



## U.S. Public Health Service Nursing Tip of the Month March 2017 Education Benefits



### GI Bill Benefits

**Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility for Active Duty Veterans:** Veterans who have served at least 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001 and received an honorable discharge will qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. To qualify for the full benefit, a Veteran must have served at least 3 years of active duty after September 10, 2001. Those who qualify for the Active Duty GI Bill, the Reserve GI Bill or REAP\* will have the option to choose which benefit best suits their need.

**Applying for Benefits:** Apply online today if you know which benefit you want to use. <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/apply.asp>

**If you are enrolled in school, when will you receive your benefits from VA?** There are many things that affect when you receive your payments. Your school must submit your enrollment to the VA for processing to begin. If it's the first time you are using benefits, it will take longer to process your payment than if you are re-enrolling. In general, it takes about a month to process a first time claim, and about a week for a re-enrollment. NOTE: If the VA needs to verify your service, obtaining remarks from your certifying official on your enrollments can make processing longer. Also, processing times are longer in the fall than during other terms due to the volume of claims VA receives.

If you are receiving benefits under MGIB-AD (Chapter 30) or MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606), you must also verify your enrollment at the end of each month in order to receive payment for that month. Benefits are paid after each month of school is completed.

For instructions on how to verify your enrollment click here: [https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/7](https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/7)

You will generally receive payment within two weeks of verifying your enrollment at the end of the month (or within one week if using Direct Deposit). To check on the status of an Education benefit payment, please call 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551). You can select the option for an automated update, or speak to a claims specialist. **GI BILL Calculator:** [https://www.military.com/newmembers/gi-bill-calculator?vlv\\_redir=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.military.com%252Fgi-bill-calculator%252F](https://www.military.com/newmembers/gi-bill-calculator?vlv_redir=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.military.com%252Fgi-bill-calculator%252F)

**How do you verify enrollment?** If you're receiving the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty, MGIB - Selected Reserve GI Bill or REAP\*, use the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) or call our toll free Interactive Voice Response (IVR) telephone line at 1-877-VA-ECERT (1-877-823-2378) to verify your attendance.

\*Consider switching to the Post-9/11 GI Bill if you are currently using REAP. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended REAP on November 25, 2015. See the REAP website <http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/reap.asp> for more details on your current eligibility and how to make an irrevocable election to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill instead.

**Do you get Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) while enrolled in distance learning?** The effective MHA rate for those enrolled solely in distance learning is 1/2 the national average MHA. [http://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits\\_resources/rate\\_tables.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp)

**School Decision Resources:** Many VA and other government resources exist to help you choose a school and education program. Visit these VA and non-VA sites for guidance: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school\\_decision.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_decision.asp)

**GI Bill/DEERs USPHS Contact Personnel-** [Mary.Boone@HHS.GOV](mailto:Mary.Boone@HHS.GOV) (240-453-6038)

Source: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill> , [http://www.military.com/media/education/pdf/post911\\_gibill.pdf](http://www.military.com/media/education/pdf/post911_gibill.pdf)

Point of contact: CDR Jonathan Paulsel and CAPT Casey Hadsall, for the Mentoring Workgroup

PHS-NURSE LIST SERV

N-PAC Career Development Subcommittee.

TO REQUEST A MENTOR