit level.

Learner status – Learners enrolled in School of Undergraduate Studies, MS, and MBA programs may attend Capella with no out-of-pocket tuition or fee costs under the Post 9/11 GI Bill and therefore will not need the assistance of the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Only PhD learners in unique academic situations—taking only one course or enrolled in Comprehensive Exam or Dissertation without discounted tuition—will need Yellow Ribbon Program assistance.

Links and Resources

United States Department of Veterans Affairs:
<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

Veterans Online Application (VONAPP) Website:
<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

ACCREDITATION

Capella University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), www.ncahlc.org.

CAPELLA UNIVERSITY

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