



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

FOREVER GI BILL CHANGES

Since 1944, the GI Bill® represented this nation's commitment to Veterans and their families. Now, Congress has updated this historic legislation to keep pace with the needs of the armed forces, Veterans, and economy. Unanimously passed on a bi-partisan basis, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, (also known as the "Forever GI Bill") with 34 new provisions extends benefits to Purple Heart and Fry Scholarship recipients, makes technical fixes, and launches innovative programs.

Forever GI Bill brings monumental changes to Veterans education benefits over the next five years. Most changes enhance or expand education benefits for Veterans, servicemembers, families, and survivors.

What are the changes?

The 15-year time limit is gone for those who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013. They will now be able to access their benefit when the time is right for them and their families.

VA is restoring lost benefits. We are providing relief to Veterans affected by some school or degree program closures or disapprovals.

Reservists can transfer previously lost benefits to Post-9/11 GI Bill. Veterans who had eligibility under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) and lost it due to the program sunset can elect to have that service credited toward the Post-9/11 GI Bill program.



Veterans can earn and learn. Work-study programs are permanently authorized, meaning students can plan to earn while they learn for years to come.

Veterans have more choice in where they learn. Students wishing to pursue education programs at accredited independent study (online learning is an example of independent study) programs at career and technical education schools and postsecondary vocational institutions can use their benefits to do so.

VA is helping to better inform Veterans. VA improves outreach and transparency to Veterans and servicemembers by providing information on schools that offer priority enrollment.



For more information on all 34 sections of the Forever GI Bill, go to <https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/forevergibill.asp>

Our Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. -6 p.m. CST) for any questions about GI Bill benefits.

Join the conversation on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gibillEducation and follow us on Twitter @VAVetBenefits

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