



New Deal for Veterans

Helpful Hints on Paying for College

Are you a recent military veteran who wants to go to college? Do you have children or a spouse who wants to go to college? Were you disabled while on active duty in the military? Do you have dependent children whose parent died while on active-duty military service? If so, here are some helpful hints to ask about veterans educational benefits at your local Veterans Affairs Office or at the college you or your child will attend.

TIP #1 Who qualifies for the new federal Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Military men and women who served at least 36 months after September 10, 2001, or were discharged for a service-related disability after at least 30 days of active duty can qualify for 100% of benefits. Others earn a percentage depending on length of service. Those who qualify have up to 15 years after service to use the benefit. Some veterans may also be able to transfer benefits to a spouse or child.

Full benefits include the following:

- ▶ Tuition and fees up to the highest amount charged for full-time undergraduate work at a public institution in the state where the student is enrolled.
- ▶ A monthly housing allowance based, in part, on the local cost of living (not available for those on active duty or taking courses exclusively online).
- ▶ A stipend for books and supplies of up to \$1,000 a year.
- ▶ \$500 to help relocate from a highly rural area.

TIP #2 What are the eligibility criteria for Post-9/11 Benefits?

- ▶ Served on active duty on or after 9/11/2001.
 - ▶ Served a minimum of 90 aggregate days.
 - ▶ Served at least 30 continuous days of active duty and was discharged for a service-connected disability.
 - ▶ Active-duty members eligible on 90th day after completion of entry-level training.
- To find out more about Chapter 33 Elections or Entitlement, visit the websites listed below or contact the local VA Office.

Service Requirements	% of Maximum Benefit Payable**
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Discharged due to service-connected disability)	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90
At least 24 months but less than 30 months	80
At least 18 months but less than 24 months*	70
At least 12 months but less than 18 months*	60
At least 6 months but less than 12 months*	50
At least 90 days but less than 6 months*	40

*Excludes time served in Basic Military Training and/or Skill Training

**Up to highest Undergraduate Tuition & Fees charged

Tuition & Fees for Veterans

- ▶ Based on the length of service percentage
- ▶ Capped by the highest in-state tuition and fees
- ▶ In Oregon 2009-2010 tuition cap is \$438 per credit hour and the overall cap is \$22,190

Tuition & Fees for Active Duty

- ▶ 100% tuition and fees
- ▶ Not capped by the highest in-state tuition & fees
- ▶ Eligible for benefits after completing 90 days of aggregate service
- ▶ Education benefits are remitted directly to the school.

TIP #3 What are some Educational Concerns of Military Personnel?

- ▶ Ask the school about refund for tuition policy if deployed.
- ▶ Inquire about college credit awarded for military and occupational training.
- ▶ Locate specialized services or clubs where vets connect on campus.

TIP #4 What is the Yellow Ribbon Program?

Students entitled to maximum benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill can get extra funding to attend a college or university that participates in the Yellow Ribbon program. Veterans Administration will match grants given by these schools, up to 50% of costs above the highest public-school tuition in the state. The Yellow Ribbon Benefit only applies to individuals who are entitled to Chapter 33 benefits at the 100% benefit level.

TIP #5 What about Educational Benefits for Dependents?

After August 1, 2009, the Department of Defense (DOD) may allow an individual to elect to transfer entitlement to one or more dependents if he/she:

- ▶ Has served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces
- ▶ Agrees to serve at least another 4 years in the Armed Forces
- ▶ Is eligible for transfer of entitlement as determined by DOD

TIP #6 What if I am not eligible for veterans education benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Most Oregon college campuses have an office that coordinates veterans' benefits for students. Check with that office or with the college's Financial Aid Office for information about additional veterans' educational benefits for students and their families. In addition, the Oregon Legislature passed a 2009 law that creates the Campus Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) Program in the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

TIP #7 What is the Oregon University System (OUS) Veterans' Dependent Tuition Waiver?

This benefit provides a full tuition waiver for a bachelor's or master's degree at an OUS institution for a child or spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died in active duty, became 100% disabled in connection with military service, or died as a result of a disability sustained in active duty.

Visit these Websites for more information:

www.gibill.va.gov (Department of Veterans Affairs)

www.NEWGIBill.org (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America)

http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_BILL_Info/CH33/YRP/states/or.htm

(List of Oregon Colleges Participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program)

<http://www.ous.edu/stucoun/prospstu/vb.php>

(Oregon University System Veterans Dependent Tuition Waiver)

<http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?State=OR&dnum=ALL>

(List of all VA Offices in Oregon)



The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) administers a variety of state, federal, and privately funded student financial aid programs, including grants and scholarships, for the benefit of Oregonians attending institutions of postsecondary education. The agency helps over 50,000 Oregon students work toward their educational goals each year. (c) Copyright 2009, Oregon Student Assistance Commission, All rights reserved. If you wish to make copies for educational purposes, contact OSAC at (541) 687-7400 ext. 7416