



# VA BENEFIT INFORMATION HANDBOOK

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**UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER STUDENT SERVICES  
VA BENEFIT INFORMATION HANDBOOK**

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**UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN WHITEWATER STUDENT SERVICES  
VA BENEFIT INFORMATION HANDBOOK**

This issue of the "V.A. Benefit Information Handbook" will cover topics for the continuing vet at **UW-Whitewater** as well as some general information for vets who are planning to enroll at **UW-Whitewater**.

NEW RATES!

**Effective: \*08-01-08/10-01-08**

NEW RATES!

## Education Rates

|  | CH30-3 or more<br>year obligation                  | Ch 30 Less<br>than 3 year<br>obligation            | Chapter 1606<br>Selected<br>Reserve | Chapter<br>35   |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Full Time<br/>12 Credits or<br/>more</b>    | <b>\$1321.00</b>                                   | <b>\$1073.00</b>                                   | <b>\$329.00</b>                     | <b>\$915.00</b>                                       |
| <b>Three-Quarter<br/>9-11 Credits</b>          | <b>\$990.75</b>                                    | <b>\$804.75</b>                                    | <b>\$246.00</b>                     | <b>\$686.00</b>                                       |
| <b>One-Half<br/>6-8-Credits</b>                | <b>\$660.50</b>                                    | <b>\$536.50</b>                                    | <b>\$163.00</b>                     | <b>\$456.00</b>                                       |
| <b>Less than<br/>half-time<br/>4-5 Credits</b> | Tuition & fees<br>not to exceed<br><b>\$660.50</b> | Tuition & fees<br>not to exceed<br><b>\$536.50</b> | <b>\$82.25</b>                      | Tuition &<br>fees not<br>to exceed<br><b>\$456.00</b> |
| <b>Less than<br/>half-time<br/>1-3 Credits</b> | Tuition & fees<br>not to exceed<br><b>\$330.25</b> | Tuition & fees<br>not to exceed<br><b>\$268.25</b> | <b>\$82.25</b>                      | Tuition &<br>fees not<br>to exceed<br><b>\$227.75</b> |
| <b>App/OJT*<br/>1st 6 Mos</b>                  | <b>\$990.75</b>                                    | <b>\$804.75</b>                                    | <b>\$246.75</b>                     | <b>\$666.00</b>                                       |
| <b>App/OJT*<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Mos</b>         | <b>\$726.65</b>                                    | <b>\$590.15</b>                                    | <b>\$180.95</b>                     | <b>\$499.00</b>                                       |
| <b>App/OJT*<br/>Remainder</b>                  | <b>\$462.35</b>                                    | <b>\$375.55</b>                                    | <b>\$115.15</b>                     | <b>See VA<br/>Website<br/>for rates</b>               |

\*Rates effective August 1, 2008 for Ch 30, 34 and 1607; Chapter 1606 and 35 will increase on October 1, 2008.

## Chapter 1607 – Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) Rates

|  | 90 days but<br>< than 1 year | 1 year plus       | 2 years plus      |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Full Time</b>                                 | <b>\$528.40</b>              | <b>\$792.60</b>   | <b>\$1056.80</b>  |
| <b>3/4 Time</b>                                  | <b>\$396.30</b>              | <b>\$594.45</b>   | <b>\$792.60</b>   |
| <b>1/2 Time</b>                                  | <b>\$264.20</b>              | <b>\$396.30</b>   | <b>\$528.40</b>   |
| <b>Less than 1/2 time<br/>More than 1/4 time</b> | <b>\$264.20**</b>            | <b>\$396.30**</b> | <b>\$528.40**</b> |
| <b>1/4 time or less</b>                          | <b>\$132.10**</b>            | <b>\$198.15**</b> | <b>\$264.20**</b> |

**\*\* Tuition and Fees ONLY. Payment cannot exceed the listed amount.**

## Chapter 34/30 Combined Rate

|                               | No Dependents                          | One Dependent | Two Dependents | Each Additional |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Full Time                     | \$1509.00                              | \$1545.00     | \$1576.00      | \$16.00         |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ Time            | \$1132.25                              | \$1158.75     | \$1182.25      | \$12.00         |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ Time            | \$754.50                               | \$772.50      | \$788.00       | \$8.50          |
| Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ -time | Tuition & Fees, not to exceed \$754.50 |               |                |                 |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ Time            | Tuition & Fees, not to exceed \$377.25 |               |                |                 |
| App/OJT 1st 6 Mos             | \$1093.50                              | \$1105.88     | \$1116.75      | \$5.25          |
| App/OJT 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6 Mos | \$782.93                               | \$792.28      | \$799.98       | \$3.85          |
| App/OJT 3rd Mos               | \$486.15                               | \$492.28      | \$497.00       | \$2.45          |
| App/OJT Remainder             | \$474.25                               | \$480.03      | \$485.28       | \$2.45          |

## Chapter 31 – Vocational Rehabilitation Rates

|                              | No Dependents | One Dependents | Two Dependents | Each Additional |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Full Time                    | \$541.05      | \$671.13       | \$790.87       | \$57.65         |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ Time           | \$406.53      | \$504.07       | \$591.28       | \$44.33         |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ Time           | \$272.02      | \$337.03       | \$396.17       | \$29.58         |
| Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ Time | NONE          | NONE           | NONE           | NONE            |

## POST 9/11 GI BILL BENEFIT INFORMATION

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is for individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill will become effective for training on or after August 1, 2009. This program will pay eligible individuals:

- tuition & fees directly to the school not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition & fees at a public Institution of Higher Learning. Currently, tuition & fees for Wisconsin are \$663.00/credit for tuition; \$30,979.00/credit for fees. This could be subject to change in the future.
- a monthly housing allowance based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents at the location of the school. The BAH for UW-Whitewater is currently at \$1115.00. This is subject to change annually on Oct 1 of each year.
- an annual books & supplies stipend of \$1,000 paid proportionately based on enrollment. The stipend will be paid at a rate of \$41.67/credit to the maximum of \$1,000.00 per year. Students should be aware that if they take a higher credit load one term, they may not receive as much the second term.
- a one-time rural benefit payment for eligible individuals

This benefit is payable only for training at an Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) (See comparison chart for more information). **If you are enrolled *exclusively* in online training you will not receive the housing allowance. If you are on active duty you will not receive the housing allowance or books & supplies stipend.** This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally benefits are payable for 15 years following your release from active duty.

## TO CERTIFY YOUR VETERANS STATUS AND OBTAIN BENEFITS

- 1) If you are a new veteran (or dependent), and never used benefits before, you will need to complete the following:
  - a) VA Form 22-1990 (or 22-5490), Application for Education Benefits, from the on-line application on the VA website (can complete in our office), known as VonApp
  - b) UW-W Information Sheet
  - c) If applying for Ch. 1607 program, we will need an updated DD214 and a copy of the orders showing the military call-up
  
- 2) You should provide our office with:
  - a) the *DD-214*, members 1 and 4, Discharge Form, if Ch. 30 - active duty; Ch. 33 – Post 9/11; Ch.1607, REAP; or the *NOBE, Notice of Basic Eligibility Form 2384-1*, if Ch. 1606 - Reserves/National Guard
  - b) a copy of your Kicker contract, if you have the kicker benefit
  - c) a copy of the \$600 additional contribution paperwork, if applicable (Ch. 30 only)
  - d) a Certificate of Eligibility from the VA, if Ch 33 – Post 9/11 or if Ch. 35 - Dependents program, and already filled out 22-5490 elsewhere.
  
- 3) If you are a new veteran/dependent to UW-W, but used benefits elsewhere you will need to fill out the following:
  - a) VA Form 22-1995 (or 22-5495), Request for Change of Program/Place of Training
  - b) UW-W Information Sheet
  
- 4) If you are a continuing, or returning student to UW-W and used VA benefits before you will need the following:
  - a) UW-W Information Sheet only.
  - b) If changing to the Ch. 1607 program, we will need an updated DD214, a copy of the orders showing the military call-up and a completed 22-1995 to request the change
  - c) If changing to Ch 33, Post 9/11, you will need to complete a new 22-1990, Application for Education benefits
  
- 5) If you are a continuing or returning student but have not used VA benefits before, please see (1) above.
  
- 6) All students, whether you are continuing, new or transfer, must provide us with a copy of your class schedule(s) for the term(s) you are requesting benefits. (We cannot use the class schedule grid; it must be the regular schedule).
  
- 7) If an eligible Wisconsin Veteran, or a Spouse or Dependent of an eligible Wisconsin Veteran, complete the applications for the Wisconsin GI Bill.

### \*WHERE DO I OBTAIN THE NECESSARY FORMS?

\***VA FORMS:** All VA Forms, unless otherwise noted above, are available from the veterans coordinator or your County Veteran Service Office (addresses on page 16) or from the US Dept of Veterans Affairs. (<http://www.gibill.va.gov>). The DVA encourages using the Veterans On-Line Application (VONAPP); you must remember to print off the signature page, sign and mail to the DVA in St. Louis. If printing paper copies, you will need Adobe Acrobat.

\***DD FORMS:** Check the VA website for information on how to receive copy ([www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov))

\***UW-WHITEWATER FORMS:** The UW-Whitewater Information Sheets are available at the Registrar's Office (Roseman Bldg, Rm 2032) or on their web page. ([www.uww.edu/registrar/veterans.php](http://www.uww.edu/registrar/veterans.php))

### VA ON-LINE APPLICATION (VONAPP)

Although you can fill out a paper application, the simplest and fastest method is to apply on-line through the DVA website (<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>). Click on the link for the Electronic Application Form for access and follow the instructions. After you have submitted the application, make sure you print out the signature page. You will need to sign and date this page to complete the application process. You can either mail the page directly to the DVA (address listed on their website) or bring into our office and we will send it in for you with any other relevant information (DD214, NOBE, kicker contract, etc.). We have also set up a computer in our office to use when applying for this and staff is available to assist you.

### ADVANCE PAYMENT INFORMATION

UW-Whitewater has opted out of the advance payment option and will not process requests for this option.

### REGULAR PAY

The first check is deposited or mailed within four to six weeks from the first day of class. Subsequent checks are delivered to the students' homes the first part of each month for the preceding month. You can also have the checks sent right to your bank if you select the Electronic Pay option. Remember:

1. In order to continue receiving education benefits for any semester, the appropriate forms must be completed and returned to the Veterans Coordinator located in the Registrar's office prior to the start of each semester.
2. Students receiving Ch. 30, Ch. 1606, or Ch. 1607 (REAP) benefits must submit monthly verifications of enrollment to the VA. The verifications can be made on or after the last day of each month by either phone: 1-877-823-2378 or the internet at <http://www.gibill.va.gov> (follow the link to the WAVE). You cannot verify your enrollment prior to the last day of the month.

### CREDIT & CLOCK HOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL VA BENEFITS

| <b>Undergraduate</b> |                          | <b>*Regular Academic session</b> |  |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| VA BENEFIT RATE      | CREDITS<br>Each Semester | ADJUSTMENT<br>TO BENEFITS        |  |
| Full Time            | 12 or More               | None                             |  |
| 3/4 Time             | 9, 10, 11                | 75%                              |  |
| 1/2 Time             | 6, 7, 8                  | 50%                              |  |
| Less than 1/2        | Less than 6              | Less than 50%                    |  |

| <b>Graduate</b> |                          | <b>*Regular Academic session</b> |  |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| VA BENEFIT RATE | CREDITS<br>Each Semester | ADJUSTMENT<br>TO BENEFITS        |  |
| Full Time       | 9 or More                | None                             |  |
| 3/4 Time        | 6, 7, 8                  | 75%                              |  |
| 1/2 Time        | 4, 5                     | 50%                              |  |
| Less than 1/2   | Less than 5              | Less than 50%                    |  |

\*Please contact your Veteran's Coordinator for Summer and Winterim Session requirements.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** A standard term is considered to be 16 weeks long for a semester. Training time for courses that are offered for a shorter or longer period (non-standard term) is determined by using a training time equivalency table. Stop into our office to determine benefits for non-standard terms.

### **PAY RULES**

The VA will pay for each term that the student is in school. VA Education Benefits can be paid for school breaks if:

- 1. The break does not exceed eight (8) weeks.**
- 2. The terms before and after the breaks are not shorter than the break.**

The **BENEFIT RATE** for the interim pay period is determined by the benefit rate received for the term preceding the interim pay period (i.e. Student is 3/4 time for Fall 2009 and is 1/2 time for Spring 2010, the interim pay between Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 will be at the 3/4 time rate).

### **MONTHLY VERIFICATION**

All students who are receiving either the Montgomery GI BILL Active duty or Selected Reserve **MUST** verify their enrollments monthly to receive payments. This verification can be done either by using the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) application on the VA web site (<https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave>) or by telephoning 1-877-823-2378 and following the prompts.

| <b>UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER SCHOOL TERMS</b> |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Summer Term 2009                                       | May 26, 2009 – Aug 14, 2009      |
| Fall Term 2009 (2009-2010 yr)                          | Sept 2, 2009 - Dec 2, 2009       |
| Winterim 2010  | Dec 29-30, 2009 – Jan 4-15, 2010 |
| Spring Term 2010 (2009-2010 yr)                        | Jan 19, 2010 - May 19, 2010      |
| Summer Term 2010                                       | May 24, 2010 - Aug 13, 2010      |
| Fall Term 2010 (2010-2011 yr)                          | Sept 2, 2010 - Dec 23, 2010      |
| Winterim 2011  | Dec 29-30, 2010 – Jan 3-14, 2011 |
| Spring Term 2011 (2010-2011 yr)                        | January 18, 2011 - May 18, 2011  |
| Summer Term 2011                                       | May 23, 2011 - Aug 12, 2011      |

### **VOC-REHAB (CHAPTER 31): A GOOD BET FOR THE DISABLED VET**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program of the Veterans Administration deserves investigation by any veteran who is now or is planning to be in school and has a service-connected disability.

This program is a viable alternative to the GI Bill for disabled vets. If you currently have a disability rating of 20% or more, you are eligible to be considered for vocational rehabilitation. If you think you have a service-related disability but don't have a VA rating, you should call the Milwaukee VA on their toll-free line (see phone number on page 18) or visit your County Veterans Services Office to get an application or more information.

Voc-Rehab offers educational benefits similar to those provided by the regular GI Bill. Participants receive a monthly stipend in addition to receiving their tuition, fees, and books, and a supplies allowance. Under certain circumstances, help may also be available for medical and dental care and financial emergencies.

### **DISABILITY - THE HOW AND WHY**

Disability. What comes to mind? Most of us think of the physically handicapped, the visibly impaired person. However, did you know most disabilities are not nearly so obvious? For example, if a soldier broke his/her arm in service, was given a cast, was discharged and later on developed arthritis in the area of the break, he/she might be eligible for a disability claim. Another common misconception, which many veterans have, is that a claim must be filed within a year after discharge. The truth is that the time frame varies depending on the particular condition. In some cases, (special presumptive periods) as much as seven years may pass between discharge and filing a claim. According to the Disabled American Veteran Service Officer's Guide, "Evidence proving a service-connected disability can be a major problem. After the veteran has been discharged a few years, the situation becomes more difficult. That is why it is very important to file a claim as soon after discharge as possible."

It is important to file a claim for any injury or ailment incurred during service. The result is that the process of claiming is expedited and the veteran may avoid unnecessary "red tape". One last point; certain conditions such as high blood pressure, hearing loss, and hemorrhoids are often not thought of as disabilities. If a service connection can be proven, the veteran should file. The application process begins at the nearest Veterans Services Office.

### **VA REACHING OUT TO PERSIAN GULF VETERANS**

The VA's Persian Gulf Registry, Medical Examination Program may be for you!

#### **WHAT IS THE PERSIAN GULF REGISTRY?**

The VA Persian Gulf Registry program was established to help veterans who served in the first military conflict in the Persian Gulf and who are now concerned about the possible long-term health consequences of exposure to various environmental hazards. Veterans who participate in this voluntary program are given a comprehensive medical examination. Data gathered during these examinations will be carefully analyzed by scientists searching for clues about any medical problems experienced by Persian Gulf veterans.

#### **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU FEEL YOU MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ANY ENVIRONMENTAL OR CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS DURING YOUR SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF?**

Seek medical care at the nearest VA medical center. A Veterans Benefits Counselor at the medical center may be available to assist you with VA benefits information and claims assistance. If he or she is not available when you visit, you may also contact your local VA Regional Office toll free at 800-827-1000 for more information.

## COMPENSATION BENEFITS

### I. PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR (SYMPTOMS MUST MANIFEST PRIOR TO SEPT. 30, 2011)

1. Amytropic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease)
2. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
3. Fibromyalgia
4. Irritable Bowel Syndrome
5. Chronic, undiagnosed illness which may include such symptoms as:
  - Fatigue
  - Signs or symptoms involving skin
  - Headaches
  - Muscle Pain
  - Joint Pain
  - Neurological signs or symptoms
  - Neuropsychological signs or symptoms
  - Signs or symptoms involving the respiratory system (Upper or Lower)
  - Sleep disturbances
  - Gastrointestinal signs or symptoms
  - Cardiovascular signs or symptoms
  - Abnormal weight loss
  - Menstrual disorder

### II. COMPENSATION BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO VIETNAM VETERANS BASED ON AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE

Veterans who served in Vietnam between 01/09/62 – 05/07/75 are considered as having been exposed to Agent Orange. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides presumptive disability compensation to Vietnam veterans who are diagnosed with the following conditions based on this exposure:

1. Type II Diabetes
2. Prostate Cancer
3. Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
4. Respiratory Cancers of the lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea
5. Hodgkin's Disease
6. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
7. Multiple Myeloma
8. Porphyria Cutanea Tarda (Manifest within one year)
9. Acute & subacute peripheral neuropathy (Manifest within one year)
10. Chloracne (Manifest within one year)
11. Soft Tissue Sarcoma (Other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE IN FILING A CLAIM, CONTACT THE COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICES – NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS ARE LISTED ON PAGE 15.

### VA TO ENROLL ALL VETERANS UNDER HEALTH PLAN

Washington, D.C. -- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will enroll all veterans who apply for VA health care. This initiative was started in fiscal year 1999.

The enrollment program, part of the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act, allows veterans to receive health care at VA medical facilities nationwide.

“It is our desire to serve as many veterans as possible under this new law, and we’ve made it easier than ever before for veterans to obtain health care benefits,” said Dr. Kenneth W. Kizer, VA Undersecretary for Health. “For the first time, enrolled veterans will have access to the full range of services they need, not just those medical needs resulting from military service.”

Under the Act’s reforms, VA offers an expanded array of health care services, such as preventive care and outpatient services, in addition to eliminating many prior restrictions and confusion. Veterans can apply for enrollment in the program using quick and easy application form that is available at any VA medical or benefits facility.

All veterans, except those who fall into certain categories, need to apply for enrollment to receive VA health care benefits. Those who are not required to be enrolled include:

- Veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more;
- Veterans seeking care for a service-connected disability; and
- Veterans discharged from military service for less than one year for a disability that was determined to have incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, but that VA has not yet rated.

While not required to apply for enrollment, these exempted veterans are still encouraged to apply, so VA can plan more effectively to meet veterans’ health care needs. Veterans, who have received VA health care since January 1, 1996, will have an application for enrollment automatically processed on their behalf. There is no deadline for applying for enrollment. For further information, call your local County Veteran Service Officer (phone number is on page 15) or call VA-toll free at 1-800-827-1000.

## **WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS (WDVA) BENEFITS**

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

(The following information has been obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Veteran’s Affairs website.)

To qualify for most Wisconsin state veterans’ benefits, programs, or services, a veteran must first establish general eligibility for Wisconsin state veterans’ benefits. Eligibility criteria for Wisconsin state veterans’ benefits, programs, and services, including exceptions to minimum military service requirements, are set in state law (Wis. Stats. Ch. 45). General eligibility consists of two broad requirements:

1. Military service (Character; Type; Duration), and
2. Wisconsin state residency

## A. QUALIFYING SERVICE

In order to fulfill the military active duty service requirements for most Wisconsin state veterans' benefits, programs and services, a veteran must have served for **two (2) continuous years of "active duty"** as defined above.

Benefits and services with special military service requirements are listed under "Eligibility requirements for special benefits and services."

*Exceptions* to the two-year "active duty" requirement are as follows. A veteran need only satisfy one of the following in order to meet general state eligibility requirements for military service:

- **Short Initial Service Term.** Veterans who have completed their full initial "active duty" service obligation that was less than two years-regardless of when they served.
- **90 Days "active duty" Service During a Statutorily-Designated Wartime Period.** Veterans who accumulate 90 days or more of "active duty" service (other than for training) during one of the statutorily-designated Wartime Periods:
  - **World War I**, between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918. Extended to April 1, 1920, if service was in the Soviet Union, or
  - **World War II**, between August 27, 1940, and July 25, 1947, or
  - **Korean War**, between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955, or
  - **Vietnam War**, between August 5, 1964, and January 1, 1977, or
  - **Persian Gulf War**, between August 1, 1990 and [an ending date yet to be established], or
  - **Afghanistan War**, between September 11, 2001, and [an ending date yet to be established], or
  - **Iraq War**, between March 19, 2003, and [an ending date yet to be established].
- **Expeditionary Medal.** Veterans who received, or are qualified to receive, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (established by executive order 10977 on December 4, 1961), the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or equivalent expeditionary or service medal.
- **Other periods of eligible active duty service:**
  - **Berlin Crisis Service.** For members of the Reserve or National Guard who were called to "active duty" under Section 1 of Executive Order 10957 dated August 10, 1961 and served at least 90 days on "active duty", or if having served less than 90 days was honorably discharged for a service-connected disability or for a disability subsequently adjudicated to have been service-connected or died in service.
  - **Vietnam Service.** Veterans who received, or are qualified to receive the Vietnam Service Medal (established by executive order 11231 on July 8, 1965).
  - **Lebanon Service.** Veterans who served at least one day of "active duty" in Lebanon between August 1, 1982, and August 1, 1984.
  - **Grenada Service.** Veterans who served at least one day of "active duty" in Grenada between October 23, 1983, and November 21, 1983.
  - **Middle East Crisis: Iran Hostage Crisis.** Veterans who were awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal for the attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran; OR who were held hostage in Iran AND awarded the Valor Ribbon.
  - **Middle East Crisis: Libya.** Veterans who participated in military action against Libya on April 14, 1986.
  - **Middle East Crisis: USS Stark.** Veterans who served on the USS Stark on May 17, 1987.

- **Panama Service.** Veterans who served at least one day of “active duty” in Panama between December 20, 1989, and January 31, 1990.
- **Gulf War Service.** Veterans who served at least one (1) day of “active duty” in support of Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert Storm may be eligible if the veteran served:
  - In the Middle East or in adjacent territorial or international waters, and
  - In support of Desert Shield or Desert Storm under an active-duty order, unit assignment order, or an involuntary extension of an active-duty order, and
  - Between August 1, 1990 and [an ending date yet to be established].
- **Somalia Service.** Veterans who served at least one day of “active duty” in Somalia or in territorial waters adjacent to Somalia between December 9, 1992, and [an ending date yet to be established].
- **Bosnia Service.** Veterans who served at least 90 days in Bosnia or other statutorily designated areas between December 1, 1995, and [an ending date yet to be established].
- **Operation Enduring Freedom Service.** Veterans who served for 90 days or more in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or an operation that is a successor to Operation Enduring Freedom or served in the theater of operations:
  - Under an active duty order, a unit assignment order, or an involuntary extension of an “active duty” order, and
  - Were discharged under honorable conditions, and
  - Whose service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom was between September 11, 2001 and [an ending date yet to be established].
- **Qualifying Early Discharge.** Veterans who were discharged from “active duty” due to:
  - A service-connected disability (or during a wartime period, a disability subsequently adjudicated to have been service-connected), or
  - Hardship, or
  - A reduction of forces (RIF).
- **Death in Service.** A servicemember on “active duty” (including federal military “active duty” service under Title 10 U.S. Code by members of the Reserve or National Guard) who is killed in action or who otherwise dies while on “active duty” is considered to have satisfied the military service requirements for eligibility for Wisconsin state veterans benefits, programs, and services for themselves and any eligible dependents.

### Wisconsin Residency for Eligibility

In general, to be eligible for Wisconsin state veterans’ benefits, programs, and services, a veteran must meet at least one of the following:

- Wisconsin Resident before Entering “Active Duty”. Was a resident of Wisconsin at the time of entry or reentry into active duty; or, his or her selective service local board, if any, and home of record at the time of entry or reentry into active service as shown on the veteran's report of separation from the U.S. armed forces for a qualifying period were in Wisconsin, or
- Moved to Wisconsin. Has been a resident of this state for any consecutive 12-month period after entry or reentry into service and before the date of his or her application or death. (This does not apply to the Wisconsin G.I.Bill described below.)

If the person had more than one qualifying term of service, at least one term of service must have met the residency requirements for the purpose of establishing eligibility.

Veterans who are otherwise eligible and who are serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces need not be living in this state on the date of application in order to qualify for state veterans' benefits, programs, or services.

### **Wisconsin Residency to Receive Benefits or Services**

In addition to meeting state residency requirements for eligibility for state veterans' benefits, programs, or services, a veteran must be a resident of and living in Wisconsin when making application, or be deceased.

Members of the military serving on "active duty" need not be living in Wisconsin at the time of application if they have retained their Wisconsin residency for income tax purposes, with the exception of the Personal Loan Program. All applicants for the Personal Loan Program must be a resident of and living in Wisconsin, regardless of current military duty status.

## **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

### **The Wisconsin G.I. Bill**

Effective with the Fall 2005 semester, the Wisconsin G.I. Bill provided a waiver ("remission") of tuition for eligible veterans and their dependents for up to 8 full-time semesters or 128 credits, whichever is the greater of the two, at any University of Wisconsin System or Wisconsin Technical College System institution. Effective Fall 2007, qualifying veterans received a 100% remission. **NOTE: Currently, there is a budget proposal that would require veterans eligible for Post 9/11 to use that benefit first. If a veteran does not qualify for the full 100% of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the Wisconsin GI Bill would cover the remainder of the tuition at the school. At this time, the budget has not been approved. You can check its status at "gibill.wisconsin.edu".**

A 100% remission is provided to the qualifying unremarried surviving spouse and children of a veteran who died in the line of duty, and to the spouse and children of a veteran with substantial service-connected disabilities (combined VA service-connected disability rating of 30% or greater). For qualifying spouses, the benefit must be used within 10 years of the date of death or the initial disability rating of 30% or greater. For qualifying children, the benefit is available from ages 18 through 25. For the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, the veteran must have entered service as a Wisconsin resident. The benefit recipient must reside in Wisconsin.

For additional information, eligibility criteria, instructions on how to apply for the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, and statutory citations for the program, see the WDVA B0105 information and application booklet.

### **Veterans Education (VetEd) Reimbursement Grant**

The Veterans Education (VetEd) grant program provides a reimbursement grant based on a credit-bank system that is based on length of active duty military service to eligible veterans who have not yet been awarded a bachelor's degree for the reimbursement of tuition and fees following successful course completion at an eligible UW, technical college, or approved private institution of higher learning.

Veterans may concurrently receive Chapter 30 Montgomery G.I. Bill (VA) benefits and VetEd for the same semester. However, individuals eligible for Wisconsin G.I. Bill benefits must apply for, and use those benefits before using the VetEd reimbursement. VetEd reimbursement will be reduced to the extent that tuition and fees have already been paid by other grants, scholarships, and remissions provided for the payment of tuition and fees. If receiving the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, you will not be able to use the VetEd reimbursement grant or the National Guard reimbursement grant with that benefit, beginning Fall 2007.

## 1. How to Apply

You can apply on-line (see paragraph below) for the Veterans Education (VetEd) Reimbursement Grant or through the County Veterans Offices. You are advised to apply for this benefit before the end of the semester/term. Currently, a pre-application must be completed 180 days after the starting date of the term.

The WDVA has an on-line application for the Veterans Education (VetEd) Reimbursement Grant. The on-line application will expedite the processing time for grant awards. Veterans who have not established eligibility for WDVA benefits must still see their County Veterans Service Officer to establish their eligibility before making an education grant application. Veterans may go to the County Veterans Services Office and submit the on-line application there; they may go to the School Veterans Officer/Coordinator and apply there; or they may go on-line and complete an application by themselves. Please note that veterans must still provide a copy of their previous year's Federal Income Tax form for income verification. Veterans may send the tax form directly to WDVA or have their County Veterans Service Office send it in for them.

To start the application process themselves, veterans should go to <https://services.dva.state.wi.us/veteran> and fill out the registration information. They will then receive an e-mail from WDVA giving them a password to access the on-line application.

Veterans should then complete the appropriate information and submit the application, which will automatically be e-mailed to the School Veterans Official/Coordinator for their input. Once that information has been completed, the School Veterans Official/Coordinator will submit it to WDVA. When the application is received at WDVA, it is checked to verify eligibility and then processed by the Grants Section. If additional information is required, the veteran or the school, as appropriate, will be sent an e-mail requesting that information. Once all the required information is completed the application is processed for payment.

Restrictions: Reimbursement will only be made for courses which are part of the required curriculum for a particular degree, diploma or certificate, which the veteran identifies on the application as his or her educational objective. Elective courses may be acceptable provided the credits are needed for the degree, diploma or certificate and a school official so certifies. Beginning Fall 2005, graduate study will not be allowed for this grant.

Fees: Reimbursement for fees shall be limited to those fees which are mandatory and uniform for the courses in which the veteran was enrolled and which were paid by the veteran to the qualifying school.

Non Duplication: Veterans eligible for the National Guard Tuition Grant (NGTG) or Reserve Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) are not eligible for VetEd. A veteran's eligibility for either of these other grants is the criterion for VetEd eligibility, not whether the veteran has applied for either.

Montgomery G.I. Bill and Wisconsin G.I. Bill: Veterans may currently receive Chapter 30 Montgomery G.I. Bill (VA) benefits and VetEd for the same semester. Individuals eligible for Wisconsin G.I. Bill benefits must apply for, and use those benefits in order to be eligible for VetEd reimbursement. VetEd reimbursement will be reduced to the extent that tuition and fees have already been paid by other grants, scholarships, and remissions provided for the payment of tuition and fees.

Satisfactory Completion: Reimbursement will only be made for semesters which are "satisfactorily completed" as certified by the representative of the institution, center or school. "Satisfactory completion of a semester" will be achieved when the veteran passes at least half (based on the number of credits) of courses which are completed. If the semester is satisfactorily completed, reimbursement will be made for 100% of the total completed, not just for the courses the veteran passes. If the semester is not satisfactorily completed, no reimbursement will be made.

**Credit/Semester Limitations:** Veterans may receive grants for up to eight full-time semesters based on their eligibility on the chart below.

**Time Restrictions:** Veterans may use VetEd for full-time or part-time study up to their 10-year anniversary of leaving active duty (delimiting date). Once a veteran reaches their 10-year delimiting date the veteran may “bank” a maximum of 60 unused credits for part-time study. WDVA will track your remaining semesters or credits

| Active Duty Military Service | Credit Bank Credits/Full-time Semester |
|------------------------------|--|
| 0-89 days                    | no eligibility (same as current law)   |
| 90-180 days                  | 30 credits or 2 semesters              |
| 181-730 days (2 years)       | 60 credits or 4 semesters              |
| 731+ days (+2 years)         | 120 credits or 8 semesters             |

## QUALIFICATION

**Schools:** All University of Wisconsin System institutions or centers, all Wisconsin Technical College System schools and all private schools (VetEd Grant only) that meet the requirements.

**Income Limit:** The annual income of the veteran and his or her spouse may not exceed the Part-Time Study Grant income limit (s.45.396 (7)(a), Stats.), which is currently \$50,000 plus \$1,000 for each dependent in excess of two dependents.

**How to Apply:** Veterans may apply for VetEd through their County Veterans Service Officer, apply online, or download an application, WDVA 2200.

**Payment Processing Time:** Once final grades are turned in and the School Veterans Official has reviewed and submitted the application to WDVA, checks are normally issued within 5-10 business days - *if the application is complete.*

At the end of semesters, processing times may be longer due to a heavy volume of grants. You can minimize delays by providing a complete application. Items that are often not included are: current address, a source of income verification (e.g., current income tax form) or other acceptable documents, and other financial aid documentation.

If payment is not received on an approved grant after ten business days you can contact the WDVA accounting department to determine your check's status at: 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387).

**WARNING:** *The WDVA receives a statewide support lien docket listing all individuals who have a delinquent child-support obligation in Wisconsin. According to state law, the WDVA may not approve a Veterans Education Grant for any applicant on the docket unless the applicant provides one of the following items:*

- *Provides a statement signed by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development or its designee showing that all delinquent obligations have been paid.*
- *A copy of a child-support repayment agreement that has been kept current for the six month period before the date the WDVA receives the application as long as no lien exists.*

## 1. **WDVA Retraining Grant (RTG): Financial Assistance for Recently Unemployed or Underemployed Veterans**

**What is it?** It is a grant to a recently unemployed (or underemployed) Veteran who demonstrates financial need while being retrained for employment. This is a grant, not a loan, and does not have to be repaid.

**What does recently unemployed mean?** The applicant must have become unemployed within the year prior to the date the application is received at the Wisconsin Dept of Vet Affairs (WDVA) or have received a notice of termination of employment.

**How much is available?** Up to \$3000 per year, for a maximum of 2 years. The amount is based on financial need while being retrained for employment.

Other limitations: Veterans are prohibited from receiving the RTG if they receive the VetEd grant during the same semester. To apply, contact the County Veterans Service Office in your county. Addresses and phone numbers are listed below for our counties.

## 2. **WDVA Personal Loan Program**

Up to \$15,000 at an annual percentage rate varying from 5 to 6 percent, depending on the type of security. This loan can be used for 1) Debt consolidation; 2) Business related expenses; and, 3) Education expenses of veteran or dependents.

## 5. **WDVA Primary Home Loan and Home Improvement Loans**

Please consult your local County Veteran Service Office personnel for specific information regarding these loans. See page 17 for the Federal Home Loan Program.

### **County Veteran Service Offices: (CVSO)**

| Elkhorn  | Jefferson  | Rock   |
|--|--|--|
| County Veteran Service Office<br>County Courthouse<br>P.O. Box 1001<br>100 W Walworth<br>Elkhorn, WI 53121<br>Phone: (262)741-4222<br>E-Mail:<br>cjordan@co.walworth.wi.us | County Veteran Service Office<br>County Courthouse<br>320 S Main St<br>Jefferson, WI 53549<br>Phone: (920)674-7240<br>E-mail:<br>yvoned@co.jefferson.wi.us | County Veteran Service<br>Office<br>County Courthouse<br>51 S. Main<br>Janesville, WI 53545<br>Phone: (608)757-5552<br>E-mail:<br>rockcvso@co.rock.wi.us |

### **WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS TUITION GRANT PROGRAM**

Former Governor Tommy Thompson signed into law a 100% state tuition reimbursement program for all Wisconsin National Guard (air and army) members. Active Wisconsin Guard members can work toward post-high school education and receive 100% of the tuition costs back from the State of Wisconsin. Guard members are eligible for the tuition grant for up to eight semesters of post-high school schoolwork, which includes technical college and undergraduate degrees, and other advanced degrees. Payment is capped according to the costs of UW Madison courses. (Please note the reimbursement does not cover any fees.)

To apply for the National Guard Tuition Grant, members can pick up the application packet from their unit or from our office or access it on-line through the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) website. The service member should fill out the top portion of the form and turn it in to the school's Veterans Affairs Office. The form will then be completed and mailed to the Department of Military Affairs for verification of eligibility after grades have been processed for the term. After verification by DMA, the form will be sent to Budget and Finance for payment to the service member at the address in part one.

To receive the benefit of this program, members must apply for the grant within 90 days of completion of the course. Also, the student must earn at least a "C" average (2.0 gpa) for each semester that is claimed.

### **UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN WHITEWATER ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY**

Refer to the latest University catalog (2008-2010) for the requirements needed in order to remain in Good Academic Standing and to maintain academic progression.

Student veterans who do not maintain good standing and are academically dismissed will be reported to the VA, as required by Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21.4253. Student veterans can return to the University after serving their suspension, if readmitted by the Admissions Office.

### **OTHER VA RULES**

Because there are so many ways of receiving VA educational benefits (Chapter 30, Chapter 31 - Voc-Rehab, Chapter 32, Chapter 33 – Post 9/11, VEAP, Chapter 35 -Dependents, Chapter 1606 – Reservists, and Chapter 1607 (REAP)), it is a good idea to be aware of the rules governing the use of GI Bill Benefits.

The VA initiated the following rules to reduce the risk of entitlement abuses. The restrictions are as follows:

1. A provision regarding course withdrawals requires that mitigating circumstances be automatically considered to exist in the first instance of withdrawal from courses totaling not more than 6 semester hours. *This is a one time only benefit.* This means that the VA will allow you to drop credits (1 to 6 credits) with no questions asked.
2. The VA will require repayment of benefits after the one time only drop benefit has been used. Therefore, dropping credits that could affect your benefit load or withdrawing from school should be carefully considered. (An exception to this would be if called to active duty.)
3. If a vet receives a nonpunitive grade (a grade that does not get averaged into the G.P.A.--grade point average--i.e., "W" withdrawal) that affects the benefit rate, they must submit mitigating circumstances to the VA in order to avoid repayment of funds. A punitive grade of "D" or "F" is still considered earned credit and entitlement is not affected.
4. The VA allows a year to make up an incomplete grade; however, please be aware that your instructors set the time limits on incompletes earned at UW Whitewater.
5. The VA requires that vets attend their classes. Therefore, if the Veterans Office is notified you are not attending classes, we are required to report that to the VA and they will require repayment of benefits awarded.

In all of the above cases, the VA will reduce benefits retroactively to the beginning of a semester if mitigating circumstances are not substantiated.

Another important element of VA rules is the School's Standards of Progress that appears in the previous article.

GI benefits are a right, but the VA governs how a student uses them. Students with questions should see the veteran's coordinator on his/her campus.

## **WAVE / TELEPHONE VERIFICATION**

**MONTHLY CERTIFICATION:** Don't forget to complete your monthly certification process by calling (toll free) 1-877-823-2378 or logging on to <http://www.gibill.va.gov> and following the link to the WAVE program. Your first call should be made after you get the award letter from the VA. This must be done in order for your next check to be released.

## **SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT V.A. EDUCATION BENEFITS**

1. V.A. education benefits are **not** taxable.
2. Payments are prorated for the actual period (to the day) that you are enrolled. (Example: Start classes January 20--your January check will be for 12 days, not the full monthly rate.)
3. It normally takes three-six weeks for any changes in course work, dependent status, or address change to be reflected in your benefits check.
4. Attendance only will **not** qualify you for veteran benefits. A veteran must be doing satisfactory work in all classes in order to receive benefits.
6. Students in their last semester **before graduation** can add elective credits to their credit load to become eligible for a higher benefit rate. (Example: A student who needs only six credits to graduate in May of 2009 may add six additional credits to become eligible for full-time V.A. benefits.)
7. Vets may call toll-free (1-800-827-1000) to the Milwaukee V.A. Regional Office if they have general questions concerning VA benefits. Call 1-888-442-4551 for questions regarding VA educational benefits.
8. Courses offered via the radio **are not** approved for VA educational benefits; however, TV/Cable, most off-campus and Internet courses are approved.
9. With the exception of an advance pay, the payment received on the first of the month is payment for the **previous** month. (Example: April 1 check is for March 1-31.)
10. If a student training under Chapter 30 (Active Duty Veteran) starts the term with at least one (1) day of entitlement left, he/she will normally be paid to the end of the term.
11. If a student is eligible for more than one VA Education Program (i.e. Chapter 30, 1606, 1607) he/she can use only one chapter at a time; the total number of months cannot exceed 48.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR NEW AND PROSPECTIVE VETS**

### **CHANGES**

Ordinarily, a veteran can change program objectives (majors) one time with no questions asked; a second change of program requires V.A. counseling and/or other substantiating materials. See a vet counselor for the law on program changes.

The VA also has forms for changes in dependency status, credit load, or majors. These documents, in most cases, must be sent to the VA Office in St. Louis. Changes to address or direct deposit should be made directly through the VA. Call their toll-free number (1-888-442-4551) to initiate those requests. It is also important that you notify the veteran's coordinator on campus on these changes or a hold may be placed on your record until the proper paperwork is completed.

### **ADDRESS / NAME CHANGE**

It is important to inform Student Services if you change your name, address, or phone number. You should fill out a "Student Data Change Form" available at that office. It is necessary for the school to have current information in case of illness, an emergency, mailing grade reports and other official correspondence. Out-of-town students must decide which address they want on file. Address changes should be reported directly to VA at (1-888-442-4551).

### **ACADEMIC OR OTHER HELP**

If you are having academic or other problems, please contact your vet counselor or advisor for assistance. Don't wait until the end of the semester when it may be too late.

**FOR APPROVED PROGRAMS AT UW WHITEWATER  
SEE THE SCHOOL VA REPRESENTATIVE  
(OR YOUR COUNTY OR REGIONAL VA REPRESENTATIVE IF YOU ARE CHAPTER 31)**

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **Tutoring Center**

If you are smart enough to know when you need help, then this is the place for you! The tutoring service is designed to give individualized attention to students who are experiencing difficulty in specific course work. It offers additional help on a one-to-one basis to enable you to better understand the topics presented in class.

Various study skills workshops are conducted throughout the semester. For a list of services offered at the tutorial center you can call **262-472-1230**. All tutoring and study skill services are offered at no cost to you!

The Tutoring Center is located in the Basement of McCutchan Hall.

## **Career Planning & Counseling EMPLOYMENT**

STUDENTS! Are you aware of UW Whitewater's Career Services Center? The Career Services Center exists to help you, as a UW Whitewater student, to find full-time and part-time employment. If you will be graduating, now is the time to start thinking about employment in the future. If you are not currently registered with the Career Services, and are going to be seeking employment, it is in your best interest to get registered with the Career Services Center as soon as possible. This can be done by calling the Career Services at 262-472-1471.

If you are unsure of your career goals, help is available from a career counselor. The career counseling process stresses personal assessment of interests, abilities, and experience through interest inventories, value clarification, and goal setting. Information about educational and training opportunities, including UW Whitewater programs and support services, is provided. Group career counseling situations, utilizing a workshop format, are regularly scheduled to provide career exploration and job seeking assistance including resume preparation and interviewing skills. Information about these services is available from Student Services.

### **Working and Going to School**

It may be necessary for you to work part-time in order to finance your education. It is an exceptional student who can hold a full-time job and also satisfactorily carry a full schedule at school. A maximum of 20 hours per week is recommended for students enrolled for a full-time program. (This does not include weekends.) UW Whitewater's work-study program only allows 20 hours maximum per week. For assistance with part-time, full-time or summer work, contact the Career Services counselor at your campus Student Services office.

### **Financial Aid**

These are three major types of aid available to UW-Whitewater students. They include:

1. Student loans (must be repaid)
2. Grants (do not have to be repaid)
3. Work-study (student employment on an hourly basis)

Information about the specific types of loans and grants available may be obtained from the Financial Aid Office. You are urged to consult with the staff since financial aids information is subject to change at any time due to changes in federal, state or sponsoring agency regulations.

### **VA Work-Study Program**

Students receiving VA educational benefits under Chapters 30, 31, 32, 35, 1606 or 1607 are eligible to apply for the VA work-study program. Students must be attending school at the 3/4-time or greater rate. Students are assigned to work sites that perform VA related activities. Work site examples are: the School Certifying Office, the County Veterans Office or VA Medical Centers. Pay is based on the Federal or State minimum wage, whichever is higher. Students should contact the work site to check on job openings and to apply for the program.

### V.A. (FEDERAL) HOME LOAN PROGRAM

If you are thinking of buying a home in the near future, you should look into the V.A. Home Loan Guaranty Benefit.

The advantages of using this type of loan over a commercial home loan in general are:

1. No down payment is required (if lender agrees)
2. Negotiated with lender
3. No escalator clause
4. No prepayment penalty
5. Loan can be made for a maximum of 30 years and 32 days

The first step in obtaining this type of home loan is to get a Certificate of Eligibility. You may get an application for the Certificate of Eligibility and more information on this benefit from the Veteran Service office in your county.

### VA- OUTPATIENT CLINICS

**Beaver Dam Outpatient Clinic:** is located at 15 Corporate Drive, Beaver Dam WI 53916. Phone: 920-356-9415. It is part of the William S Middleton VAMC. Their hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

**Janesville Outpatient Clinic:** is open for area veterans. It is located at 2419 Morse Street, Janesville WI 53545. Phone: 608-758-9300. It is part of the William S Middleton VAMC. Their hours of operation are Monday – Friday 7:30am – 4:30pm.

**Kenosha VA Clinic:** is open for area veterans. It is located at 800 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Kenosha WI 53140-3773. Phone: 262-653-9286. It is part of the VA Great Lakes Health Care System. Their hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 8:30am to 4:40pm and Friday 8:00 to Noon. The first step is to complete an application for health care benefits form. After the application has been received you will be given an appointment to see your health care provider. You will need a copy of your DD214 (Discharge paper) and private insurance information, if any, at the time of your first appointment.

**Union Grove Community Based Outpatient Clinic:** IS located at 21425 Spring Street, Union Grove WI 53182 (Wallace Hall). Please call first before visiting the clinic. The phone number is 262-787-7820.

### VETS PLACE SOUTHERN CENTER

Vets Place provides transitional living for homeless veterans. It provides a safe and secure environment in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Room and Board is provided at no cost to the veteran. Veterans can make an appointment for program eligibility and participation by calling 262-878-9151. Vets Place is located at 21425 Spring Street, Cottage # 1, Union Grove WI 53182-0427.

### QUESTIONS?

**FOR CHECK PROBLEMS CALL VA FIRST  
TOLL-FREE (1-888-442-4551)**

If you have more questions, please call or see us:

Janice Nordin  
Veterans Coordinator  
Registrar's Office  
Whitewater, WI 53190

Phone: 262-472-1580  
Fax: 262-472-1370  
Email: nordinj@uww.edu

## KEY POINTS – FEDERAL GI BILL

- ✓ It takes a minimum 4-6 weeks to set up a new claim
- ✓ Need to fill out Veterans Information Sheet each year/semester to continue receiving benefits
- ✓ The VA post-pays (September's check comes in October, etc)
- ✓ Ch 30, Ch 1606, & Ch 1607 (REAP) need to verify enrollment each month, at end of month, before check will be released (toll-free number on bulletin board; or WAVE - VA website)
- ✓ VA will pay for repeats of 'F' grades, not repeats of 'D' grades (there can be exceptions if the catalog states the course requires a 'C' to progress – i.e., math)
- ✓ VA will pay for S/NC if the student earns the 'S'. If the student earns 'NC', we must notify the VA and they will require repayment back to beginning of term, if it affects the benefit rate
- ✓ VA requires that we monitor attendance, as best possible. If we learn of non-attendance, we must notify VA. Again, they will ask for repayment, back to beginning of term
- ✓ Short courses can affect benefit rate, if student is around the 12-13 credit mark. The VA only pays when courses are in session; when the course is not in session, the VA will not pay for it. If a student is at the 12-13 credits range and has a course that is a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week course, it could affect their full-time standing. Most often, this affects PE majors, graduate business students, and students in summer courses; however, there are other courses that can affect it.
- ✓ Ch 30, Ch 1606, & Ch 1607 are eligible for waiver of PEGNRL 192, Personal Health & Fitness. You need to submit a copy of your DD214 to the Admissions Office to get credits for basic training
- ✓ If receiving a 'kicker', we need a copy of the contract to submit along with application
- ✓ If changing majors, need to fill out the 22-1995 (5495), Change of Program to continue receiving benefits.
- ✓ For Ch 30's, if Wisconsin veteran – entered service from WI and returned to WI, you may be eligible for Wisconsin benefits in addition to federal benefits. (Ch 1606's could become eligible if they had been called to active duty under specific circumstances). The application must be completed by end of term. The WI GI Bill applications needs to be submitted during the first 2 weeks of the term.
- ✓ Ch 1606's, if you are Guard, are you submitting NG reimbursement grant? The application must be turned into our office by end of term. Student is reimbursed on tuition only after the term is over and grades have been posted. Student gets reimbursed only on the classes they successfully complete and only if they have a 2.0 semester GPA

**FEDERAL VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS AT A GLANCE**  
**-Administered Through U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs-**

| TITLE/CHAPTER  | BASIC ELIGIBILITY   | MONTHS OF ENLISTMENT  | MONTHLY BENEFIT AMOUNT (Note: 1)   | TIME LIMIT  |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Active Duty Educational Assistance Program "Montgomery G.I. Bill" (Chapter 30) (Note 2) | a) Service after 6-30-85<br>b) Serves 2- 3 years of continuous Active duty<br>c) Has GED of High School Diploma or the equivalent of 12 semester credits leading to a college degree<br>d) Contributes \$100/mth for first 12 mths of service | Accrues at the rate of 1 month for each month of Active Duty up to a maximum of 36 months of full-time training   | Basic entitlement is \$1321.00/mth for Full Time.<br>\$1073.00/mth if Active Duty was less than 3 years. Some vets are eligible for supplements  | 10 years and one day from date of release from Active Duty  |
| 2. Educational Assistance Program for Service Connected (Disabled) Veterans (Chapter 31)   | Vet needs a minimum of 10% service connected disability to apply  | As many as 48 months of entitlement   | Full - \$541.05<br>¾ - \$406.53<br>½ - \$272.02<br>More with Dependents plus tuition, fees, books and supplies are paid for by the V.A.  | Usually 12 years from date of disability  |
| 3. Veterans Education Assistance Program VEAP (Chapter 32)                                 | A voluntary contributory program for persons in service from 1-1-77 to 6-30-85  | Depends on number of months Vet contributed. Minimum participation 12 mths  | Amount Vet contributed per month multiplied by 3, if full time   | 10 years from date of discharge   |
| 4. The Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Chapter 33)                  | a) minimum 90 days of service after 9-10-01<br>b) Combines all active duty service<br>c) see VA website for further qualifying service<br>d) qualifying service percentages range from 40% to 100% coverage                                   | At least 90 aggregate days after 9/10/01 or honorably discharged. May be eligible if honorably discharged after 30 days due to service connected disability. May receive up to 48 months combined with prior benefit. | Tuition & fees, not to exceed most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at public school. Monthly housing allowance equal to E-5 BAH with dependents. (not for strictly on-line courses). Yearly book and supply stipend up to \$1000/school year. | 15 years from last date of active duty. (Could be extended with multiple enlistments/deployments).  |
| 5. Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (Chapter 35)                            | For spouses and children of 100% service connected disabled Vets or spouses/children of Veterans who died in service  | Maximum if 45 mths of Full Time training  | Full - \$915.00<br>¾ - \$686.00<br>½ - \$456.00<br>No additional amounts for dependents of payee   | For spouses 10 years from the date of Veterans 100% disability or death. Dependents have 8 years from date of 100% rating or death – not to exceed age 31 |
| 6. Selected Reserve/Guard Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1606) (Note 3)           | Enlists or re-enlists<br>a) For 6 or more years in the Selected Reserves after 7-1-85<br>b) Has GED or High School Diploma &<br>c) Completed Active Duty for training   | Maximum of 36 mths of Full-Time training or its equivalent in Part-Time training  | Full - \$329.00<br>¾ - \$246.00<br>½ - \$163.00<br>¼ - \$ 82.25<br>No additional amounts for dependents  | 14 years from date of eligibility dates after October 1, 1992   |

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| 7. Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607 - REAP) | A member of a Reserve component who serves on active duty on or after 9-11-01 under title 10, U.S.C. for at least 90 consecutive days under a contingency operation or a National Guard member who serves 90 consecutive days or more and is authorized under section 502(f), title 32, U.S.C. or other qualifier. | The number of months of entitlement under REAP is 36 months after serving the minimum 90 days. Can be extended to the 48-month limitation when combining two or more education programs. | See chart on page 2 | A member remains entitled to benefits under REAP only by continuing to serve in the Selected Reserve.<br>A member called from the IRR remains entitled for REAP by continuing to service in the Ready Reserve (either SELRES or IRR). See notes 4 & 5 |
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NOTE 1: The benefit amounts listed reflect rates for institutional training (i.e. colleges and universities) amounts vary for other types of training (i.e. apprenticeship, flight, etc.) Contact the VA (1-888-442-4551) or school Vet Office (UW-Whitewater 262-472-1211) for details.

NOTE 2: If you had remaining entitled under the Vietnam Era GI Bill on 31 DEC 89 and served some active duty during the period between 10 OCT 84 and 1 JULY 85 and continued on active duty to 30 JUNE 86 or 30 JUNE 87 (and enlisted in the Reserves for 4 years within 1 year of discharge) you will receive an additional amount equal to ½ of the Chapter 34 rate. See Vet counselor for details.

NOTE 3: If a reserve unit inactivated during the period of 1 OCT 91 through 30 SEPT 95, the Reserve members will continue to receive educational assistance under Chapter 1606.

NOTE 4: A member who is called-up from the Selected Reserve would not remain eligible for REAP if the member goes into the Individual Ready Reserve. The Selected Reserve member must remain in the Selected Reserve to maintain eligibility to maintain eligibility for REAP.

NOTE 5: There is no fixed time period for persons eligible under REAP to use this benefit. There is one exception: If a member is separated from the Ready Reserve for a disability which was not the result of the member's own willful misconduct, he or she is entitled to REAP benefits for 10 years after the date of eligibility.