

# VA Education Programs

The VA administers several education programs as set forth by law, Title 38 United States Code. Each program is found in a different chapter of the law and this number is often used to refer to each of the different programs. They also have specific names. Each program provides different benefits for different groups of individuals.

**Chapter 33** Known as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the newest benefit program was created for individuals who have served on Active Duty after 9/10/01. Rate of payment is based on the length of time served. Payments do not begin until August 1, 2009.

**Chapter 30** The Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty, is the most common program. Is it for individuals who entered on Active Duty anytime since July 1, 1985 and who paid into an education fund for one year.

**Chapter 1606** The Montgomery GI Bill – Selective Reserves is for individuals in the Selected Reserve or National Guard (not on Active Duty). They must be actively drilling and under a 6-year contract. They are eligible for benefits only as long as they remain in the Reserves or Guard.

**Chapter 1607** The Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) is a recent Department of Defense education benefit program, designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to Active Duty in response to war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. This program makes certain individuals who were activated after September 10, 2001, either eligible for education benefits or increased benefits.

**Chapter 35** The Dependents Educational Assistance Program (DEA) is for dependents of a member of the Armed Forces who died on active duty or as the result of a service-connected disability, or is 100% permanently and totally disabled based on a service-related reason. Dependents receive up to 45 months of full-time benefits. Children are generally eligible for benefits between the ages of 18 and 26, but in certain instances may begin before age 18 and continue beyond age 26. They have a VA file or claim number (C#) that is related to the parent or spouse under whom they are eligible. The dependent's file is also identified with a suffix (10 or W, 41 or A, 42 or B, etc.). The Chapter 35 program has its own application form (VA Form 22-5490), and its own Change of Program/Training form (VA Form 22-5495).

**Chapter 34** The GI Bill is the original GI Bill program which has been phased out. A few individuals were eligible to roll over into Chapter 30. It is for individuals who enlisted during the Vietnam era (August 4, 1964 – December 31, 1976) and had at least three years continuous Active Duty any time after July 1, 1965.

**Chapter 32** The Veterans Educational Assistance Program is the post-Vietnam era program. It is for individuals who served on Active Duty from January 1, 1977 – June 30, 1985. The program is also known as VEAP, and required contributions made by the service member.

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**Chapter 31** Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) is a program for disabled veterans. This is a unique program. Full tuition, fees, books, and in many cases parking costs are paid by the VA to the school. In addition, the student gets a monthly stipend depending on training status. **THIS IS NOT THE GI BILL.**

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Payment rate tables are available online: <https://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits-resources/rates-tables.html>