

VETERANS!

At
Your Institution
of
Higher Learning

Who is a veteran?



A definition

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:

- ▣ (1) Has performed qualifying military service
- ▣ (2) 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)

VA Educational Benefits

- ▣ Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD; Chap. 30)
- ▣ Vocational/Rehabilitation (Chap. 31)
- ▣ Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR; Chap. 1606)
- ▣ Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP; Chap. 1607)

VA Benefits Cont.

- ▣ The veteran must pay into most of the programs previously listed
- ▣ In order to qualify for Voc-Rehab, the veteran must be declared at least 20% disabled by the Veterans Administration
- ▣ All of the benefits on the previous page pay student veterans based on their enrollment status

The 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

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
- ▣ In 1947, 49% of new college admissions were veterans!

Further Reading:

- ▣ When Dreams Came True: The GI Bill and the Making of Modern America, by Michael Bennet.
- ▣ Over Here: How the G.I. Bill Transformed the American Dream, by Edward Humes

The Post-9/11 GI Bill

- ▣ Most generous version of the GI Bill since the original 1944 GI Bill
- ▣ 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 the highest in-state public institution – will be paid on their behalf
- ▣ Housing and book stipends may be provided

Starting the benefit

- ▣ Utilizing the benefits is not an automatic process
- ▣ Veterans must apply to the VA in order to utilize their education benefits – this can be a time-consuming process
- ▣ Once they receive written approval from the VA, then they are free to use the benefits at an approved institution

Howard Community College Fall VA Enrollments

CHAPTER	2007	2008	2009	2010*
30 (Montgomery)	71	71	33	27
33 (Post-9/11)	*	*	118	226
35 (Surv. & Dep.)	10	11	13	16
1606 (Reservists)	8	10	11	16
1607 (Reservists)	4	5	1	0
Voc-Rehab	10	12	10	12
Totals	103	109	186	303*

Fall 2010 Demographics

	HEADCOUNT	%
Full-Time	115	38.0%
Part-Time	188	62.0%
Total	303	100%
Male	200	66.0%
Female	103	34.0%
Total	303	100%

Demographics (Cont.)

Financial Aid			
	Full-Time	37	47.4%
	Part-Time	41	52.6%
		78	100%
Day or Evening			
	Day	222	73.3%
	Full-Time	120	45.9%
	Part-Time	202	54.%
	Evening	81	26.7%
	Full-Time	13	16%
	Part-Time	68	84%

Enrollment by Credit Hour

Credit Hours	#	%
1 - 3	15	5%
4 - 6	22	7%
7 - 9	122	40%
10 - 11	29	10%
12 - 15	103	34%
16+	12	4%

A Closer Look

- ▣ Student veterans are non-traditional students in more ways than one; majority of HCC's student veterans are in their mid-to-late 20s
- ▣ They are not always easily identifiable; there isn't necessarily a "type"
- ▣ Are enrolled in virtually all academic programs; no great differences from the rest of the student body

Potential Complications

- ▣ Many have had significant breaks from a traditional academic environment
- ▣ Despite prolonged breaks from academia, some may have unreasonably high expectations about their ability to perform well in classes
- ▣ Anxiety about starting or returning to college
- ▣ Because active-duty military personnel often start families at younger ages, many vets are married and may have children

Transitioning

- ▣ The transition from active-duty service-member to student veteran differs from one student to the next. This process can be complicated by:
 - The length of time the veteran has been separated from active-duty prior to enrolling in classes
 - Whether or not the student has seen combat or other harsh duty
 - The extent to which the student can separate himself from the “military lifestyle”

In the Classroom

- ▣ Student veterans take their education very seriously as they have made sacrifices to earn their VA educational benefits
- ▣ Student vets cite “13th graders” was one of the biggest in-class obstacles
- ▣ Have issues with instructors who use the classroom to champion their personal socio-political ideals
- ▣ Don't like to be patronized and don't like immature questions about combat

On campus

- ▣ The levels at which veterans integrate themselves on campus varies from one student to the next
- ▣ Post-9/11 GI Bill has created the opportunity for more vets to pursue education on a full-time basis, and some vets have become very visible and active in student organizations
- ▣ Other vets keep lower profiles; may be enrolled part-time for a variety of reasons

Camaraderie

- ▣ Many veterans DO seek out each other and appreciate each other's company; in a place where it's often difficult to find people to relate to their experiences, they are glad to know that there ARE people that CAN relate

HCC's Student Veterans Organization (a chapter of the Student Veterans of America) became active during the fall 2009 semester

Student Veterans of America

www.studentveterans.org

- ▣ Develop student veteran groups on college and university campuses and coordinate by region between existing groups.
- ▣ Connect student groups with resources.
- ▣ Advocate on behalf of student veterans at the state and national level.

Help for Veterans

- ▣ There are resources for student veterans who demonstrate the need for counseling services: refer them to our counseling services
- ▣ Vet Center: www.vetcenter.va.gov

Useful links

- ▣ GI Bill Website: www.gibill.va.gov
- ▣ National Center for PTSD: www.ncptsd.va.gov
- ▣ Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs:
<http://www.mdva.state.md.us/>
- ▣ Columbia Workforce:
<http://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/veteranservices.shtml>

Military Tuition Assistance

- ▣ Tuition Assistance is an umbrella term for a federal benefit available to active duty military personnel, some reservists, and members of the National Guard (aka “TA”)
- ▣ State benefits may include tuition discounts (as in Maryland) or whatever policy a given state wishes to implement.

MyCAA

The MyCAA (My Career Advancement Account) was created by the Department of Defense as an education benefit for spouses of active-duty military during spring/summer 2009, and it initially provided a benefit of up \$6,000 in tuition lifetime for the spouse.

The program was temporarily suspended during the winter of 2010. It was resumed a short while later.

The NEW MyCAA!

MyCAA was revamped prior to the start of the current academic year. The revamp reduced the lifetime tuition benefit to **\$4,000**. Rather than being available to all spouses, the benefit is available to the spouses of **junior level** enlisted personnel (E-1 through E-5), officers (O1 and O2), and warrant officers (W1 and W2).

New participants were able to enroll in the program as of late October.

Thank You!

Olayta Rigsby –Veterans Affairs Coordinator
Howard Community College

origsby@howardcc.edu

443-518-4514