

G.I. Bill

Programs

1. Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill) – This is the “old” G.I. Bill that was in place prior to the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill was put in place. Those that are eligible for this program served prior to September 11, 2001. If you entered into service prior to June 2008, you may have signed up for the Montgomery G.I. Bill. Those that signed up for this program paid into the program during the first year of enlistment.
 2. Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation Program) – This program assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap. In order to determine eligibility, the Veteran must speak with a VA Voc-Rehab Counselor.
 3. Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 G.I. Bill) – This is the current G.I. Bill that is available to all who have served on or after September 11, 2001. This program pays In-State Tuition & Fees to the school, plus pays a Monthly Housing Allowance and Book Stipend to the student while enrolled in school.
 4. Chapter 35 (Dependent Education Assistance) – To be eligible for this program, you must be a spouse, son or daughter of a Veteran who 1) has a service-connected permanent and total disability; OR 2) is Missing in Action. This program provides a monthly stipend to the student while enrolled in school.
 5. Chapter 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve) – This benefit is available for members of the Selected Reserve of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and the Army and Air National Guard. This program provides a monthly stipend to the student while enrolled in school. An individual can receive EAP and Chapter 1606 GI Bill benefits simultaneously.
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Frequently Asked Questions

1. I am enrolled in a 7W2 course for the Spring Term, and I have an outstanding Bill and have been charged Late Fees. Why do I have a balance when GI Bill was supposed to pay my Tuition and Fees?

ANSWER: The way this all works is that the VA will pay at the start of the term. So, the VA paid for your Spring course, but has not paid for the 7W2 course yet. The Late Fees and Holds occur automatically by the system. That is a problem, because you shouldn't have to worry about either of those. By contacting our office, we can get the Late Fees removed.

2. I've enrolled in my first online class at Clarion. How do I process my GI Bill paperwork?

ANSWER: Please scan your Certificate of Eligibility and forward it to veteranservice@clarion.edu

3. Can I use the Yellow Ribbon program to pay the difference between In-State and Out-of-State Tuition & Fees?

ANSWER: Unfortunately, Clarion University is not a Yellow Ribbon school. So, you will owe a small portion of the tuition and fees for the course that you are taking.

4. I am currently serving in the PA national guard and receiving EAP from the state of Pennsylvania. My question is, can I use EAP and the GI bill together or can I only use one at a time?

ANSWER: You can apply to use GI Bill benefits while simultaneously using EAP. GI Bill and EAP are operated and funded from two different sources. GI Bill is a Federal Program run by the VA. EAP is a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Program.

5. I was wondering if you could tell me when I'd be receiving my money to purchase my school books?

ANSWER: You should receive the Book Stipend prior to the start of the term. If you were enrolled (or certified) "late", then you will need to give the VA at least 30 days to process and make payment.

6. My daughter's Bill does not reflect payment from the GI Bill. Any reason why?

ANSWER: SFS does not apply GI Bill as a "scholarship". Therefore, GI Bill is not shown on the student's account until the University receives the money from the VA.

Do not worry about this. What I have been telling everyone is to handle whatever balance would be remaining after the VA's payment to the University. Don't worry about seeing that total balance, and don't worry about any potential late fees. The VA has approved everything for your daughter, we are just waiting for their payment. When the payment arrives, you will see it annotated to her account.

7. We just got two individual checks in our account for Kyle. One was for like \$115 and the other one was for approximately \$650. Kyle paid for his books out of his pocket, so how is that adjusted in these amounts? Maybe, to make it easier, what are these two amounts?

ANSWER: Both of those deposits should have been labeled "VA ED".

Since Kyle is utilizing Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits, he is entitled to receive a Book Stipend, a Monthly Housing Allowance, and Full Tuition & Fees (at Clarion).

The Book Stipend is paid out once per term, and is calculated at a rate of \$41.67 per credit hour (this may have increased slightly). Kyle is registered for 15 credits, so the payment for \$650 was his Book Stipend.

- According to the paperwork that I have, a student will only receive the Book Stipend for a maximum of 24 credits a year. So, Kyle will get another \$390 (approximately), for the year since he will get paid for another 9 credits regardless of how many credits above 9 he takes.

The other payment would have been the Monthly Housing Allowance. The MHA is calculated as the BAH (with dependents) for an E-5 stationed in Clarion. When I look up that amount on the DFAS web site, I come up with \$1,104 per month. Since classes started on 28 August, he would have received a pro-rated amount, which is the \$115.

- On October 1st, you will see an amount of approximately \$1,104 deposited (for the month of September).
- You will receive that payment on the 1st of October, 1 November, 1 December.
- On 1 January, you will receive another pro-rated amount for 16 days of December. So that's approximately half of the full amount.

The VA pays everything on the 1st of each month, so you will always see those payments hit on the first.

8. My son got an email stating he is late paying his student account and that he will accrue a late fee. Are they talking about his tuition? There is a balance of approx. 12,676.00 that's showing. Do we need to address this?

ANSWER: The rest of the charges are for Room & Board. You will be responsible for those charges.

9. How does Post-9/11 GI Bill work?

ANSWER: The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides three benefits.

- 1) It pays 100% of the Tuition & Fees to all State Schools. This payment is made directly to the school.
- 2) It pays a Book Stipend one time each term. The rate of payment is approximately \$41 per credit hour enrolled. This is paid directly to the student. This is paid out on the first of the month at the beginning of each term. So, for the Fall 2017, most payments went out on 1 September. If an enrollment verification was submitted later in the month of August, then that payment would actually occur on 1 October.
- 3) It pays a Monthly Housing Allowance. The MHA is calculated as the same rate of an E-5 With Dependents stationed in Clarion, PA. This is paid directly to the student. I believe the amount this FY is approximately \$1,100 each month. This is paid out on the first of the month for the entire term, and is pro-rated for partial months. So, you would receive a partial payment on 1 September for the period 28-31 August, another payment on 1 October for 1-30 Sept, etc... until the final partial payment is received on 1 January 2018 for 1-14 December 2017.

I have attached a Post-9/11 GI Bill Pamphlet from the VA to show you what the VA says they pay.

I think the confusion comes in when we mention the Housing Allowance. Post-9/11 GI Bill pays a Monthly Housing Allowance to the student. It is the student (parents) position to determine how that is used. If you choose to use that payment to cover the Room & Board, then you can do so. But the key is that the payment is made to the student, not the school.

10. I had a question regarding the spring semester. I know that I have to reapply every semester for the GI Bill benefits. I do not have any classes online this semester and won't be able to be on campus. Is there anyway that you can email me the form that needs filled out and I can send it back to you to review and send in to the VA.

ANSWER: There is nothing else that you need to do for us. We have already submitted your Certification for the Spring Term, so everything should be good.

11. I applied for Chapter 35 benefits for the fall semester and received the paychecks, but is that something that I need to apply for for the spring semester or is the application for both semesters?

ANSWER: You do not have to reapply. As long as we submit your Certification, then you will continue to receive the funding from the VA. We have already submitted your Certification for the Spring Term, so you will continue to receive the funds.

12. I'm still fuzzy on how this disperses? University gets paid directly from GI, or it goes in my account and then back out to them? Housing/books in a check or a university credit? I still need to get on campus and purchase a parking permit... so not sure am I waiting to receive first... or out of pocket?

ANSWER: The VA will pay the University directly for your Tuition and Fees.

The VA will deposit the MHA into your bank account on the first of every month. MHA is approx. \$1050 per month (BAH for E-5 with Dependents, stationed in Clarion).

The VA will deposit the Book Stipend into your bank account at the beginning of the term. It is calculated at approximately \$46 per credit.

Since we just got your stuff submitted on Friday, it will take about 3 weeks to process before you get a payment. So, you can expect to receive your first MHA payment on 1 February, and the Book Stipend should hit probably sometime in the last week of January.

Your Parking Permit is separate from the Official Fees, so you are responsible to pay that out of pocket.

13. I just changed my bank account and I'm not sure how to change my direct deposit from my G.I. Bill to go to my new bank account. Do you know the website I could change it or maybe a phone number? Also, if I cancelled my previous bank account (I haven't yet) and didn't change my direct deposit, would they start mailing me checks?

ANSWER: You will need to call the GI Bill to change your bank account information. You can reach them at 1-888-442-4551.

14. I do however have one ongoing issue, speaking with the VA it does appear that since I used the post 911 I should not have been charged the out of state tuition fee. Some how I was consistently charged that fee. I now have an outstanding balance due for that amount. I have also had to take out student loan in the past to cover that past fee. Could you confirm that the out state rate is applicable for GI bill users?

ANSWER: The person that you spoke with in the VA is unclear of the policy.

The GI Bill pays 100% of In-State Tuition and Fees. Out of state students are charged Non-PA Resident Tuition & Fees. Out of state students are required to pay the difference between PA Resident and Non-PA Resident T&F, which is what you have experienced.

15. I was just trying to get some feedback..I currently have about 11 months left on my GIBILL Certification and I was wondering if I took classes during 2 of the summer intersessions and then a couple of classes this fall if you think I would still have enough eligibility to do so..

ANSWER: All terms consider a full load of courses to be 12 credits or more; that includes the Summer.

Let's assume that you take one course (3 cr hr) in Summer 2 (1 month), and one course (3 cr hr) in Summer 3 (1 month).

APPROXIMATE CALCULATION:

Summer 2 – $\frac{1}{4}$ load for 30 days = you would use up 7.5 days of benefits.

Summer 3 – $\frac{1}{4}$ load for 30 days – you would use up 7.5 days of benefits.

That means, you would have roughly 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ months remaining. Let's figure that the Fall Term uses up 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ months of benefit (if you take a full load). You would still have 7 months remaining to cover the Spring (which would only consume about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ months as well).