



## Other places you can go for information about financial assistance for education

- The financial aid office at your school
- Defense Activities Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES): [www.voled.dod.mil](http://www.voled.dod.mil)
- Department of Education: [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)
- Coalition of America's Colleges and Universities: [www.collegeispossible.org](http://www.collegeispossible.org)

For more information, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs GI BILL website at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) or call Toll free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1· 888 · 442 · 4551). Hearing Impaired Call 1· 800 · 829 · 4833

**Department of Veterans Services**  
State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training  
900 East Main Street, Ground Floor, East Wing  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Tel: 804 · 225 · 2083  
Fax: 804 · 786 · 0809  
Website: [www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

## Related Benefits

### Tests for License or Certification

You may receive benefits for approved tests required for a license or certification. You can receive reimbursement for the cost of the test, up to \$2,000. For more information, go to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov), click *Education Benefits Programs*, then click *Licensing and Certification*.

### Tuition Assistance “Top-Up”

If you've been on active duty for two years, you may also be eligible to use MGIB to supplement, or “top up,” your Tuition Assistance (TA) from the military. Top-up covers the remaining percentage of costs approved for TA that TA alone doesn't cover—**up to specified limits**. For example, if your service authorizes 75% of costs through TA, top-up can pay the remaining 25% of costs approved for TA. For more information on Tuition Assistance Top-Up, go to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). Click *Education Benefit Programs*, then click *Tuition Assistance Top-Up Information*.

### Tutorial Assistance

You may receive a special allowance, up to a total benefit of \$1200, for individual tutoring, if necessary, if you train in school at one-half time or more. The school must certify the tutor's qualifications and the hours of tutoring. If eligible, you may receive a maximum monthly payment of \$100.

### Work-Study Benefits

Under the work-study program, you work for VA, or for the school you're attending, or at other designated locations, and receive an hourly wage while you're receiving MGIB benefits at the three-quarter or fulltime rate. Payments will be at the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is greater. You can work for up to 25 times the number of weeks in your enrollment period.



# A Ladder to Success

Virginia State Approving Agency  
for Veterans Education and Training

*“Serving The Deserving”*

Chapters: 30, 33, 35, 1606, 1607





## Why Should I Use the GI BILL?

Think of it this way: You've invested in the GI Bill through your military service. You want to realize a substantial return on your investment. For most people, the GI Bill provides a substantial financial benefit for education or training.

The more education or training you receive, the better your chances for obtaining the job or career you want, and thus your prospects for the future.



## State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training

The State Approving Agency (SAA) for Veterans Education and Training is responsible for the approval of institutions and establishments operating in Virginia so that eligible veterans and their dependents may enroll and receive their educational benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) while pursuing an approved education program.

The SAA approves educational programs at *colleges/universities, technical/trade schools, licensing/certification programs and OJT/apprenticeship programs.*

Over 900 schools and training establishments are approved. Visit [www.dvs.virginia.gov/saa.htm](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/saa.htm) to view a complete list.

Even if you already have a bachelor's degree, the GI Bill offers you the opportunity to obtain a master's degree or higher. Or, you can get other types of training that may help you in a specific job or career.

You generally have ten years to use MGIB benefits and 15 years to use Post 9/11 benefits after you leave active duty. Don't let those ten years go by without realizing the maximum return on your investment! Use your GI Bill benefits.

*You've earned your benefits, now use them to secure your future*

## What Training May I Take?

You may receive benefits for a wide range of training, including the training listed below:

- An undergraduate or graduate degree at a college or university, including an accredited independent study program (which may be offered through distance learning) leading to a standard college degree
- Accredited independent study courses leading to a certificate at colleges and certain other organizations
- A certificate or diploma from a business, technical, or vocational school
- An apprenticeship or OJT program offered by a company or union. Apprenticeships or OJT programs may offer an alternative to college or vocational school for helping you gain experience in the field you choose
- A correspondence course
- Flight training. You must have a private pilot certificate and meet the medical requirements for the desired certificate before beginning training
- Programs overseas that lead to a college degree
- Remedial, deficiency, or refresher training, if necessary

**Caution:** A state approving agency or USDVA must approve each program.