

Apply for VA Education Benefits



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

ChooseVA

This guide will help you apply for VA Education Benefits, which include the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill, other educational assistance programs, on-the-job training, and career counseling.

A checklist to help you apply for VA Education Benefits:

1

RESEARCH

- ☐ Decide which type of education benefit you want to use (refer to back)
- ☐ Learn about schools that offer VA-approved programs by using the GI Bill Comparison Tool (va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool) to:
 - Determine your out-of-pocket costs for each school
 - Compare school statistics (i.e., graduation and loan repayment rates)

HOW DO I DECIDE WHAT IS BEST FOR ME?

VA offers tools and counseling programs to help you make the most of your options. Visit www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/edu_voc_counseling.asp to research schools.

2

PREPARATION

- ☐ Apply to the program that is best for you
- ☐ Collect the following information
 - **Discharge papers** (DD214 member-4 or equivalent)
 - **Orders**, if activated from the Guard or the Reserves

WHERE CAN I FIND MY DISCHARGE PAPERS?

Visit eBenefits.va.gov to request a copy of your DD214 records.

3

APPLICATION

- ☐ Apply by submitting all documents in one of these ways:
 - Submit your application **online** using eBenefits or VA.gov
 - Complete an application **in person** at a VA Regional Office
 - Work with your school's VA certifying official (this person is usually in the Registrar or Financial Aid office **at the school of your choice**)

4

DECISION

- ☐ For further information about your benefit, **call** the Education Call Center (888) 442-4551