**VETERANS BENEFITS**

**Chapter 30 – Montgomery GI Bill**

Benefit program for Veterans of a military branch that paid a program fee, while serving, to receive the benefit. 36 Months of education benefits are available for veterans who continuously served required time. Benefit is generally payable for 10 years following release from active duty, and Veterans receive a monthly payment.

**Chapter 33 – Post 9/11 GI Bill**

Veterans who choose Chapter 33 must give up all rights to one of their old benefits, and the decision is irrevocable. Eligible Veterans served on active duty after 9/10/01 for at least 90 aggregate days and were honorably discharged. Benefits are prorated based on total months of active duty, and expire 15 years after the last date of active duty. Benefits last up to 36 months (and in unique cases up to 48 months). Benefit pays for: Tuition and fees, a books and supplies stipend, and a basic housing allowance. This benefit may be transferred to dependents if service requirements are met and the VA has approved. Effective January 2010, veterans who are eligible, will be required to use this benefit before using any WI GI bill benefits. See below for more information.

**Chapter 1606 – Montgomery GI Bill- Selected Reserve**

This benefit is for members of the Selected Reserve which includes the Reserves for Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, as well as the Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard. **NO active duty required, However, typically, your eligibility ends when you leave the Selected Reserves.** Entitlement can be used for a maximum of 36 months of full-time training and veterans receive a monthly benefit.

**Chapter 1607 – Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)**

REAP provides educational assistance to members of the reserve components – Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve – who are called or ordered to active service in response to a war or national emergency. There is no specific time frame to use REAP, however your eligibility generally ends when you leave the Selected Reserves. This benefit provides 36 months of education benefits to eligible members, paid as a monthly benefit while attending school.

**Chapter 35 – Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program (DEA)**

DEA provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or who have died while on active duty as a result of a service-related condition. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits with the following time limits: **Spouses**: 10 years from the date VA finds the veteran eligible, **Dependents**: time limit is between ages 18 and 26.

**Chapter 31 -Educational Assistance Program for Service-Connected (Disabled) Veterans**

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) is the VA program that assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities to achieve employment. **Period of Eligibility** is 12 years from the latter of the following: Date of separation from active military service, or date the veteran was first notified by VA of a service-connected disability rating. Veteran must have a 20% or greater service-related disability and an employment handicap to be entitled to this benefit. Subsistence allowance increase with more dependents. The VA also pays tuition, fees, books, and supplies.

**Veterans State Educational Benefits**

A Wisconsin veteran or a veteran who has lived in Wisconsin 12 consecutive months since discharge from active duty who meets military service and residency requirements may qualify for one of the following benefits administered through the State of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). **Wisconsin G.I. Bill** – The Wisconsin G.I. Bill provides a waiver of tuition for eligible veterans and dependents for up to 8 full-time semesters or 128 credits accumulative from any UW System or WI Technical College System. Veteran’s who are eligible for Chapter 33, will be required to use those benefits before using any WI GI bill benefits. If a veteran would have received a higher total payment under the program given up to receive Chapter 33, a supplemental payment intended to approximately make up that difference, will be made at the end of the term. A 100% remission is provided to the qualifying veterans, un-remarried 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). Qualifying children, must be at least age 17 but less than age 26. The WI GI benefit requires that the veteran have entered the service as a Wisconsin resident, or have established and maintained status as a Wisconsin resident for at least 5 consecutive years immediately preceding the beginning of a semester. The benefit recipient must also reside in Wisconsin. To continuously use the WI GI benefit, the recipient must maintain at least a 2.0 Accumulative GPA. If you have veteran status, but are still an active member of the National Guard or Army Reserve, it is best to use those benefits first. For more information see: [http://gibill.wisconsin.edu/](http://gibill.wisconsin.edu/)

**Veterans Education Grant (VetEd)** – 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. A veteran **MUST** submit a **application** within 60 days after the start of the semester. The application is WDVA form 2200, which can be submitted to the campus financial aid advisor or online. Please refer to [http://dva.state.wi.us](http://dva.state.wi.us) for more information. Individuals eligible for **Wisconsin G.I. Bill** benefits must apply for, and use those benefits in order to be eligible for VetEd reimbursement. Veteran must achieve a semester GPA of 2.0 or better to be eligible. Dependents are not eligible for VetEd. If the veteran is eligible for the National Guard Tuition Grant (NGTG) or the Reserve Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), they are **not eligible** for the VetEd.

**Retraining Grant** – Recently unemployed or underemployed veteran who demonstrates financial need while being retrained for employment may qualify. Grant application must be submitted within one year after involuntary lay-off or dismissal through no fault of the veteran. Veteran must have been employed 6 consecutive months with the same employer or similar occupation. Eligibility may vary based on WDVA’s need formula with a maximum grant of $3,000. There is a maximum of two years entitlement and veteran must apply each year.

**Wisconsin National Guard Tuition Grant Program (NGTG)** – All Guard members, regardless of rank, unit or Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) can take part in the program. Reimbursement is 100% of actual tuition charged by the school (fees, books and supplies are not included). Student must earn a 2.0 semester GPA and application for the grant program must be received by the WDVA within 60 days after completion of the term of either full-time or part-time study. The program is limited to 120 credits of part-time study or 8 full-time semesters. The application is available from the Unit Commander, or veteran can go to the [http://dma.wi.gov](http://dma.wi.gov) website. If you have Veteran status, but are an active Guard member, it is best to use this funding 1st and save your WI GI Bill/Vet Ed.
**How to Apply for VA Benefits**

1. Complete the college admissions process with the Student Services office at the campus you plan to attend. Total program fees including tuition, books, and fees are to be paid seven days prior to the start of the term. This amount varies according to your program of education. A payment plan is available.

2. Contact the Financial Aid Advisor at the campus you plan to attend. Students applying for Chapter 30 or 1607 benefits will need to supply a Certified Copy of their Separation Papers (DD-214); students applying for Chapter 1606 benefits will need to supply Notice of Basic Eligibility (DD Form-2384-1) signed by the unit commanding officer. Students applying for CH 33 benefits will need to supply a Certified Copy of their Separation Papers (DD-214), and a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility. Veterans receiving funding through Chapter 31 will need an Authorization and Certification of Entrance and Reentrance Into Rehabilitation and Certification of Status Form 28-1905 submitted to WITC from your Veterans Counselor.

3. Complete application for Federal educational benefits, form 22-1990. This can be done online at www.gibill.va.gov. Complete application for State educational benefits, form WDVA 2029 and WDVA 2030 found on State website http://dva.state.wi.us/. Submit the application through the website using the VetExpress link.

4. Students who have applied for and used benefits previously in another school or program will be asked to complete the Request for Change of Program or Place of Training, VA Form 22-1995. We will need to know your VA File Number, if you have one.

**Federal and State financial Aid**

We encourage all students to apply for federal and state financial aid. To determine eligibility, complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Federal VA educational benefits will not be counted toward determining eligibility for financial aid, although Wisconsin state benefits will be counted.

**Certification Of Attendance**

Students receiving benefits through Chapters 30 and 1606, require monthly verification of enrollment. Monthly verification can be made on the last day of the month and after. There are two ways to verify monthly enrollment:

1. Touch-tone phone by calling 1-877-823-2378; or
2. Connect to the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) at www.gibill.va.gov/wave

The Veterans Administration will issue payment within 7 days after receiving verification. Receiving payment will be quicker if you sign up for Direct Deposit of your benefits. The Veterans Administration will not release payment until the enrollment verification has been completed.

**Payment of Courses**

The law prohibits payment for a course from which a student withdraws or for a course that is not a program requirement, unless mitigating circumstances are shown. Payment is also prohibited for an “audit” course or for repeat of a course in which the student received a grade that meets graduation requirements.

**Standards of Academic Progress**

*Satisfactory Progress* — WITC expects each student to maintain a level of academic achievement consistent with the college’s academic standards and to make reasonable progress towards completion of a chosen program. Students must achieve a GPA of 2.0 or above at the conclusion of each semester to maintain minimum academic standards. These standards can be found in the Student Handbook under Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements for Financial Aid Recipients.

*Suspension* — If a veteran or eligible person is placed on suspension, VA benefits will be terminated. Students do have the opportunity to petition for reinstatement of benefits and payments may resume if approved.

*Dropping a Course* — Notify your Financial Aid Advisor of any course changes. If you drop a course and it results in a change of your training time, be sure to notify the Office of Veterans’ Affairs and submit a statement of mitigating circumstances to the VA. If mitigating circumstances are not found by the VA for your reduction of credits or hours, you will owe money back to the VA. If the VA accepts mitigating circumstances, the effective date of the rate change will be the first date of the change for Chapter 30, and at the end of the month in which the reduction occurs for Chapter 1606.

*Withdrawal From School* — If you withdraw from school while receiving VA education benefits, you must report your withdrawal and last date of attendance to the Financial Aid Advisor and Student Services. Also submit a statement of mitigating circumstances to the VA. If the VA does not accept mitigating circumstances, you will owe money back to the VA. If mitigating circumstances are accepted, VA benefits will be terminated as of the last date of attendance.

*Call to Active Duty* — if called to active duty, please contact student services to discuss options and submit copies of orders

**VA Resources**

*Department of Veterans’ Affairs* — Veterans and dependents who have questions on educational benefits can contact the Department of Veterans’ Affairs at 1-888-442-4551 (toll-free) or visit their web site at www.gibill.va.gov.

*VA VocationalRehabilitation* — 2125 Heights Drive Drive 2A, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701, 715/834-2154.

*County Veteran Service Office* — for more info on educational as well as other veteran benefits locate your CVSO at www.WisVets.com/OVSO