



Veterans Affairs Benefits & Programs

with

Olayta Rigsby

Maryland Higher Education
Commission

GI Bill® of Rights

- The ORIGINAL GI Bill® of Rights (Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944) was implemented in response to the large number of WWII veterans who returned home from combat
- Paid for collegiate and vocational training, provided one year of unemployment insurance benefits, and also provided home, farm, and business loans to vets
- Ended in 1956 and has been revamped many times

"GI Bill®" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

GI Bill[®] Cont.

- Approximately 7.8 million WWII veterans took advantage of the original GI Bill[®] for education and/or training purposes (out of approximately 16 million)
- 2.4 utilized VA's guaranteed home loans
- Widely credited with creating the modern American middle class

Who is a beneficiary?



A Veteran

For the purposes of all statutes relating to rights, privileges, exemptions, and benefits (except a state bonus) of veterans and their orphans and other dependents, the term, veteran, means any person who:

- Has performed qualifying military service
- Has been separated or discharged from the armed forces honorably or under honorable conditions or has been released to any reserve component of the armed forces of the United States.

The Armed Forces

- **Department of Defense:** U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines
- **Department of Homeland Security:** U.S. Coast Guard

*Members of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps (NOAA) are also recognized (non-combat uniformed services)

An Eligible Dependent

- (1) The spouse of an individual
- (2) The individual's child or children
- (3) A stepchild

Other VA Educational Programs

- Montgomery GI Bill® – Active Duty (MGIB-AD; Chap. 30)
- Vocational/Rehabilitation (Chap. 31)
- Montgomery GI Bill® – Selected Reserve (MGIB- SR; Chap. 1606)

Post-9/11 GI Bill®

- Most generous version of the GI Bill® since the original 1944 GI Bill®; does not expire!
- Is the first GI Bill® since the original in which the VA pays tuition and fees directly to colleges or training institutions
- For veterans completely vested in the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, 100% of their tuition and fees--up to those of a public institution's highest in-state tuition – will be paid on their behalf
- Housing and book stipends may be provided

The School Certifying Official

- The most critical person or team at your facility with regard to administration of VA benefits
- This person reports all training to the VA (inclusive of credit hours, tuition & fees) as well as any changes in the student's schedule
- Serves as primary intermediary between student and VA and between institution and VA
- Updates school information with the VA (zip codes, academic and/or training programs, etc.)

Additional Links

- GI Bill Website: www.gibill.va.gov
- National Center for PTSD: www.ncptsd.va.gov
- Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs: veterans.maryland.gov
- Maryland National Guard: military.maryland.gov/ng/
- Comprehensive Veterans Resource (Federal): vets.gov
- Vet Center: www.vetcenter.va.gov
- Student Veterans of America: www.studentveterans.org.

Thank You!

Olayta Rigsby

Veterans Affairs Analyst

Maryland State Approving Agency

olayta.rigsby@maryland.gov

410-767-3301