

### Things to Consider When Selecting the New Post 9/11 GI Bill (Ch. 33)

- Did you receive VA benefits as a dependent or spouse? The VA will pay a person up to the maximum of 48 months of benefits. If you received VA benefits as a dependent/spouse for 36 months or more then you will only be eligible for up to an additional 12 months of benefits.
- Are you eligible for the traditional GI Bill and did you use any of these benefits. Watch and consider carefully if you have months left on the traditional GI Bill. To receive the additional 12 months of benefits you must have exhausted the months and days of the GI Bill benefits. Veterans that change to the Post 9/11 benefits will be given the number of months and days left towards the new benefit. Example: Joe has 2 months and 5 days left on his Chapter 30 GI Bill. He changes to the Post 9/11 benefits and he is given 2 months and 5 days ONLY. Joe may want to use up his traditional benefits and then apply for the additional 12 months of Post 9/11 benefits.
- How many months of service do you have AFTER 9/10/2001? This figure can include your training time only if you have served 30 months or more on active duty. You will be given a percentage of benefits based on this chart:

Months of Service	Percent of Benefits
36	100%
30	90%
24	80%
18	70%
12	60%
6	50%
90 days	40%

- What is your delimiting date? The traditional GI Bill gave you 10 years to use your benefits. Under the new Post 9/11 rules you will be given 15 years. If your delimiting date expired, you are eligible to reactivate your benefits if you meet the following criteria: (1) you had months or days left when your delimiting date expired (2) you qualify for Ch. 33 benefits (3) five years has not passed since your delimiting date expired
- Are you planning to take courses on-line? The new Post 9/11 benefits will not pay the monthly housing stipend if you are taking all on-line courses. You must take at least one credit hour on campus in a course that meets weekly.
- Are you planning to be a part-time student? The new Post 9/11 benefits will not pay the housing stipend if you take 6 credits or less as an undergraduate and 4 credits as a graduate student. You must take 7 (UG) or 5 (GR) credits to receive the housing benefit.
- Did you receive a kicker as part of your traditional GI Bill benefits? The \$600 buy-up to \$5400 benefits that was part of the traditional benefits will be gone if you change to the new Post 9/11 benefits. If you received a true incentive “kicker” then it will be paid in a lump sum after you have exhausted all of your months and days of benefits. If your delimiting date expires and you did not exhaust your days and months of benefits, you will not receive the true incentive “kicker”.
- Are you interested in the VA Work-study program? To qualify for the VA work-study program, you must be enrolled at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  time.
- Do you plan to give your new Post 9/11 education benefits to your spouse or dependent? You must have served 6 years of active duty and reenlist for an additional 4 years.