



FAQs for Student Veterans

1. How do I find out what education benefits I'm eligible for?
Veterans can contact the VA's GI Bill Hotline at 1-888-GI-Bill (1-888-442-4551).
2. How is my Post-9/11 GI Bill living stipend (BHA) determined?
Your BHA is based on the ZIP code for your school and paid at the rate of E-5 with dependents. To estimate of your BHA benefits, click here and enter your zip code:
<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>
3. If I attend school ½ time do I get BHA?
No. The law stipulates no BAH payment for less than full time students.
4. If I am a "distance learner" do I qualify for BHA?
Yes. However, your BHA payments will be for ½ the national average (currently \$714.50)
5. What should I contact about a payment delay?
Contact your school certifying official first to double-check your enrollment verification.
6. Why didn't I get any payment over the break?
Payments are made based on the days actually spent in school; therefore no payments are made during breaks.
7. Can I transfer my benefits to my spouse or children?
Under certain conditions you may transfer your benefits if you are still serving on active duty, but benefit transfer is controlled by the Department of Defense (DOD) and requires additional military service. VA does not control the transfer of benefits. For a fact sheet on GI Bill transferability, click here:
http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/Transferability_Factsheet.pdf

8. I have not received my GI Bill Kicker (Army/Navy College fund etc.).
These programs are administered by the DOD and vary among each of the military services. Check with your service branch, for example www.goarmyed.com or www.navycollege.navy.com.
9. I have the Montgomery GI Bill, how can I verify my enrollment each month?
Active duty or Reserve GI Bill, REAP, or VRAP individuals can check their enrollment by using Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) (www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do) or by calling 1 (877) 823-2378. Post- 9/11 GI Bill students do not need to verify enrollment.
10. When will I receive my benefits?
Typically within two weeks of your enrollment or once your school has sent your certification to VA. At the beginning of a new semester it can take as long as six weeks to receive payments due to demand. If you have not received your payments in a timely manner, first check with your school to make sure they have certified your enrollment.
11. I haven't chosen a school yet. Is there any counseling available to help me pick the right school?
Yes. VA offers free one-on-one educational counseling to all GI Bill-eligible veterans. To take advantage of this free benefit, you must apply to VA in writing. To learn how to apply, click here: http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/edu_voc_counseling.asp
12. Does the VFW have resources available if the GI Bill doesn't cover all my continuing education expenses?
Yes. The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. For details including eligibility requirements, please visit <https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/vfwsportclipsfall2017%20>.
13. I didn't see my question answered here. What can I do next?
The VFW is here to answer your specific questions through 1studentveteran@vfw.org. You can also search VA's extensive FAQ to find answers to your education questions by clicking here: <https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/list>