

POST 9/11 GI BILL...CH 33 ~ Auburn University ~ Updated 10-2011

Post 9/11 GI Bill is also called Ch 33 and went into effect August 1, 2009 for school terms after August 1, 2009, plus Public Law 111-377 Modifications to the Post 9/11 GI Bill, January 2011.

Auburn University is participating in the VA Ch 33 Yellow Ribbon Program. Post 9/11 GI Bill Students who are eligible for 100% of Post 9/11 GI Bill-Ch 33-benefits, undergraduate, and non-residents are eligible to apply each year for the Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP). Applications are available the summer before the start of a new school year. Availability to the application will be announced each summer and may vary from year to year.

University Bills: VA Students at Auburn University, no-matter which VA Educational Program they participate in, are responsible for the payment of all billed expenses. Post 9/11 GI Bill-Ch 33 recipients see page 2 reference payment of tuition and fees.

Important: A student currently participating in another VA Educational Benefits program, e.g. Ch 30, Ch 30 Active Duty, Ch 31, Disabled Vet, or Ch 1607-REAP, may **ELECT** to change to Ch 33. **The student must determine if it is to the student's financial benefit to elect Ch 33.** However, if a student changes to CH 33 from another VA educational program he/she can **NOT change back** to the previous program if the Ch 33 program does not suite the student's financial needs. Benefit comparison information is available at www.gibill.va.gov .

Ch 33 eligibility criteria is for Veterans (honorably discharged), Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Component students who have served on active duty for 90 days after September 10, 2001 and dependents of certain service members. Also eligible are students who have served on active duty after 9/11/01 and who have serviced at least 30 continuous days and received a disability discharge. See eligibility and service requirements at www.gibill.va.gov .

Ch 33 eligibility criteria is service related and is based on an Active Duty service requirement under Department of Defense (DOD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) orders. The service requirement is an aggregate step system and is posted on the VA website at www.gibill.va.gov . Example: 36 months of active duty receives 100% of maximum benefits payable. A student (CH 30 MGIB or CH 1607 REAP student) with 6 months, but less than 12 months of service will receive 50% of maximum benefits payable.

Note: As with all VA Educational Benefits program, **Ch 33 recipients must be enrolled in courses that are core subjects and/or approved electives in their selected major.** Those courses that do not meet this requirement will **NOT** be certified for VA payment.

Ch 33 program allows for three separate benefit payments for most students, (1) a tuition and fee payment to the school, (2) a monthly housing allowance equal to the DOD Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) provided to service members at the E-5 pay grade with dependents within the same zip code as the student's school, and (3) a books and supplies stipend of up to \$1000 per year.

All existing VA Educational Benefits programs Ch 30 MGI Bill, Ch 31 Disabled Veteran VR&E, Ch 32, Ch 35 DEA, Ch 1606 MGIB-SR, Ch 1607 REAP, CH 18, 901 & 902 Special VA Benefits Programs are still in effect. The benefits from these programs make payments directly to the student.

Payment of Tuition and Fees: Ch 33 statutory requirements governing the Post 9/11 GI Bill require VA to pay tuition and fees payments for the claimants enrolled at Auburn University and receiving benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill to **be paid directly to Auburn University.**

- A term's tuition and fees will not be requested from the VA until after the terms published drop and add period.
- Ch 33 Payments are made AFTER the VA receives and processes the student's enrollment information submitted by the Auburn University VA Certifying Official.
- **NOTE: *Upon receipt of the VA Certification of Eligibility (COE) or proof of application to the VA for benefits by the School's VA Certifying Official (203 Mary Martin Hall, FAX 334-844-6085). The university will credit (memo on the student's Bursar bill) the student's account for the COE entitlement percentage at the in-state tuition and fee rate. The University Bursar will require payment of any charges to the bill not covered by the Post 9/11 GI Bill entitlement such as remaining out-of-state tuition and fees, meal plans, room rent, football tickets, OIT, ID card, parking tickets, library fines and other charges etc. as per university billing policy.***

Payment of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH): Ch 33 benefits for basic housing and books/supplies stipend will be paid directly to the student.

- Active duty students and a spouse of an active duty member are not eligible to receive Post 9/11 GI Bill BAH. Dependent children can receive this BAH benefit.
- BAH for distance learning student is awarded at half of the national BAH average.
- Eligible undergraduate students must be training at a rate greater than ½ time ... e.g. must be enrolled for 7 hours or more to receive BAH for fall and spring terms.
- Graduate students must be training at a rate greater than ½ time ...e.g. must be enrolled for at least 51% of total full-time hours which is nine (9) hrs. Eligibility for BAH as a rate greater than ½ time hours would be 5 hrs.
- Monthly BAH will be prorated according to the number of approved hours the student is enrolled for each term. BAH-NOT paid for breaks periods between terms.

Payment for Books and Supplies: The books and supplies stipend will be paid directly to the student once per term, generally at the beginning of each term. Books and supplies are paid at a rate calculated at **\$41.67 per credit hour** for up to 24 hours. $\$41.67 \times 24 = \1000.08 . Annual books & supplies maximum payment per year is \$1000. Payments are made directly to the student in a lump sum each term up to a maximum of \$1000 or 24 hours.

Ch 33 Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) is a Department of Defense (DoD) program and the DoD determines eligibility for the program. Currently, eligible service personnel are those that are on active duty on or after August 1, 2009. DoD may allow an individual to transfer entitlement to one or more dependents if he/she meets the service requirements and agrees to serve additional time in the Armed Forces. Retired military may be eligible under the DoD eligibility criteria. Go to www.gibill.va.gov to learn more current information about this issue.

Transfer of Post 9/11 GI Bill Entitlement (TOE) Service Member and Student MUST.

- First register through the DOD web site to Transfer of Benefits (TEB) to dependents.
- When the service member or retired service member parent is APPROVED, the student must then apply for the Ch 33 benefits using the VA Form 22-1990e. Go to www.gibill.va.gov for instructions of "How to Apply for TEB".

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OVER PAYMENT of Benefits: The veteran or dependent is responsible for any overpayment incurred as a result of not completing courses or courses for which they received VA pay or that are not in their degree program as core subjects or approved electives in their major. Auburn University's established refund policies will be followed and the student is still responsible to the University and VA for any overpayment made to the student or indebtedness incurred by the student. **BOTTOM LINE:** Tuition and fee payments are paid to the school on behalf of the veteran, overpayments of tuition and fees will be charged to the student.

Federal Tuition Assistance (TA) and CH 33: Active duty students can not receive TA & Ch 33 at the same time for the same courses. E.G. if TA has paid for tuition then Ch 33 does not have tuition to pay and vice versa. There must be a tuition and fee bill assessed to the student to have either of these programs to pay for tuition and fees. If TA pays the tuition and fees bill there is no bill for the VA to pay. If there is an unpaid portion of the bill not covered by TA, VA will pay "Top-Up" to cover the unpaid portion of the bill.

NOT Eligible for Ch 33 includes: Student still in service academy contract periods. A student still in ROTC scholarship contract period. Service used under the "Loan Repayment Program". Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement. Discharge with less than "honorable discharge". **NOTE:** Both service academy and ROTC scholarship graduates must accrue 90 days or more service after the contract repayment period to receive Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits.

KICKERS for MGIB, MGIB-AD and MGIB-SR. Individuals eligible for kicker under other benefits may receive the KICKER under Ch 33. The monthly kicker amount will be prorated based on the individual's rate of pursuit. Payments of KICKERS will be issued in a lump sum directly to the student each term the student is eligible for benefits and the student is entitled to a monthly housing allowance, BAH. **NOTE: the \$600 Buy-Up is not payable under 9/11 GI Bill, Ch 33.**

Chapter 30 contribution refunds: Individuals who relinquish MGIB, MGIB-AD benefits to receive Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits are entitled to a proportional amount of the basic \$1200 contribution if they exhaust their entitlement under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. This payment will be included with the last monthly housing allowance payment when Post 9/11 GI Bill entitlement exhausts.

WEBSITS to visit: www.gibill.va.gov.
www.auburn.edu then click on students, then click on Veterans Affairs Office.

HOW TO FILE YOUR CLAIM for Post 9/11 GI Bill

- (A) If you have selected Auburn University you must have applied and have been admitted and must be enrolled in a degree seeking program. Student who are non-degreed students, provisional students, and students auditing courses are not authorized VA educational benefits.**

- (B) B-1. Veteran, Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve students must submit electronically (VONAPP) or via mail a completed VA Form 22-1990, to the VA Regional Processing Office for the Western Region: VA RPO, P.O. Box 8888, Muskogee, OK 74402-8888. On Line Application (VONAPP) is available at www.gibill.va.gov . Hard copy VA Form 22-1990 available at www.va.gov/vaforms**

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PROOF of approved submission of the VA Form 22-1990 is needed for the student's school file. A copy of the submitted on-line application, VA Form 22-1990, can be printed after one submits the application. This document will have a confirmation number on it as proof of submission. This printed copy will have a confirmation number to prove it has been submitted. A copy of the service members approved application is the COE, see item "E" below. The AU VA office needs a copy of the submitted 22-1990 with submission confirmation number or the COE for the student's school VA file. You can email, FAX, USPS mail, or hand carry a copy of documents to Auburn University's VA Office.

B-2. Transfer of Benefits: Active duty personnel or approved retired personnel wishing to transfer Post 9/11 benefits to a spouse or dependent child must first apply through the DoD Transfer of Benefits process (TEB) program and be approved to transfer benefits before the dependent can apply for CH 33 benefits. Dependents must apply for VA benefits by submitting the VA Form 22-1990e. VA Form 1990e is available at the www.gibill.va.gov. Apply on line at www.gibill.va.gov through VONAPP, VA On-Line Application (print copy after submission, see proof below). Paper copy of the VA Form 22-1990e can be printed from www.va.gov/vaforms .

PROOF of service member has submitted a TEB application transferring benefits is need for the students school VA file. A copy of the service members approved DMDC – TEB transfer of benefits to a dependent is needed. With this TEB approval and proof of the VA Form 22-1990e having been submitted, the school can continue to process Post 9/11 GI Bill school paperwork.

PROOF the student has submitted a VA Form 22-1990e. A copy of the submitted form if mailed or if sent by VONAPP. VONAPP Form 22-1990e should have a submission confirmation number at the bottom of each page. Send a copy of both the TEB & Form 22-1990e documents via email, FAX, USPS mail or hand carry them to the Auburn University VA Office.

- (C) Notify the Auburn University VA Certifying Official, 203 Mary Martin Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849, 334-844-6082, FAX 334-844-6085, barnasp@auburn.edu that you have applied for VA education benefits. Ask the school certifying official for special instructions on how to use your VA benefits at Auburn. There is additional school paperwork to be completed before one can receive VA educational benefits.
- (D) Wait for the VA RPO Muskogee Oklahoma to process your VA Form 22-1990 or 22-1990e application and notify you of its decision concerning your eligibility for education benefits under Ch 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill. **This notification will be the form of a letter titled "Certificate of Eligibility (COE)" or will be an award letter.**
- (E) **REQUIRED: When the COE or award letter arrives, some have taken 2-3 months to arrive, take the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or Award Letter to the Auburn University VA Office for review and placement into the students AU VA file.** AU VA office is located in 203 Mary Martin Hall, Auburn University AL, 36849. Phone: 334-844-6082 or 2517. FAX 334-844-6085.
- (F) Questions about Post 9/11 GI Bill at Auburn University please contact the University VA Certifying Official at 334-844-6082 or 334-844-2517 or via email at barnasp@auburn.edu .