

# A GUIDE FOR WEST VIRGINIANS



## Using Your Veterans Educational Benefits

### WHO DETERMINES ELIGIBILITY?

To determine if you are eligible, contact the Veterans Affairs Regional Processing Office (VARPO) as indicated below:

#### ***For Education Claims:***

Veterans Affairs Regional Processing Office  
P.O. Box 4616  
Buffalo, NY 14240-4616  
Telephone: 1-888-GIBILL1 (442-4551)

#### ***All other types of claims:***

Huntington Veterans Affairs Regional Office  
640 Fourth Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25701  
Telephone: 1-800-827-1000



#### **Equal Opportunity Statement**

The Higher Education Policy Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, gender, veteran's status, age or disability, in the administration of any of its activities, services, or with respect to any aspects of employment.

**First Class  
Letter  
Postage  
Required**

**Veterans State Approving Agency  
WV Higher Education Policy Commission  
1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East—Suite 700  
Charleston, WV 25301**

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR VETERANS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs administers programs for veterans and servicepersons seeking assistance for education or training. Individuals who entered the military from January 1, 1977 through June 30, 1985 may receive educational assistance under a contributory plan. Individuals entering on active duty after June 30, 1985, may receive benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill. An educational entitlement program is also available for qualified members of the Selected Reserve.

### WHAT ARE THE BASIC BENEFITS?

#### **Veterans Educational Assistance Program (1/1/77 through 6/30/85)**

The amount of money received per month will vary with the individual's contribution to the program. For additional information, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### **Montgomery G.I. Bill (Beginning 7/1/85)**

- Career personnel with active duty service during the Vietnam-era
- Individuals who have entered active duty after 6/30/85 and receive an honorable discharge

Payment rates can be viewed at [www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates/ch30rates100103.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates/ch30rates100103.htm). Additional monies may be earned as incentives of various types. Amounts would be determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Persons who qualify as participants in the reserve components

Payment rates can be viewed at [www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates/ch1606rates100102.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates/ch1606rates100102.htm).

### EDUCATION FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS

When a veteran's death or permanent and total disability was the result of service in the Armed Forces, the following persons may be eligible for educational benefits:

- Survivors of deceased veterans
- Spouses of living veterans
- Children between ages 18 and 26 or either of the above

Payment rates can be viewed at [www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates/ch35rates100102.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates/ch35rates100102.htm).

## WHERE CAN V.A. BENEFITS BE USED?

An eligible veteran or service person may use his or her V.A. educational benefits in a wide variety of educational settings. The following types of educational programs and facilities are approved for V.A. educational purposes:

### **Apprenticeship and Other On-The-Job Training Programs**

These include programs at approved job training establishments that meet certain approval criteria specified in the US Code.

**Most people are not aware of the fact that VA benefits may be used to supplement a trainee's income while he/she pursues an apprenticeship or other on-the-job training program.** The veteran should contact the employer or the apprenticeship coordinator for the trade. Currently, programs are available in most trades such as boilermaker, bricklayer, carpenter, cement mason, correctional officer, electrician, fire fighter, iron worker, maintenance mechanic, operating engineer, plumber/steam fitter, and sheet metal worker.

### **Institutions of Higher Learning**

These would include all public and private colleges and universities that grant degrees in a variety of academic fields. Also included in this category are programs offered at accredited medical facilities (e.g., Nursing, Radiologic Technology, etc.).

### **Non-College Degree Facilities**

These would include programs offered at the various county and regional vocational technical career centers located throughout the State. Also included are approved programs at public and private colleges, barber and cosmetology schools and other private training facilities located throughout the State.



## HOW DO I OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

### *Specific inquiries for institutions*

Individuals seeking information and assistance on VA-related matters should contact the particular institution's Veterans Representative or VA Certifying Official.

**General information may also be obtained by visiting our website at:**  
[www.veteranseducationwv.com](http://www.veteranseducationwv.com)  
**or by returning this section to:**

Veterans State Approving Agency  
WV Higher Education Policy Commission  
1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East—Suite 700  
Charleston, WV 25301  
Phone: (304) 558-0263

I would like information regarding:

- Student Financial Aid
- VA Educational Benefits
- Residency for Tuition/Fee Purposes
- Associate/Bachelor/Graduate (circle one) Degree Program in (specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Vocational/Technical Career Programs
- Institution (specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Apprenticeship / On-the-job Training
- Specific Programs at Medical Facilities (e.g., Nursing, Radiology, etc.)
- Other (specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_