

VA Education Programs Job Aid

Use the table below to assist students in gaining a basic understanding of VA's different educational benefit programs. Keep in mind the eligibility criteria and benefit aspects of the programs are complex and it is ultimately VA's responsibility to determine eligibility for individual programs. For additional information, refer to the [GI Bill website](#) or contact the Education Call Center at 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551).

	Post-9/11 GI Bill (CH 33)	Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (CH 30)	Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (CH 35)	Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (CH 1606)	Veterans Educational Assistance Program (CH 32)
Minimum Eligibility Requirement	90 aggregate days of active-duty service after 9/10/01	2 or 3 years of active duty depending on branch and service dates	Veteran's death or permanent and total disability as a result of service	Active reservist with minimum 6-year commitment after 6/30/85	181 continuous active-duty days between 12/31/76 and 7/1/85
Maximum # of Months of Benefits Entitlement	36 months – may extend to end of term if expires during term 48 months maximum if combined with one or more program	36 months – may extend to end of term if expires during term 48 months maximum if combined with one or more program	45 months (Colmery Act – 36 months) 81 months maximum if combined with one or more program	36 months 48 month maximum if combined with one or more program	36 months 48 month maximum if combined with one or more program
Duration of Benefits	15-year time limit on use of benefits if release from active duty was before 1/1/2013 Unlimited time to use benefits if release from active duty was on or after 1/1/2013.	10 years from last discharge or separation. Duration may extend for disability that prevents completion of program.	8 years – children (ages 18-26) 10 years – spouse 20 years – spouses of Veterans rated permanent and total disabled within 3 years of discharge or death on active duty.	14 years from your beginning date of eligibility, or on the day you leave the Selected Reserve. May extend if disability incurred or aggravated by service in selected reserve prevents completion of program.	10 years from last day of active duty
How Payments are Made	Tuition – paid to school Housing – paid to student monthly Books & Supplies – Paid to student at beginning of term	Paid to student	Paid to student	Paid to student	Paid to student