Department of Veterans Affairs
Education Service Overview

VBA Education Service

*Note: This information is current as of November 8, 2011, and is subject to change based on changes in the law and in VBA's policy and procedures*
Agenda

- Purpose of Benefits
- Overview of Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Overview of Process
- Post-9/11 GI Bill Update
- Debts/Overpayments
Purposes of VA Education Programs

- Provide readjustment and restore educational opportunities lost because of service to the country

- Extend benefits of higher education to qualified persons who may not otherwise be able to afford it

- Aid military recruitment & retention of highly qualified personnel

- Encourage membership in the Selected Reserve

- Enhance the national work force
Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)**

- Education benefit for individuals who served on active duty for an aggregate period of at least 90 days after September 10, 2001
  - Exceptions are made for individuals discharged due to a service-connected disability and serving at least 30 continuous days on active duty

- Individuals are eligible for the applicable percentage of the lesser of tuition and fees charged; or tuition and fees charged at a public in-state institution of higher learning in the State the student is attending

- Individuals attending private and foreign institutions of higher learning will be subject to a tuition cap of $17,500 per year. **

- Applicable percentage is based on aggregate active duty service

**Changes will be discussed later in the presentation
Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) continued....

- May include monthly housing allowance if total credit hours are more than half-time and not on active duty

- Up to $1,000 annually for books and supplies

- Individuals will generally receive 36 months of benefits. However, individuals are limited to 48 months of combined benefits under educational assistance programs administered by VA. Post-9/11 GI Bill is payable up to 15 years from the date of discharge

- Ability to transfer education benefits to spouses and children
  - DoD determines eligibility and VA administers the payments
Eligibility

Service Requirements
(after 9/10/01 an individual must serve an aggregate of)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Requirement</th>
<th>Payment Tiers Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 36 months</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Must be discharged due to service-connected disability)</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 months, but less than 36 months</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 24 months, but less than 30 months</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*At least 18 months, but less than 24 months</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*At least 12 months, but less than 18 months</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*At least 06 months, but less than 12 months</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*At least 90 days, but less than 6 months</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Excludes time in Basic Military Training and/or Skill Training
The process begins and ends with the students/veterans

- THEY select the school
- THEY select the program
- THEY pick their courses
- THEY choose to modify their course load
- THEY choose to complete or discontinue
The Basic Steps in the Award Process

- State Approving Agencies (SAA) approves education or training programs
- Student/Veteran applies to VA
- Student/Veteran enrolls and attends
- School official certifies student’s enrollment to VA and notifies VA of changes
- VA issues monthly payment to student and tuition and fee payment to the school
Post-9/11 GI Bill Current Status

- Since the program began, VA has issued over $13.22 billion to approximately 596,000 individuals and their educational institutions. (as of October 1, 2011)

- In September 2011, the average processing time for supplemental claims (under all benefits) was 10 days.
Post-9/11 GI Bill Changes

PL 111-377
Enacted Jan 4, 2011
Summary of PL 111-377

- Effective August 1, 2009, but not payable until October 1, 2011
  - Expands the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include Active Service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. 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.

- Effective March 5, 2011
  - Limits active duty members to the net cost for tuition and fees prorated based on the eligibility tiers (40%-100%) previously established for Veterans.
  - Same limitations apply to transferee spouses of active duty servicemembers
Effective August 1, 2011

- For Veterans and their transferees - simplifies the tuition and fee rates for those attending a public school and creates a national maximum for those enrolled in a private or foreign school
  - Pays all public school in-state tuition and fees;
  - 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.

- For Active Duty Members and their transferees - creates a national rate for those active duty members enrolled in a private or foreign school pursuing a degree
  - Pays all public school in-state tuition and fees;
  - Private and foreign school costs are capped at $17,500 annually

- Allows VA to pay MGIB (chapter 30) and MGIB-SR (chapter 1606) ‘kickers’, or college fund payments, on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum at the beginning of the term

- Prorates housing allowance by the student’s rate of pursuit (rounded to the nearest tenth)
  - A student training at a rate of pursuit of 75% would receive 80% of the BAH rate
Effective August 1, 2011 (Contd)

- 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.

  - This means that when your semester ends (e.g. December 15th), your housing allowance is paid for the first 15 days of December only and begins again when your next semester begins (e.g. January 10th) and is paid for the remaining days of January.

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

  - Entitlement that previously would have been used for break pay will be available for use during a future enrollment.
Summary of PL 111-377 (Contd)

Effective Aug 1, 2011 (Contd)

- Allows reimbursement for more than one “license or certification” test (previously only one test was allowed).
  - However, entitlement is now charged

- Allows reimbursement of fees paid to take national exams used for admission to an institution of higher learning (e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT)

- Allows those who are eligible for both Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (chapter 31) benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) benefits to choose a higher BAH rate based on an E-5 with dependents for the zip code where the school is located instead of the chapter 31 subsistence allowance.

- NOAA and PHS personnel are now eligible to transfer their entitlement to eligible dependents
Summary of PL 111-377 (Contd)

Effective October 1, 2011

- Allows students to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for –

  - 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.

- Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance payable is equal to ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents.
  - The full-time rate for an individual eligible at the 100% eligibility tier would be $673.50 for 2011.

- Allows students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend.
Latest Information

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