

VA Education Benefits Process

▶ Education Benefits Process

■ Eligibility (Buffalo VA)

- ▶ Program eligibility requirements are available on <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>
 - For most accurate eligibility information, please call the VA toll free at 1-888-GIBILL1
- ▶ To apply for VA Education Benefits, submit a 22-1990 (22-5490 for Chapter 35) electronically through VONAPP (<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>) or by mail/fax (<http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/22-1990%285-09%29.pdf>)
- ▶ You may need to send extra documentation to the VA, especially your DD-214 or DD-2384
 - The University of Maryland Veterans Certification Office at 1113 Mitchell Building may assist you in sending these
- ▶ If you attended and used benefits at a previous institution, submit a 22-1995 (22-5495 – Ch35) through VONAPP

Certification

- ▶ For every semester you intend to use benefits, you must submit a Request for Certification for VA Benefits (<http://www.testudo.umd.edu/vabenefits/>)
 - This form can only be submitted after you have registered for classes
 - If you have changed your major, you must submit a 22-1995/22-5495 to the VA
 - If your address has changed, be sure to update it on Testudo as well, otherwise, we cannot update your record with the VA
- ▶ This form will be updated for the Post 9/11 GI Bill- To be put on a mailing list to receive the updated form, email vabenefits@umd.edu or call 301/314-8239
- ▶ The VA will release benefits within 4-6 weeks after the University of Maryland Veterans Certification Office receives your Request for Certification for VA Benefits
- ▶ A student may only receive benefits while in a non-approved major program or as an undecided major for up to two semesters

WAVE- Automated Verification of Enrollment

- ▶ Each month, veteran students must verify their enrollment with the Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Post-9/11 GI Bill veteran students needn't verify their enrollment through WAVE
- ▶ Must be done on the last day of every month
- ▶ May be done online at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave> or by phone at 1-877-823-2378
- ▶ WAVE enrollment verification will not be necessary under the Post 9/11 GI Bill
- ▶ ***You will not be paid for a month until the month is over and you have verified your enrollment through one of the above means***

Post 9/11 GI Bill

- ▶ 1. Eligibility
- ▶ 2. Payment Types/Calculations
- ▶ 3. Transfer of Benefits to Dependents
- ▶ 4. Yellow Ribbon
- ▶ 5. Comparison of Education Benefits Programs
- ▶ 6. Kickers & Buy-Up
- ▶ 7. Next Courses of Action
 - 7a. Summer II 2009 Certifications

Post-9/11 Qualifying Active Duty

- ▶ Full-time duty in the Armed Forces, other than active duty for skills/basic training
- ▶ A call or order to active duty under title 10
- ▶ Periods of active duty may begin at any point, but only the portions occurring after 9/10/01 qualify for Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility
- ▶ Active Duty that cannot be used to establish eligibility:
 - AGR under title 32
 - Service academy contract periods
 - ROTC contract periods under title 10
 - Service used under the Loan Repayment Program (typically 3 years)

Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefit Tiers

- ▶ Housing, tuition/fees, and books/supplies are paid proportionately, based on time served after 9/10/01:

For active duty personnel:

At least 36 months:	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty, and discharged due to service-connected disability:	100%
30 months to 36 months:	90%
24 months to 30 months:	80%
18 months to 24 months:	70%
12 months to 18 months:	60%
6 months to 12 months:	50%
90 days to 6 months:	40%

NOTE- A benefit tier is ultimately determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs upon receipt of a 22-1990, Application for VA Education Benefits, and is noted on the Certificate of Eligibility the VA sends to each applicant

Individuals with 18-24 months of eligible Active Duty service must exclude entry level and skills training active duty days.

Those with more than 24 months may include entry level and skills training active duty days in their benefit tier calculations

Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefit Tiers

For reservists:

At least 36 cumulative months:	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty, and discharged due to service-connected disability:	100%
At least 30 cumulative months:	90%
At least 24 cumulative months:	80%
At least 18 cumulative months:	70%
At least 12 cumulative months:	60%
At least 6 cumulative months:	50%
90 aggregate days:	40%

*Active duty days are shown on your DD-214

Individuals with 18-24 months of eligible Active Duty service must exclude entry level and skills training from active duty days.

Those with more than 24 months may include entry level and skills training active duty days in their benefit tier calculations

** This information can be found at:
http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Benefit_Comparison_Chart.htm#PERCENTAGE*

Post-9/11 Payment Categories

- Changes

- ▶ Tuition/fees payments go directly to the institution
 - ▶ The VA's maximum payments have been calculated from the highest in-state undergraduate tuition and fees at a public institution in each state
 - See maximum payments table, http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Tuition_and_fees.htm
 - Maryland:
 - ▶ Maximum Charge Per Credit Hour: \$458.13
 - ▶ Maximum Total Fees Per Term: \$2,380.00
 - ▶ ***See 'percentages' slide for more information***
 - ▶ A monthly housing allowance, based on zip code of institution, goes directly to the student
 - Based on Basic Housing Allowance (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents
 - ▶ Current Monthly Allowance for the University of Maryland, College Park (ZIP code 20742): \$1917.00
 - **BAH is not paid if student is:**
 - ▶ on active duty
 - ▶ pursuing training at half-time or less
 - ▶ enrolled in distance/on-line only program, with no on-campus component
- If just one of your courses is categorized as "in-residence," and you are otherwise eligible, you are entitled to the BAH, even if the in-residence course is at a secondary school, so long as you receive credit toward your degree at your primary school for the course. BAH is determined by the ZIP code of the "in-residence" course's institution.

Payment Categories, Cont'd

- ▶ An annual books/supplies stipend of up to \$1000 per academic year goes directly to the student in a lump sum for each term
 - \$41.67 per credit hour for up to 24 credit hours per year
 - This stipend will not be issued if the student is on active duty
- ▶ A one-time \$500 rural benefit payment goes directly to the student
 - Rural Benefit Payment Eligibility:
 - If you live in a county with 6 persons or less per square mile AND
 - ▶ Physically relocate at least 500 miles to attend your institution
 - OR
 - ▶ Travel by air to physically attend the institution, provided that no other land-based transportation exists

Post 9/11 GI Bill- PERCENTAGES

- ▶ As mentioned earlier, veterans qualify for benefit tiers, or percentages of the maximum benefit, based on Active Duty time served
- ▶ These percentages are applied to the *lesser* of:
 - Tuition and fees charged; or
 - Highest amount payable, based on maximum payments table

Individuals on Active Duty receive the *lesser* of:

- Tuition and fees charged; or
- The amount of charges that exceed the amount paid by the military's federal tuition assistance program

**NOTE- Per credit VA tuition payments are made by credit up to the minimum number of credits required for full-time tuition charges.

* A full-time ***non-resident*** student taking 13 credits who is eligible for 100% of the benefit gets $\$458.13 \times 12 = \5497.56 for tuition, NOT $\$458.13 \times 13 = \5955.69 , because both a student taking 12 credits and a student taking 13 credits are charged the same full time non-resident tuition of \$11,251.50 *

PERCENTAGES, CONTINUED

- ▶ **For the 2009-10 Academic year:**
- ▶ The University of Maryland, College Park charges \$273.00 per resident undergraduate credit, and \$743.50 per term in mandatory fees
- ▶ These are both less than the state of Maryland's maximums of \$458.13 in tuition per credit and \$2,380 in fees per term, so benefit tier percentages apply to these charged amounts
- ▶ What results is the following table of payment amounts for full time undergraduate in-state students:

Benefit tier:	VA Payment Per Credit:	Fees per term:
100%	273.00	743.50
90%	245.70	669.15
80%	218.40	594.80
70%	191.10	520.45
60%	163.80	446.10
50%	136.50	371.75
40%	109.20	297.40

NON-RESIDENT PERCENTAGES

- ▶ **For the 2009-10 Academic year:**
- ▶ The University of Maryland, College Park charges \$938.00 per non-resident undergraduate credit, and \$743.50 per term in mandatory fees
- ▶ The tuition charges are more than the state of Maryland's maximum of \$458.13 in tuition per credit, so benefit tier percentages apply to the maximum state of Maryland amount
- ▶ What results is the following table of payment amounts for full time undergraduate non-resident (out-of-state) students:

Benefit tier:	VA Payment Per Credit:	Fees per term:
100%	458.13	743.50
90%	412.32	669.15
80%	366.50	594.80
70%	320.69	520.45
60%	274.88	446.10
50%	229.07	371.75
40%	183.25	297.40

Transferring Benefits to Dependents

- Through the Post 9/11 GI Bill, you may be eligible to transfer up to 36 months of benefits to a spouse or dependent children
 - To qualify, an individual must be eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, have served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces and agree to serve at least 4 more years
 - The Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ultimately authorize benefit transfer and restrict the number of months transferred
 - Individuals in PHS/NOAA are not eligible to transfer benefits
 - Beginning June 29, 2009, eligible service members may make transfer designations by visiting this Web site:
<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB>.
 - For more information, see the full transferability policy here:
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/DTM%2009-003%20Post%209-11%20GI%20Bill.pdf>

Yellow Ribbon Program

- ▶ The University of Maryland, College Park will not be participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program
- ▶ Please contact Financial Aid for information on scholarships and other aid available to you as a veteran
- ▶ The Veterans Programs Office also has a list of Scholarships tailored to veterans:
<http://www.veteransservices.umd.edu/scholarship.shtml>

VA Education Benefits Comparison

- ▶ If you are eligible on 8/1/2009 for the Post 9/11 GI Bill and REAP, the Active Duty, or the Selected Reserves Montgomery GI Bill, your election of the Post 9/11 GI Bill is *irrevocable*, and so you should carefully compare the programs according to your individual situation
- ▶ The VA has developed scenarios that show how the Post 9/11 and Montgomery GI Bills may pay differently
- ▶ See http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/CH33-CH30_Case_Studies.htm for these benefits comparison scenarios
- ▶ Ultimately, it is best to review all the information available on the GI Bill web site and ask a VA Benefits Counselor at 1 888 GIBILL1 questions specifically related to your situation to determine which program is best for you!

Transferring from Montgomery GI Bill to the Post-9/11 GI Bill

- ▶ Individuals who elect the Post-9/11 GI Bill *in lieu of* the Montgomery GI Bill are limited to their remaining entitlement
- ▶ This means that the number of months an individual has remaining under the Montgomery GI Bill becomes the number of months he/she has under the Post-9/11 GI Bill
- ▶ If, instead, this individual who is eligible for both the Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bills postpones election of the Post-9/11 GI Bill until he/she first exhausts the Montgomery benefits, he/she will be entitled to a total of 48 months of combined benefits, instead of the standard 36 months (he/she receives an extra 12 months of benefits, which can be used under the Post-9/11 GI Bill)

For more information on these topic, see Answer ID's 977 and 978 in the Questions & Answers section of the GI Bill web site at:

<https://www.gibill2.va.gov/vba/vba.cfg/php.exe/enduser/index.html>

Post-9/11 GI Bill - Kickers & Buy-up

▶ Buy-up = DOESN'T TRANSFER

▶ From the VA web site:

▶ "If you participated in the \$600 buy-up under the Montgomery GI Bill or REAP you will not receive that additional benefit under the Post 9/11 GI Bill."

▶ Kicker=CAN TRANSFER; paid as lump sum with housing allowance at the beginning of the semester

▪ The kicker is only payable for up to 36 months

▶ From the VA web site:

▶ Allows "kickers" up to \$950 per month for recruitment for critical skills – up to \$350 per month for retention

▶ Allows individuals with "kicker" earned under Chapter 30 and 1606 to continue to receive appropriate increase under Chapter 33

What Next?

- ▶ As of 5/1/09, the VA is accepting applications for the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
 - Paper and Electronic 22-1990 Applications
 - ▶ <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>
- ▶ Chapter 33 benefits apply only to courses occurring on or after 8/1/09
- ▶ The VA will begin accepting Enrollment Verifications for the Post 9/11 GI Bill on 7/6/09
 - Go to the UMD Veterans Certification Office web site at www.testudo.umd.edu/vabenefits to download the updated 'University of Maryland Request for Certification for VA Benefits' form beginning July 6, 2009
 - For those currently receiving VA Education benefits:
 - ▶ The election of the Post 9/11 GI Bill is *irrevocable*

Summer II 2009 Certifications

- ▶ Individuals who have elected 8/1/2009 as the date to begin using Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits:
 - If you are already receiving VA Education Benefits for the first part of Summer II, you do not need to resubmit a Request for Certification for VA Benefits. The VA should automatically begin making Post-9/11 GI Bill payments for the portion of the term occurring after 8/1/2009
 - If you haven't been receiving benefits for the first part of Summer II, you will submit the updated Request for Certification for VA Benefits for the part of the term occurring after 8/1/2009

Undergraduate Full Time Student Status

► Undergraduate:

- Spring/Fall-
 - Full Time= 12 credits
- Summer I/II- Determined by the VA
 - Full Time for one session= 4 credits per session or 2 credits for each accelerated session (IA+IB/IIC+IID)
 - * Note that this is less than the 6 credits per session that UMD considers full time
- Winter
 - Full Time= 3 credits

*See

<http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm/show/content.section/c/27/ss/1586/s/1522>

For more information on undergraduate student status

Graduate Full Time Student Status

- ▶ Graduate:
- ▶ **Based on a unit system:**
 - Fall/Spring-
 - ▶ Full Time= 48 units
 - 24 units with a graduate assistantship
 - 36 units with a half-time assistantship
 - Summer I/II-
 - ▶ Full Time for one session= 24 units
 - Winter-
 - ▶ Full Time= 12 units

* See

http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/catalog/registration_policies.htm for more information on graduate student status

Courses in the series: 000-399 carry 2 units per credit hour.

Courses in the series: 400-499 carry 4 units per credit hour.

Courses in the series: 500-599 carry 5 units per credit hour.

Courses in the series: 600-897 carry 6 units per credit hour.

Master's Research course: 799 carries 12 units per credit hour.

Pre-candidacy Doctoral Research courses: 898 carries 18 units per credit hour.

Doctoral Dissertation Research: 899 carries 18 units per credit hour. All doctoral candidates must pay candidacy tuition for which they will be registered for six (6) credit hours of 899; this defines all currently registered doctoral candidates as full-time.

All doctoral candidates must pay the flat candidacy tuition for which they will be registered for six (6) credit hours of 899; this defines all currently registered doctoral candidates as full-time.

Office of the Registrar

- ▶ Veterans Education Benefits Contact:
- ▶ UMD Veterans Certification Office:
 - Nicholas Laureys
 - ▶ Office: 1113 Mitchell Building
 - ▶ Email: vabenefits@umd.edu
 - ▶ Phone: 301-314-8239
 - ▶ Fax: 301-314-9568
 - <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/vabenefits/>

Open House/Reception

- ▶ Counseling Center
- ▶ Family Science
- ▶ Learning Center
- ▶ Career Center
- ▶ Disability Services

Questions??

► VPO Contact:

- www.veterans.umd.edu
 - Email: umdvets@umd.edu
 - Kirby Bowling, 301-314-0073
 - Steve Olivera, 301-314-0073
- Stamp Student Union
Suite 0110 - Campus Programs

► Refreshments