



Chapter 33 GI Bill Changes

The Chapter 33 (Post 9/11) GI Bill program went into effect on 01 August 2009. This program is significantly different from other GI Bill programs and is the only one that allows Service Members the option to transfer benefits to their spouse and/or dependent(s).

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the “Forever GI Bill”, was signed on 16 August 2017. This act made significant changes to Title 38, Chapter 33 GI Bill law. Some of the changes went into effect immediately and some will not go into effect until a later specified date. The changes are as listed below. Additional information regarding the Chapter 33 GI Bill program is available online: <http://nc.ng.mil/services/eec/Pages/CH-33.aspx>.

Effective 16 August 2017

Removal of Delimiting/Expiration Date

- Service Member:
 - 15 years to use benefits – last discharge from qualifying period of service prior to 01 January 2013.
 - No expiration – last discharge from qualifying period of service on/after 01 January 2013.
- Spouse:
 - Using Transferred Benefits:
 - 15 years from Service Member’s last qualifying period of service.
 - Using Benefits Under the Fry Scholarship:
 - 15 years from Service Member’s death to use benefits if Service Member’s Death was before 01 January 2013.
 - No expiration if Service Member’s Death was on/after 01 January 2013.
- Child:
 - Using Transferred Benefits:
 - Has until their 26th Birthday to exhaust benefits.
 - Using Benefits Under the Fry Scholarship:
 - 15 years from 18th Birthday to use benefits if Service Member’s Death was before 01 January 2013.
 - No expiration if Service Member’s Death was on/after 01 January 2013.

Chapter 1607 Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)

- Service Members who lost benefits due to the sunset of the Chapter 1607 (REAP) GI Bill program may convert to Chapter 33. For those who meet this criteria, they will only be able to convert the months they have remaining under Chapter 1607 to Chapter 33 (i.e. used 12 months under Chapter 1607, can convert 24 months). Service Members must meet the following criteria in order to convert:
 - Only period to establish eligibility after 01 August 2011.
 - Had used Chapter 1607 benefits, but was not using it on the sunset date.
 - Those who elected to use period of service after 01 August 2011 but never received benefits may convert their Chapter 1607 benefits to Chapter 33.
- Those who qualify will need to contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) directly through the VA's submit a question link located off their main GI Bill webpage at www.benefits.va.gov/GIbill.

Effective 15 November 2017

School Closures

- Service members may recover some benefits when the educational institution they were attending closed on/after 16 August 2017.
- The school must close and credits must be non-transferrable.
- There is no charge to entitlement (CH 30, 32, 33, 35, 1606, 1607) if the school closes or course is disapproved by the State Approving Agency.

Effective 01 January 2018

Monthly Housing Allowance

- Students using benefits under Chapter 33 for the 1st time on/after 01 January 2018 – housing allowance will increase or decrease with the BAH rates.
- Students who have used benefits under Chapter 33 prior to 01 January 2018 – housing allowance will no decrease if BAH rates decrease.

Effective 01 August 2018

Adds Qualifying Periods of Service for Payments starting 01 August 2018

- Purple Heart Recipients with 1 day of qualifying service – eligible at the 100% tier rate.
- Service performed under Title 10 U.S.C. 12301(h) on/after 11 September 2001.
- Service performed under Title 10 U.S.C. 12304a or 12304b on/after 30 June 2008.

NOTE: Service Members who establish eligibility based solely on this change cannot complete a transfer of education benefits (TEB) request prior to 01 August 2018. TEB requests made prior to 01 August 2018, in which a Service Member establishes eligibility based solely on this change to the law will be denied.

Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) Upon Death

- Dependent – Service Member can transfer to other dependents, even after leaving service.
- Service Member – Dependents who have benefits transferred to them can transfer their remaining unused months to another dependent (i.e. son of Service Member has 12 months transferred to them, Service Member dies, son can transfer a portion or all of his 12 months to his sister).
- Applies to deaths after 01 August 2009.

Monthly Housing Allowance

- Rate is based on the campus where you are attending.

Yellow Ribbon Program

- Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart Recipients are eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.

License and Certification Tests

- Entitlement charge for License and Certification Tests are pro-rated.

Effective 01 August 2019

Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship

- Must be enrolled in a STEM program requiring more than 128 semester hours
or
have a Bachelor's Degree in a STEM field and be enrolled in a Teacher Certification.
- Must have exhausted Chapter 33 benefits.
- Pays for up to 9 months of benefit; not to exceed \$30,000.
- Cannot be transferred.

STEM – Standard Undergraduate Degree in:

- Biological or Biomedical Science
- Physical Science
- Science Technologies or Technicians
- Computer and Information Science and Support Services
- Mathematics or Statistics
- Engineering
- Engineering Technologies or an Engineering-Related Field
- Health Profession or Related Program
- Medical Residency Program
- Agriculture Science Program or National Resources Science Program

Effective 01 August 2020

Payment Tiers

- 40% payment tier is eliminated.
- 50% tier – 90 days to 6 months of qualifying service.
- 60% tier – 6 months to 18 months of qualifying service.
- All other tiers remain the same.

Effective 01 August 2022

Yellow Ribbon Program

- Service Members on Active Duty are eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.