What is the Forever GI Bill?

Since 1944, the GI Bill® has represented this nation’s commitment to Veterans. Last August, Congress added 34 provisions to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These provisions make up the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, or the “Forever GI Bill.”

The **Forever GI Bill expands and enhances Veterans’ education benefits.**

The updates in this law benefit both Veterans and their families, updating the benefits they have earned.
How Long Will My Post-9/11 GI Bill® Benefits Last?

The key date is January 1, 2013

If any of the following apply to you on or after January 1, 2013, your GI Bill benefits do not have a time limit:

- You left active duty;
- You are a child who became eligible for a Fry Scholarship; or,
- You are a spouse who received a transfer of entitlement (TOE).

If any of the following apply to you before January 1, 2013, your GI Bill benefits last for 15 years after your release from service:

- You left active duty;
- You are a child who became eligible for a Fry Scholarship; or,
- You are a spouse who received a transfer of entitlement (TOE).

Note: All Fry Spouses no longer have a time limit.
What Changes Impact Me Now?

VA started implementing many provisions in August 2017. Some highlights include:

- **School Closure Eligibility Restoration.** VA is now authorized to restore benefits to Veterans affected by school closures or some program disapprovals.
  - Restore entitlement used during the term when the school closed
  - Can continue receiving housing payments until the original end of the term or for 120 days (whichever occurs sooner)

- **Priority Enrollment.** You’ll be able to find out if the school you want to attend offers priority enrollment for Veterans with the GI Bill Comparison Tool. Visit the Vets.gov website to begin your search.

- **Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) Eligibility Credited Toward Post-9/11 GI Bill Program.** The individuals who lost their eligibility to REAP may apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VA sent letters with instructions to the eligible individuals.
What Changes Impact Me Soon?
Effective August 1, 2018

VA will continue to roll out additional provisions over the next four years. Some highlights include:

- **Changes to Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance (DEA) Program.** The new law increases the amount of educational assistance payable under DEA but decreases the amount of entitlement that new eligible individuals will receive from 45 months to 36 months.

- **Changes to Transfer of Benefits (TEB).** Veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies. If the Veteran dies, a dependent who received transferred entitlement can now designate a new eligible dependent of the Veteran to transfer any of the dependent’s remaining entitlement.

- **GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance** Housing will be paid based on the “campus” where the student attends the majority of classes.
What Changes Impact Me Soon?  
Effective August 1, 2018

- **Active Duty and Housing Allowance** Those leaving active duty are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill housing allowance day of discharge
- **Purple Heart Recipients** May receive full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits if served on or after September 11, 2001
- **Yellow Ribbon for Purple Heart and Fry Recipients** May use beginning August 1, 2018
- **Informing Schools About Beneficiary Entitlement** VA will share entitlement information with schools, students can opt out
- **Less Entitlement Charged for License and Certification** No longer taking an entire month of benefits
VET TEC

Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses

VET TEC’s Five Areas of High Tech Training

- COMPUTER SOFTWARE
- INFORMATION SCIENCE
- COMPUTER PROGRAMMING
- MEDIA APPLICATION
- DATA PROCESSING

VET TEC is designed to give Veterans an edge in the high tech job market.

VA will launch the VET TEC pilot in 2019!

VA
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
...Also in 2019

- Nine extra months of benefits for STEM Programs
  - Currently enrolled in a STEM program
  - Completed 60 standard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours
  - Additional benefits can’t be transferred to dependents
  - Priority is given to those entitled to 100% of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and to those who require the most credit hours
Coming August 1, 2020

Consolidation of Benefit Levels
Eliminates 40% level, expands 60%

Coming August 1, 2022

Yellow Ribbon Extension to Active Duty Servicemembers
Where Can I Find More Info on Forever GI Bill?

For more information go to [www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp)

Our Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST)

Join the conversation on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/gibillEducation](http://www.facebook.com/gibillEducation)

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