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Spotlight On:

Should Service Members switch from the Montgomery GI Bill to the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

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The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is now accepting and processing applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. But, should a Service Member who currently has the Montgomery GI Bill change over to the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Good question.

Before making that decision there are a few things to consider:

- If you change to the Post-9/11 GI Bill the decision is irrevocable, meaning you cannot go back once the switch is made.
- The Post-9/11 GI Bill is for academic degree program use at institutions of higher learning (IHL's) only. This means only academic degree programs like associates degrees, bachelors degrees, etc at colleges and universities that are VA approved. Certificate programs and diploma programs offered by institutions that do not grant degrees, and institutions not VA approved are not covered. To find out if a specific institution is covered, you can search at www.gibill.va.gov
- If a person does not currently have the Montgomery GI Bill and enrolls in the Post-9/11 GI Bill and decides to attend a school that is not VA approved as an IHL, the Post-9/11 GI Bill will not pay for your education.
- The Post-9/11 **MAY** pay for vocational and technical programs for Service Members who currently hold the Montgomery GI Bill (**MGIB**); However, there are actions that must be taken before a Service Member changes to the Post-9/11. Furthermore, the Post-9/11 will pay in the same manner and the same amount as MGIB. It is imperative that you check with the VA or the Education Office if you are planning on changing to the Post-9/11 and then attending a trade school.
- The Post-9/11 GI Bill will not pay the monthly housing allowance for individuals who are taking online classes only. To get the monthly housing allowance you must attend at least one class on campus every semester. Active duty and spouses of active duty are not eligible for the BAH regardless.

- For the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the monthly housing allowance is based on the BAH rate at the zip code where your college or university is located, not your personal zip code.

- The Montgomery GI Bill does not pay the monthly housing allowance or book stipends.

- In some locations the costs of college and housing (which you would receive payment for under the Post-9/11 GI Bill) are less than the payment you would receive under the Montgomery GI Bill.

- Although the information relays that the Post-9/11 will pay for flight training, the training will only be paid for if done through an IHL as part of a degree program. Non-VA-approved schools will not be covered.

- If you purchased the \$600 Buy-Up Program for the Montgomery GI Bill, it is **NOT** transferable to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

- The \$1200 paid into the Montgomery GI Bill is non-refundable **UNLESS** all monies from the Post-9/11 GI Bill are used and the individual is still in a degree program.

- In some states Veterans do not have to pay tuition at selected state colleges. The Post-9/11 GI Bill may then pay only the housing benefit and the book stipend. (Since you have no tuition costs the Post-9/11 GI Bill will not pay the college any tuition.) Your payments under other GI Bill programs such as the Montgomery GI Bill may be higher in these cases

- The Post-9/11 GI Bill **does not** cover Apprenticeship or On-the-Job Training Programs. The Montgomery GI Bill does cover these programs.

- “Time in service” excludes Basic Training and initial service schools under the Post-9/11 GI Bill if service is at or under 24 months.

- These are just a few of the things a Service Member should know before making the decision to change from the Montgomery GI Bill to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

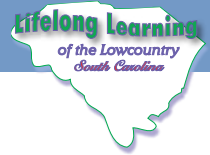
- For more information please consult the VA Website at www.gibill.va.gov

Important Reminder Regarding the SAT

The SAT Testing program closes nationwide during July, August, and September to prepare for the new testing year. If you need an SAT test, you must take it during our June testing sessions. Please see the testing schedules for dates and times.

After June 12, 2009 the MCAS and MCRD Education Offices will no longer be offering the paper-based CLEP and DSST Tests. The Technical College of the Lowcountry will become the local DANTES Testing Center for Computer-Based CLEP and DSST Testing. Testing will be free for active duty and students will know immediately if they have passed their tests. Please call our offices for more information.





JUINE 2009 TESTING SCHEDULES

MCRD Parris Island 228-2086/3889

ASVAB

June 1, 15 & 29 • 0800

TABE

June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 • 0800

CLEP/DSST

June 3 & 10 • 1400

TABE

June 4, 11, 18 & 25 • 1300

SAT

June 8 & 12 • 0800

DLAB

June 11 • 0800

ACT

June 22 • 0800

MCAS Beaufort 228-7474/7421

CLEP/DSST

June 3 & 10 • 1400

TABE

June 1, 9, 11 & 25 • 1400

DLAB

June 11 & 25 • 0830

ACT

June 4, 18 & 23 • 0830

SAT

June 2 & 9 • 0800

ASVAB

June 1, 8, 16 & 29 • 0830

Testing requires a prior appointment. Please call at least two days in advance to schedule. For free, full-length practice tests on the SAT, ACT, ASVAB, and CLEP General and Subject tests, check out www.nko.navy.mil.

LOCAL COLLEGE CONTACT NUMBERS

EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY	228-7585
PARK UNIVERSITY	228-7052
TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY	228-7494
UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX	228-7102
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT	228-7499
WEBSTER UNIVERSITY	524-1851
WHELOCK COLLEGE	522-1183

For the latest in local education news, always visit our website: <http://www.mccssc.com/lifelong/>