

# STOCKTON UNIVERSITY



## PROCEDURE

### Veterans' Education Benefits

Procedure Administrator: Vice President, Student Affairs

Authority:

Effective Date: September 27, 1982; September 22, 2009

Index Cross-References:

Procedure File Number: 3805

Approved By: Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., President

### I. PURPOSE:

To provide procedural guidance related to benefits for veterans and dependents in accordance with Title 38, U.S.C.

### II. PROCEDURE:

#### A. Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)

##### 1. Eligibility

Veterans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II or thereafter are eligible for vocational rehabilitation if all three of the following conditions are met:

- a. They suffered a service-connected disability in active service which entitles them to compensation which they have declined in lieu of retirement pay;
- b. They were discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions; and
- c. The Veterans Administration determines that they need vocational rehabilitation to overcome the handicap of their disabilities.

## 2. Entitlement

Generally, a veteran is eligible for vocational rehabilitation for 9 years following discharge or release. Veterans who have reached their termination date as of April 1, 1981, have an additional three years to complete a training program under Vocational Rehabilitation. Further extension may be granted for seriously disabled veterans (50% or more) when determined by the Veterans Administration.

## 3. Application

Assistance with applications for vocational rehabilitation can be obtained through the Veterans' Certifying Official, however, determination of eligibility under this program is by the Veterans Administration.

## B. Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty – Chapter 30

The MGIB program provides up to 36 months of education benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. *Generally, benefits are payable for 10 years following your release from active duty.* This program is also commonly known as Chapter 30.

### 1. Eligibility

You may be an eligible veteran if you have an Honorable Discharge, **AND** you have a High School Diploma or GED or in some cases 12 hours of college credit, **AND** you meet the requirements below.

Entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985

Had military pay reduced by \$100 a month for first 12 months

Continuously served for 3 years, *OR* 2 years if that is what you first enlisted for, *OR* 2 years if you entered the Selected Reserve within a year of leaving active duty and served 4 years ("2 by 4" Program)

### 2. Entitlement

The monthly benefit paid to you is based on the type of training you take, length of your service, your category, and if DOD put extra money in your *MGIB* Fund (called "kickers"). You usually have 10 years to use your *MGIB* benefits, but the time limit can be less, in some cases, and longer under certain circumstances.

### 3. Application

You can apply by filling out VA Form 22-1990, Application for Education Benefits.

### C. Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve – Chapter 1606

The MGIB-SR program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

#### 1. Eligibility

Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your original obligation. For some types of training, it is necessary to have a six-year commitment that begins after September 30, 1990;

Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT);

Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT. You may not use 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement;

Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit.

#### 2. Entitlement

You may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of education benefits.

If your eligibility to this program began on or after October 1, 1992, your period of eligibility ends 14 years from your beginning date of eligibility, or on the day you leave the Selected Reserve.

If your eligibility to this program began prior to October 1, 1992, your period of eligibility ends 10 years from your beginning date of eligibility, or on the day you leave the Selected Reserve.

You may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of education benefits. Your benefit entitlement ends 14 years from the date of your eligibility for the program, or on the day you leave the Selected Reserve.

### 3. Application

Your unit will give you DD Form 2384-1, Notice of Basic Eligibility, when you become eligible for the program. Your unit will also code your eligibility into the Department of Defense personnel system so that VA may verify your eligibility.

You should then make sure that your selected program is approved for VA training. If you are not clear on this point, VA will inform you and the school or company about the requirements.

Obtain and complete VA Form 22-1990, Application for Education Benefits. Send it to the VA regional office with jurisdiction over the State where you will train.

If you have started training, take your application and your Notice of Basic Eligibility to your school or employer. Ask them to complete VA Form 22-1999, Enrollment Certification, and send all the forms to VA.

## D. Reserve Education Assistance Program – REAP – Chapter 1607

REAP was established as a part of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005. It is a new Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. This new program makes certain reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001 either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

### 1. Eligibility

Eligibility will be determined by the Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as appropriate. Generally, a member of a Reserve component who serves on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 under title 10, U.S. Code, for at least 90 consecutive days under a contingency operation, is eligible for REAP. There is no specific time frame to use REAP; however, your eligibility generally ends when you leave the Selected Reserves.

National Guard members are eligible if their active service extends for 90 consecutive days or more and their service is:

- authorized under section 502(f), title 32, U.S. Code,
- authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for a national emergency, and
- supported by federal funds.

## 2. Entitlement

The educational assistance allowance payable under REAP is a percentage of the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB) rate based on the number of continuous days served on active duty. Persons released before 90 days due to an injury, illness, or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty receive the 40% rate. Current rates of payment can be found on our Internet web site or by calling the toll-free number below.

Members who serve 90 days but less than 1 year will receive 40% of the MGIB 3 year rate.

Members who serve 1 year but less than 2 years will receive 60% of the MGIB 3 year rate.

Members who serve 2 or more continuous years will receive 80% of the MGIB 3 year rate.

The amount VA pays is based on the type of training program and training time (i.e. full time, half time, etc). If attendance is less than a month or less than full-time, payments are reduced proportionately.

## 3. Application

Complete VA Form 22-1990, *Application for Education Benefits*, and take it to the Certifying Official for your college where you will train. Indicate on the form you are applying for REAP.

## E. Survivors' and Dependents' Education (Chapter 35)

### 1. Eligibility

You must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:

- a. A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces.
- b. A veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence.
- c. A service member missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.
- d. A service member forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.
- e. A service member who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability. This change is effective December 23, 2006.

2. Duration of Eligibility:

If you are a son or daughter and wish to receive benefits for attending school or job training, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26. In certain instances, it is possible to begin before age 18 and to continue after age 26. Marriage is not a bar to this benefit. If you are in the Armed Forces, you may not receive this benefit while on active duty. To pursue training after military service, your discharge must not be under dishonorable conditions. VA can extend your period of eligibility by the number of months and days equal to the time spent on active duty. This extension cannot generally go beyond your 31<sup>st</sup> birthday, there are some exceptions.

If you are a spouse, benefits end 10 years from the date VA finds you eligible or from the date of death of the veteran. **If the VA rated the veteran permanently and totally disabled with an effective date of 3 years from discharge a spouse will remain eligible for 20 years from the effective date of the rating. This change is effective October 10, 2008 and no benefits may be paid for any training taken prior to that date.**

For surviving spouses (spouses of service members who died on active duty) benefits end 20 years from the date of death.

4. Obtain and complete VA Form 22-5490, Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance. Send it to the VA regional office with jurisdiction over the State where you will train. If you are a son or daughter, under legal age, a parent or guardian must sign the application.

If you have started training, take your application to your school or employer. Ask them to complete VA Form 22-1999, Enrollment Certification, and send both forms to VA.

F. Benefits

Receipt of benefits generally commences two months after the initial application has been completed for Chapters 30, 1606, 1607 and 35. Chapter 31 expenses are billed directly to the Veterans Administration.

## G. The Post 9/11 GI Bill – Chapter 33

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is for individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill will become effective for training on or after August 1, 2009. This program will pay eligible individuals:

### 1. Benefits

Tuition & fees directly to the school not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition & fees at a public Institution of Higher Learning.

A monthly housing allowance based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents at the location of the school.

An annual books & supplies stipend of \$1,000 paid proportionately based on enrollment

## H. Work-Study Benefits

If you're a full-time or 3/4-time student in a college degree program, or a vocational or professional program, you can "earn while you learn" with a VA work-study allowance:

- a. Processing enrollment documents (work-study students may not sign enrollment certifications).
- b. Assisting in the maintenance of veterans' records.
- c. Providing supportive assistance to the Veterans' Affairs Office.

## I. Eligibility

Montgomery GI Bill--Active Duty (38 U.S.C. Chapter 30)

REAP Participants

Montgomery GI Bill--Selected Reserve (10 U.S.C. Chapter 1606)

Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (38 U.S.C. Chapter 32)

Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (38 U.S.C. Chapter 35)

Eligible dependents under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 35 may use work study only while training in a State.

## National Call to Service Participants

### 1. Duration of Eligibility

If the student reduces his/her training status to less than full-time during the duration of the agreement, he or she may be permitted to complete the contract. If the student terminates training during the period of the agreement, he/she will be permitted to complete only the number of hours for which an advance payment was received.

### 2. Payment

Veterans are paid in advance for the first 40% of the hours of their contract and are thereafter paid in arrears for each increment of 50 hours of service performed. Any hours of unperformed services for which advance payment was made are subject to recovery.

### 3. Application

Application is made on VA Form 20-8691, which may be obtained at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

## J. Academic Monitoring

A student receiving VA educational assistance is required to maintain satisfactory progress and conduct according to standards set by the institution. At the close of each semester the Veterans' Affairs Office will:

1. Review transcripts of all VA benefit recipients to determine academic progress;
2. Categorize "N", "F", and "I" grades;
3. Send inquiries to professors, assigning substandard grades;
4. Counsel student and reiterate the availability of the tutorial assistance program; and
5. Adjust credit hours on 1999b's when applicable and forward to VARO.



K. Questions regarding benefits.

The Certifying Official is available to assist the student who is experiencing problems in the following areas:

1. Educational benefits
  - a. Non-receipt of monetary assistance benefits
  - b. Payment inquiries.
  - c. Amount received questioned

L. New Jersey Veterans' Tuition Credit Program

New Jersey Legislature annually appropriates funding for the Veterans' Tuition Credit Program (VTCP). This program provides a maximum award of \$200 to each eligible veteran attending any post secondary academic (undergraduate or graduate), professional or vocational institution in the United States.

1. Eligibility

- a. Veterans of the Armed Forces who are eligible for veterans' educational assistance pursuant to federal law and have served on active duty between December 31, 1960 and August 1, 1974.
- b. Veterans who are legal residents of the State of New Jersey
  - at the time of induction into the Armed Forces, or
  - at the time of discharge from active duty, or
  - for a period of not less than two years prior to making application, exclusive of time spent on active duty.
- c. Veterans currently enrolled in an approved (State Approving Agency) course of study at any eligible academic, professional or vocational institution in the United States, provided such institution has a written agreement with the New Jersey Department of Higher Education.

2. Entitlement

A veteran is entitled to one semester of payment for each three months or fraction thereof that he or she served on active duty between December 31, 1960 and August 1, 1974.

3. Duration of Eligibility

Veterans who served on active duty 18 months or more are eligible to receive a maximum of 8 semesters of payment.

4. Applications

Applications can be obtained at the Veterans' Affairs Office. When applying, veterans whose DD214 does not reflect residency in the State of New Jersey should provide additional verification, i.e., tax assessments, drivers' license, etc.

Approval History:

	Date
President	09/22/09