

# Veterans Affairs

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# The GI Bill

- Began after World War II
  - Historically, the first form of financial aid
- Extended for Korean Vets
- Reinstated during the Vietnam era
  - Vietnam era veterans
  - Retroactive to the end of the Korean War
- After Vietnam, changed to voluntary
- Current: Montgomery GI Bill

# Programs (Chapters)

- Chapter 30 (regular)
  - Active duty for 2 years, must pay in \$1,200
- Chapter 31 (disabled)
  - Service connected disability--at least 10%
- Chapter 34 (Vietnam era GI Bill, rollover)
- Chapter 35 (dependents)
  - Service connected death or total, permanent disability
- Chapter 1606 (reservists)
- Chapter 1607 (activated for 90 days after 9/11)

# Common Provisions

- 36 months of full time benefits
  - Prorated for less than full time enrollment
- Must be used within 10 years of discharge or date of eligibility
  - May be extended for medical reasons
- Monthly payments direct to veteran or dependent
- Must be enrolled in an approved program (State approving agency)

# Common Provisions

- Can only be paid for classes required for degree objective
- May have to pay money back for withdrawals
- Chapter 31 also provides funds to cover educational expenses
- Chapter 31 may be used after their 12-year limit has expired

# Chapter 30--Montgomery GI Bill

	<b>3+ years</b>	<b>&lt; 3 years</b>	<b>Kicker*</b>
Full time	\$1,075.00	\$873.00	\$150.00
3/4 time	\$806.25	\$654.75	\$112.50
1/2 time	\$537.50	\$436.50	\$75.00

- Must contribute an additional \$600 to get the Kicker
- College Fund--\$20,000 to \$60,000 additional

# Chapter 31--Voc Rehab

	<b>Single</b>	<b>1 Dep</b>	<b>2 Dep</b>	<b>Each Add'l</b>
Full time	\$508.04	\$630.19	\$742.61	\$50.54
3/4 time	\$381.73	\$473.32	\$555.21	\$38.86
1/2 time	\$255.42	\$316.47	\$372.00	\$25.93

# Chapter 35--Dependents

Full time	\$860.00
3/4 time	\$645.00
1/2 time	\$429.00

# Chapter 1606--Reservists

Full time	\$309.00
3/4 time	\$231.00
1/2 time	\$153.00
1/4 time	\$77.25

# Chapter 1607--Activated Reserve

	90+ days	1+ year	2+ years
Full time	\$430.00	\$645.00	\$860.00
3/4 time	\$322.50	\$483.75	\$645.00
1/2 time	\$215.00	\$322.50	\$430.00
<1/2, >1/4	\$215.00*	\$322.50*	\$430.00*
1/4 time	\$107.50*	\$161.25*	\$215.00*

# Institutional Eligibility

- Must be approved by the State Approving Agency
  - In California: the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE)
- Degree granting or clock hour
- Submit 3 catalogs each year
- Each program the school offers must be approved
- CC transfer programs approved once, update when needed

# Institutional Responsibilities

- Certify veteran's enrollment
  - Number of units enrolled
  - Minus any non-required classes
  - Beginning and ending dates
  - Veteran's degree objective
- Report changes to veteran's enrollment
- Monitor satisfactory progress
  - May differ from that of the school

# VA Form 22-1990--Application

- Can be filed up to 4 months ahead
- Accompanied by DD-214
- Declare veteran's degree objective
  - AA/AS student, must declare major
  - BA/transfer student, can be undecided for one year
- Takes 6 to 8 weeks to process
- (28-1900 for Chapter 31; 22-5490 for Chapter 35)

# VA Form 22-1995--Change Form

- Used to report a change in:
  - Degree objective
  - Major
  - Transfer school
  - Place of training (to start the GI Bill at a new school)
- (22-5495 for Chapter 35)

# VA Form 22-1999--Enrollment Cert

- Submitted each semester--up to 4 months ahead
- Certifies the number of units (or the clock hour) and the beginning and ending dates
- Must be resubmitted using VA Form 22-1999b, if enrollment changes occur
- 3 to 4 weeks to process
- (28-1905 for Chapter 31)

# VA Form 22-1999--Enrollment Cert

- Standard quarters or semesters
  - 12 credit hours full time
  - 9-11 credit hours 3/4 time
  - 6-8 credit hours 1/2 time
  - 4-5 credit hours less than 1/2 time
  - 1-3 credit hours 1/4 time or less
- Schools where 13-14 units is full time should contact their ELR
- Accredited graduate schools report according to their academic regulations

# VA Form 22-1999--Enrollment Cert

- Clock hours--Theory predominates
  - 18 hours or more full time
  - 13-17 hours 3/4 time
  - 9-12 hours 1/2 time
  - 5-8 hours less than 1/2 time
  - 1-4 hours 1/4 time or less

# VA Form 22-1999--Enrollment Cert

- Clock hours--Shop/practice predominates
  - 22 hours or more full time
  - 16-21 hours 3/4 time
  - 11-15 hours 1/2 time
  - 6-10 hours less than 1/2 time
  - 1-5 hours 1/4 time or less

# VA Form 22-1999--Enrollment Cert

- Can only certify classes required for the veteran's degree objective
  - Vet's must submit transcripts from other colleges by end of the first semester
  - School must evaluate transcripts and give credit for prior college
  - School must review classes certified to make sure they are required for veteran's degree objective

# VA-ONCE

- Enrollment certification, using VA Forms 22-1999 and 22-1999b may be done online to the Veterans Administration using VA-ONCE
- [http://www.gibill.va.gov/School\\_Info/once/index.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/School_Info/once/index.htm)

# Advance Payment

- Schools must choose to participate
- Student must request advance pay; 30 to 120 before of the start of the semester
- Must be at least a 30 day break between terms and no payment for the break
- Payment for first two calendar months (one partial, one full)
- Check is mailed to the school 2-3 weeks before semester begins

# Advance Payment (continued)

- School contacts veteran to pick up check
- School verifies veteran's enrollment
- Veteran signs Certification of Delivery of Advance Payment and Enrollment
- School sends certification to the VA

# Accelerated Payment

- For Chapter 30 veterans attending high-cost schools
- Tuition and fees must be at least double the veteran's entitlement for the term
- Payment is limited to 60% of the total fees up to the entire entitlement for the term
- Student must request accelerated payment
- Certification must be a confirmed certification (on or after the first date of enrollment)

# Preparing for an Audit

- Don't panic!!
- Treat auditors as another colleague
  - Help you find problems
  - Help you improve your operation
- Always be open, honest, friendly, cooperative
- You should be constantly preparing for an audit--see Task Time-Line

# When the Auditor Calls

- Pull the files requested
- Scan them quickly to make sure they are in order
  - Remove any sticky notes or other unnecessary forms
  - Arrange the forms so they are easy to review

# When the Auditor Arrives

- Greet him/her as a colleague
- Provide access to the files and computer records
- Give him/her a comfortable place to work
- Always ask for a chance to review findings before the auditor leaves

# Financial Aid and Veterans

- **Four points of contact:**
  - Dependency status
  - Contribution from VA Educational Benefits
  - Veteran's non-educational benefits
  - Income reduction

# Financial Aid and Veterans

- **Dependency status (Question 54)**
  - Veterans are those who have been in active service (which includes basic training) in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard and were released under a condition other than “dishonorable.”
  - There is no minimum amount of time the student has to have served to be a veteran, but it does have to be active service.
  - The application also tells students to answer “Yes” to the question about veteran status if they aren’t yet a veteran but will be by June 30, 2007.

# Financial Aid and Veterans

- Dependency status (Question 54)
  - Students who attended a U.S. military academy for at least one day and were released under conditions other than “dishonorable” count as veterans.
  - Members of the National Guard or Reserves are only considered veterans if they were called up to active federal duty by presidential order for a purpose other than training.
  - This is less stringent than the VA’s definition of veteran for receiving certain VA benefits.
  - Students serving in ROTC or currently attending a U.S. military academy are not veterans.

# Financial Aid and Veterans

- Contribution from VA Educational Benefits
  - Although it is not a verification item, the school is responsible for resolving conflicting information. Eligible veterans who apply for financial aid must have an entry in the veterans educational benefits question (46-47) on the FAFSA.

# Financial Aid and Veterans

- **Veterans' noneducation benefits**
  - VA disability payments, the death pension, Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC), and VA educational work-study allowances should all appear on Worksheet B, item "Veterans noneducation benefits".
  - Combat pay should not be included in Worksheet B. Combat pay is income earned from work.

# Financial Aid and Veterans

- Income reduction
  - Veterans who leave the military to attend school full time and live off their GI Bill are eligible to have their EFC recalculated by professional judgment using projected year or projected school year income.

# Working with Veterans

- Iraq and Afghanistan veterans
  - 17% army and marines exhibit Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression (Vietnam vets: 31%)
  - 10% returning women veterans report PTSD symptoms
    - PTSD more acute for women veterans

# Working with Veterans

- Iraq and Afghanistan veterans
  - Military recognizes PTSD exists
  - Has deployed 200 mental health workers in theater of operations
  - Unlike Vietnam veterans, current society has been able to separate servicemen and women from the government
  - All volunteer military vs. the draft
  - Multiple deployments may be burning our veterans out

# Working with Veterans

- Iraq and Afghanistan veterans
  - Returning from an ambiguous military situation
    - No safe zones
    - Hard to determine who the enemy is
    - No resolution or victory in sight
  - Dehumanization/demonization of the enemy
  - May be angry and frustrated
  - More likely to be married, have a family than Vietnam vets

# Working with Veterans

- PTSD symptoms
  - Re-experiencing the trauma (a natural process of trying to deal with the experience)
    - Re-occurring thoughts, dreams, nightmares, flashbacks
    - Anxiety or fear, feeling in danger again
  - Anger or aggressive feelings
    - Feel the need to defend oneself
    - Difficulty controlling emotions
  - Trouble concentrating or thinking clearly

# Working with Veterans

- PTSD symptoms
  - Difficulty falling or staying asleep
  - Physical symptoms related to the foregoing
    - Agitated, constantly on the lookout for danger
    - Easily startled, especially by loud noises
    - Feeling shaky and sweaty
    - Heart pounding or trouble breathing
    - Feel the need to defend oneself
    - Difficulty controlling emotions

# Working with Veterans

- PTSD symptoms
  - Avoidance symptoms
    - Avoiding trauma-related thoughts and memories
    - Avoiding people and situations that evoke the memories
    - Trouble remembering some or all of the trauma
    - Difficulty feeling love or any strong emotion
    - Feeling strange or disconnected
    - Feeling that the world around you is unreal
    - Lack of interest in the things you used to enjoy

# Working with Veterans

- PTSD symptoms
  - Secondary symptoms
    - Depression, despair, hopelessness
    - Aggressive behavior
    - Guilt and shame
    - Problems with relationships, social isolation
    - Fights and arguments
    - Feel permanently damaged
    - Physical problems due to the above
    - Drug and alcohol abuse

# Working with Veterans

- Always be willing to listen
- Let them know that their service is appreciated
- Give them the respect they deserve
- Liaison with the nearest Vets Center
- 21 located in California

# Some Important Websites

- Veterans Administration

<http://www.va.gov/>

- Vets Centers

<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter.asp>

- Information about PTSD

[http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/facts/general/fs\\_effects.html](http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/facts/general/fs_effects.html)

# Questions, Comments?

