

Veterans Affairs

Mike MacCallum, PhD, Dean

Franc Menjivar, Financial Aid Supervisor

Danielle Panto, Veterans Certifying Official

Long Beach City College

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
- New in August: Post 9/11 GI Bill

Programs (Chapters)

- Chapter 30 (Montgomery)
 - Active duty for 2 years, must pay in \$1,200
- Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehab)
 - Service connected disability--at least 10%
- Chapter 33 (Post 9/11)
 - Goes into effect on 8/1/09
- 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
 - If changing from one separate GI Bill to another, can receive 48 months of benefits
- Must be used within 10 years (15 years for Chapter 33)
 - May be extended for medical reasons

Common Provisions

- Monthly payments direct to veteran or dependent
- Must be enrolled in an approved program (State approving agency)
- Can only be paid for classes required for degree objective
 - Implies the need for an ed plan

Common Provisions

- May have to pay money back for withdrawals
- Chapter 31 also provides funds to cover educational expenses
- Chapter 31 may be used after the 15-year limit has expired

Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

- **Eligibility**

- On active duty since 9/11/01
- On active duty for 36 months to receive 100% benefits
 - Prorated in less than 36 months
 - Time in training doesn't count
- Can switch from Chapter 30 to 33, but not back
- Must enroll more than 50% of full time

Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

● Tuition

- Cost of tuition and fees up to the most expensive in-state, undergraduate, public institution
- Will have to report tuition and fees on certification forms
- If veteran later qualifies for a fee waiver:
Recertify, changing waived tuition and fees to zero
Veteran will have to repay waived tuition and fees

Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

- Monthly housing allowance
 - Comparable to E-5 with dependents housing allowance in same zip code as the school

<http://www.gibill2008.org/calculator.html>

Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

- Books and supplies
 - Up to \$1,000 per year, based on 24 units
 - $\$1,000 \div 24 = \41.67 per unit
 - 15 units for fall = $15 \times \$41.67 = \625.05
 - 12 units for spring = $\$374.95$
 - Nothing left for summer

Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

- Relocation
 - \$500, one time if relocating from highly rural area

Institutional Eligibility

- Must be approved by the State Approving Agency (SAA)
- 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
 - Tuition and fees
- Report changes to veteran's enrollment
- Monitor satisfactory progress
 - May differ from that of the school

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 52)**
 - 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, 2010 (for 2009/10).

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 for at least one day.
 - 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 for financial aid purposes.

Financial Aid and Veterans

- **Contribution from VA Educational Benefits**
 - The 2009/10 FAFSA does not ask veterans for their benefit amount
 - Will have to include GI Bill projected amount received as a resource
 - Internal form--filled out by student
 - Internal process--Vets Office

Financial Aid and Veterans

- **Veterans' noneducation benefits**
 - VA Disability, Death Pension, Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC), and VA Educational Work-Study allowances should all appear on the 2008 Untaxed Income worksheet, item h, page 8 of the FAFSA Worksheet.
 - If the veteran is a tax-filer and combat pay is included in the AGI, enter that amount in the 2008 Additional Financial Information worksheet, item e, page 8 of the FAFSA Worksheet. Otherwise combat pay is not reported on the FAFSA.

Financial Aid and Veterans

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

Working with Veterans

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) incidence
 - 30% Vietnam veterans
 - 10% Gulf War (Desert Storm)
 - 6-11% Afghanistan veterans
 - 12-20% Iraqi veterans
 - PTSD more acute for women veterans
 - 23% women veterans report sexual assault
 - 55% women veterans report sexual harassment

Source: National Center for PTSD (<http://www.ncptsd.va.gov>) December 5, 2008

Working with Veterans

- Iraq and Afghanistan veterans
 - Military recognizes PTSD exists
 - Has deployed mental health workers in theater of operations
 - Unlike Vietnam veterans, current society has been able to separate servicemen and women from the war
 - 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
 - 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, sleeping, thinking clearly

Working with Veterans

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 - Affects 10-20% of OEF/OIF veterans
 - Mild TBI
 - Recovery in a few days to a few months
 - No lasting symptoms
 - Severe
 - Partial recovery
 - Permanent disability

Source: Deployment Health Clinical Center (<http://www.pdhealth.mil>) December 5, 2008

Working with Veterans

- TBI symptoms
 - Light-headed or dizzy
 - Blurred vision, eyes tire easily
 - Headaches, ringing in the ears
 - Trouble with memory, attention
 - Impaired decision making
 - Difficulty inhibiting behavior
 - Slowed thinking, moving
 - Easily confused

Working with Veterans

- Always be willing to listen
 - Take time, be patient
 - There is great diversity in their experience
 - Don't assume the worst
- Let them know that their service is appreciated
- Give them the respect they deserve
- Liaison with the nearest Vets Center, VA Medical Center, other veterans agencies
- Liaison with other offices on campus
- Get them the services they need

Working with Veterans at LBCC

- What didn't work
- Veterans club
 - Couldn't get the minimum membership
- Single-agency presentations
 - Veterans Administration
 - Vet's Center
 - Salvation Army
 - Very poor turnout

Working with Veterans at LBCC

- Veterans Services Fair—November 2008
 - About a dozen agencies participated (college and community)
 - 11:00 to 1:00
 - Tables set up in the center of campus
 - Free lunch tickets
 - More than 40 veterans served
 - Emails and letters sent to all LBCC vets

Working with Veterans at LBCC

- **Veterans Services Fair—March 2009**
 - About 30 agencies (college and community)
 - Two other CCs and two CSUs
 - 10:00 to 2:00
 - Practice field at Veterans Stadium
 - Free BBQ lunch and jazz band
 - VA Health Bus
 - Guest speakers
 - About 30 veterans served
 - Emails and letters sent to all LBCC vets
 - Posters sent to all agencies

Working with Veterans at LBCC

- **Core aim**
 - Communication with veterans
 - Interrelationships with LBCC offices
 - Work together with other organizations for the benefit of the veterans
 - Veterans committee meets weekly

Working with Vets--Current Efforts

- Establish relationship with CSULB
 - Veterans Affairs--Pat O'Rourke
 - Troops to Engineers
- Mentoring program
 - Leaders Across Campus
 - Start for a Veterans Club
- Liaison with other LBCC departments
 - Vet-friendly contacts

Working with Vets--Current Efforts

- End of the semester bowling and pizza party
- Network with other colleges
 - Pasadena City College—The Road Home
 - Any other Veterans Affairs Office—give us a call!

Working with Vets--Current Efforts

- Updated Veterans website
 - <http://fina.lbcc.edu/Veterans.cfm>
 - All forms are online
 - Post 9/11 GI Bill calculator
 - “News You Can Use” and important dates
 - Financial Aid and Veterans TV
 - Faculty and staff page for LBCC veterans
- Veterans outreach
 - Newsletter twice a semester
 - LBCC Veterans Facebook

Working with Vets--Current Efforts

- VA Work Study students helping veterans
- Intake questionnaire
 - Help provide specific services to veterans
 - Help guide the Veterans Affairs Office efforts
- Priority registration flyer
- Welcome letter from the president
- Flex Day presentation to faculty

Working with Vets—Future Projects

- Track veterans from semester to semester
 - Measure success rates
 - Contact veterans who drop out
- Veterans brochure or bookmark
 - Provided to other offices to guide veterans to the Veterans Affairs Office
- Professional Development presentation to counselors

Working with Vets—Future Projects

- Veterans “Safe Zone” and study area
- College orientation class for veterans
 - VA Hospital
 - Villages at Cabrillo
- MSW intern from CSUDH
 - Screen veterans for PTSD
 - Refer to VA Hospital if needed
 - Conduct group for mild to moderate

Working with Vets—Future Projects

- Organize a Veterans Advisory Committee
 - Veterans service agencies
 - Cal State Long Beach
 - City of Long Beach
 - Villages of Cabrillo
 - VA Hospital
 - Vets Center
 - Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base
- There is great support for veterans, now is the time to act

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/ncmain/index.jsp>

<http://www.iraqwarveterans.org/ptsd.htm>

- Information about TBI

<http://www.pdhealth.mil>

<http://www.dvbic.org/>

Some Important Websites

- Troops to College (CCCCO)

<http://www.cccco.edu/OurAgency/GovRelations/TroopstoCollege/tabid/601/Default.aspx>

- Troops to Teachers

- Federal

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/troopstoteachers/index.asp?Flag=True

- State

<http://www.caltroops.org/>

- For veterans

<http://www.military.com>

Contact Information

- Danielle: dpanto@lbcc.edu; 562-983-3932
- Franc: jmenjivar@lbcc.edu; 562-983-3956
- Mike: mmaccallum@lbcc.edu; 562-983-4683

LBCC Veterans

- Christ Kong
- Ozzie Lemus
- Blas Villalobos

Questions, Comments, Discussion

