

COMPARISON OF VA EDUCATION PROGRAMS as of August 2009

	CH 30	CH 35	CH 1606	CH 1607	CH 33
ELIGIBILITY	All students who feel they are eligible should submit an application. It is important that their application is reviewed and that the VA Regional Processing Office makes an official denial or grant of benefits.				
	<p>2 years active duty, 3 years active duty, or 2 years active duty plus 4 years reserves.</p> <p>Discharge must be honorable.</p>	<p>Veteran's death or permanent and total disability result of service.</p>	<p>Completion of initial active duty for training. Must be active reservist with 6-year obligation.</p>	<p>90 days or more active duty support of contingency operation or full-time National Guard duty responding to national emergency.</p>	<p>Generally, a minimum of 90 days on active duty after September 10, 2001; Active duty served as a member of the Armed Forces or as a result of a call or order to active duty from a reserve component under section 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12303(g), 12302, or 12304 of title 10 is qualifying active duty service. The following periods of active duty service are excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOAA, PHS, or Active Guard Reserve; ROTC under 10 U.S.C. 2107(b); Service academy contract period; Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement; Service used for loan repayment; <i>and</i> Selected reserve service used to establish eligibility under chapters 30, 1606, or 1607. <p>Chapter 33 Elections. An individual who has met the requirements to establish eligibility under chapter 33 and, as of August 1, 2009 is eligible for either chapter 30, 1606, or 1607; or a member of the Armed Forces and making the basic \$1200 contribution toward chapter 30; or a member of the Armed Forces who previously declined to elect chapter 30 must make an irrevocable election to use benefits under chapter 33. The individual will no longer be eligible under the chapter he or she elected to "trade in" in order to receive chapter 33. Any contributions being made under chapter 30 will cease the month following the election.</p> <p>(NOTE: Individuals electing chapter 33 may use benefits under the revoked chapter if the type of educational assistance [flight, correspondence, APP/OJT, preparatory courses, and national tests] the individual wishes to pursue is not available under chapter 33. Entitlement used under the revoked chapter will be deducted from chapter 33.)</p>

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BENEFITS	<p>Benefit payments are made directly to students. The payment is made to the student for the number of days the student is certified for the month. If a student is certified for a whole month, the full monthly benefit is paid. If the student is only certified for part of the month, the benefit is prorated.</p> <p>Standard benefits are described in the monthly rate tables. An additional kicker may be paid to some chapter 30 and chapter 1606 students.</p>				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Established Charges (Limited to the most expensive in-State public institution of higher learning). The amount of established charges payable for the entire quarter, semester, or term will be sent directly to the school as a lump sum payment. The percentage of the maximum benefit payable to an individual is based on the aggregate amount of active duty served on or after September 11, 2001. 2. The monthly housing allowance is based on the monthly basic allowance for housing (BAH) payable for a military member with dependents in pay grade E-5 residing in the same ZIP code for the IHL where the individual is enrolled. Active duty members, individuals training at ½ time or less, and individuals pursuing distance learning are not eligible for a housing stipend 3. Stipend for Books and Supplies. Individuals may receive a stipend of up to \$1000 a year for books, supplies, etc. The individual will receive a lump sum payment in the first month of each quarter, semester, or term. The amount of the stipend payable is an amount equal to the fraction of the whole academic year that the quarter, semester, or term represents. 4. Rural Benefit. One-time payment of \$500 (no entitlement charged) for claimants using chapter 33 to pursue a program of education if the claimant resides in a county with 6 persons or less per square mile (as determined by most recent decennial Census); <i>and either</i> physically relocates at least 500 miles; <i>or</i> travels by air to physically attend an IHL if no other land-based transportation exists.

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BENEFITS FOR INSERVICE STUDENT	Servicepersons are paid the veteran rate or a rate that will reimburse tuition and fees, whichever is lower . Servicepersons often apply for benefits a few days or weeks before their discharge from active duty. Servicepersons on terminal leave before discharge do not have to obtain their education officer's signature on the <i>Application for VA Education Benefits</i> . Also, they are paid as servicepersons while on terminal leave and as veterans starting the day following discharge.				Yes; active duty members are not eligible for the monthly housing stipend or for the book stipend. The amount of educational assistance payable is the lesser of the: established charges; <i>or</i> the Top-up amount not covered by military tuition assistance.
	Yes; payable after 2 years continuous active duty, not exceed tuition and fees.	No	Yes	Yes	
MAXIMUM ENTITLEMENT	48 months maximum under two or more programs				
	36 months. May extend to end of term if expires during term. Note: If there's a kicker, the kicker doesn't extend.	45 months. No extensions except for child in special restorative training.	36 months. No extensions.	36 months. No extensions.	36 months.

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DELIMITING DATE	<p>10 years after discharge.</p> <p>May extend for later period of active duty or disability that prevents completion of program.</p>	<p>Child: 8 years Spouse: 10 years Surviving Spouse: 10 years. 20 years if death while on active duty.</p> <p>Eligibility rules are complex. Claimant should carefully read eligibility letter and call VA if questions.</p>	<p>The 14-year period of eligibility for members of the Selected Reserve has been rescinded. Members of the Selected Reserve with remaining entitlement under chapter 1606 will remain eligible until the date the individual is separated from the Selected Reserve.</p> <p>Individuals who had remaining entitlement and had reached a delimiting date may receive benefits for training pursued on or after June 30, 2008. Individuals may not receive benefits for training pursued between their original delimiting date and June 30, 2008.</p> <p>Note: Procedures regarding the implementation of this provision will be provided at a later date.</p>	<p>No specific delimiting date while continuing to serve in Selected Reserve or in the Inactive Ready Reserve.</p>	<p>15 years from the date of the last discharge or release from active duty of at least 90 consecutive days In order to retain eligibility, after meeting the service requirements, an individual must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be honorably discharged from Armed Forces; or Be released from Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable and placed on the retired list, temporary disability retired list, or transferred to the Fleet Reserve or the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; or Be released from Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable for further service in a reserve component; or Be discharged or released from Armed Forces for— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A medical condition which existed prior to service (EPTS), ➤ Hardship (HDSP), or ➤ A condition which interfered with duty (CIWD); <i>or</i> Continue on active duty.
		<p>May extend to end of term if delimiting date during term, but can't exceed maximum entitlement.</p>			

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PARTICIPANT PAYMENT	Category I, III, IV: \$1,200 Category II: None	No	No	No	No
PAYMENT REFUND	Only as a death benefit to survivors in certain cases	N/A	N/A	N/A	Refund of chapter 30 contributions (excludes \$600 buy-up). A proportional amount [based on the number of months remaining under chapter 30 at time of chapter 33 election] of the basic \$1200 contribution will be included in the last monthly stipend payment when chapter 33 entitlement exhausts. Individuals who do not exhaust entitlement under chapter 33 will not receive a refund of contributions paid under chapter 30.
DEPENDENTS ALLOWANCE	No, except for category II (34/30)	No	No	No	No, except for housing allowance.
APPROVED PROGRAMS:					The approved programs under chapter 30 that are offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL).
Degrees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Certificates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Diplomas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Entrepreneurship	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Practical Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Secondary School Training	No	Yes	No	No	
National Exams For Credit or Admission	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Flight	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Correspondence	Yes	No for children	Yes	Yes	
Apprenticeship/OJT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Preparatory Courses	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Alternative Teacher Certification	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
SBA Courses	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Vocational or Technical Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Independent Study	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Advanced Professional Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Farm Programs	No	Yes	No	No	

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REMEDIAL, DEFICIENCY & REFRESHER TRAINING	Yes, with entitlement charge	Yes, entitlement charged after first 5 months of full-time training	Yes, with entitlement charge	Yes, with entitlement charge	Yes, for approved programs under chapter 30 that are offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL); details not specified.
COOPERATIVE TRAINING	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, for approved programs under chapter 30 that are offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL); details not specified.
INCARCERATED STUDENTS	Benefits reduced	Benefits reduced	Benefits reduced	Benefits reduced	Yes, for approved programs under chapter 30 that are offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL); details not specified.
TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE	Yes. Maximum \$1,200. Not more than \$100 per month. No entitlement charge for first \$600.	Yes. Maximum \$1,200. Not more than \$100 per month. No entitlement charge.	Yes. Maximum \$1,200. Not more than \$100 per month. No entitlement charge for first \$600.	Yes. Maximum \$1,200. Not more than \$100 per month. No entitlement charge for first \$600.	Yes. Maximum \$1,200. Not more than \$100 per month.
LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION	Yes; up to a maximum of \$2000 for each test; may retake test.	Yes; up to a maximum of \$2000 for each test; may retake test.	Yes as of 1/6/06; up to a maximum of \$2000 for each test; may retake test.	Yes as of 1/6/06; up to a maximum of \$2000 for each test; may retake test.	One licensing and certification test may be reimbursed, not to exceed the cost of the test up to a maximum of \$2000
ADVANCED PAYMENTS	Yes	No	Yes	Yes, but system may not be implemented.	Yes, for approved programs under chapter 30 that are offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL); details not specified.
ACCELERATED PAYMENT	Yes	No	Only high cost, non-degree programs under two years in length, that begin after September 30, 2008.	Only high cost, non-degree programs under two years in length, that begin after September 30, 2008.	Yes, for approved programs under chapter 30 that are offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL); details not specified.
WORK STUDY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MONTHLY VERIFICATION	IHL & NCD WAVE or IVR	NCD only VAF 22-8979	IHL & NCD WAVE or IVR	IHL & NCD WAVE or IVR	IHL & NCD WAVE or IVR

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YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM	No	No	No	No	IHLs may voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund up to 50 percent of the established charges not already covered under chapter 33. VA will match each additional dollar funded by the school. The combined amounts may not exceed the full cost of the school's established charges. Only individuals entitled to the 100 percent benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive this funding.
TRANSFER OF ENTITLEMENT	<p>The Department of Defense is authorized to allow individuals who have served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces and who agree to serve at least another 4 years in the Armed Forces to transfer unused entitlement to their dependents (spouse, children) under chapters 30, 1606, and 1607. The Department of Defense may, by regulation, impose additional eligibility requirements and limit the number of months transferable to not less than 18 months.</p> <p>Note: Although the transfer of entitlement provisions of PL 110-252 are effective as of June 30, 2008, DoD must develop regulations and provide VA with eligibility information before we can make payments under this provision.</p>				<p>The Department of Defense (DoD) is authorized to allow individuals who, on or after August 1, 2009, have served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces and who agree to serve at least another 4 years in the Armed Forces to transfer unused entitlement to their dependents (spouse, children). The Department of Defense may, by regulation, impose additional eligibility requirements and limit the number of months transferable to not less than 18 months.</p>
BARS TO BENEFITS	Cannot receive benefits: 1) Concurrently under two programs. 2) On active duty for any portion of course costs paid by the Armed Forces. 3) For course paid for by the Federal Government under the Government Employee' Training Act.				Not specified at this time.
	<p>Not eligible if: Service Academy graduate or ROTC commissioned officer who received ROTC scholarship unless eligible before commissioned or the scholarship was \$3,400 or less in any one year while under the ROTC program (\$2,000 or less for months before January 2002).</p>	<p>Not eligible if: On active duty except for brief periods of active duty for training.</p>	<p>Not eligible if: 1) Receive financial assistance as a member of the Senior ROTC Program, commonly known as the ROTC scholarship program. 2) <1/2-time and in receipt of military tuition assistance.</p>		