September 16, 2009

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING
CHAPTER 33 Post 9-11/GI BILL BENEFITS

The San Diego Community College District has been notified by the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits that claims for the Post-9/11 GI Bill are delayed. The processing time for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs is now estimated between 6 and 8 weeks.

The notice states that “Claims processing times traditionally spike temporarily during September and October with fall enrollment, and we expect our processing time to reduce after the initial surge.”

Thank you for your patience.
The maximum basic benefit provides the following:

- Full cost of tuition and fees at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar College

Other schools cost not to exceed:

The most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher learning in the state you are attending school
Benefits Provided

1 – Tuition
2 – Monthly housing allowance
3 – Yearly book and supply stipend
Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to an E-5 with dependents in the same zip code as the college.
The maximum yearly books and supplies stipend is $1,000.

The stipend is not prepaid.

First monthly check includes stipend reimbursement.
Only active duty service performed after September 10, 2001, will be considered for this new benefit.

To be eligible:

A service member or veteran must have served at least 90 days on active duty.

- Individuals honorably discharged due to a service-connected disability who served 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001.
Individuals serving between 90 days and 36 months of cumulative active duty service will be eligible for a percentage of the maximum benefit.

Percentage levels range from 40% of the basic benefit for those whose service is between 90 days and 6 months to 90% for those who served between 30 months and 36 months. For example, an individual with 5 months of qualifying service could receive 40% of the tuition benefit. 40% of the monthly housing allowance, and a maximum of $400 book and supply stipend.
Benefits are based on the length of active duty service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of:</th>
<th>Includes entry level and skill training?</th>
<th>Percentage of Maximum Benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 36 months</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Discharged due to service-connected disability)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 months, but less than 36 months</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 24 months, but less than 30 months</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 18 months, but less than 24 months</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 12 months, but less than 18 months</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 06 months, but less than 12 months</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 90 days, but less than 06 months</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Individuals will generally receive 36 months of full-time education benefits.

This allows VA students to:

- Receive benefits for a four year undergraduate degree based on a nine-month academic year.
- If entitlement is not exhausted, it may continue to provide benefits for approved training at an degree granting institution including graduate training.
- Limit of 48 months of benefits if eligible for more than one VA education program.
- Transferring to the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) from the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30), one will be limited to the amount of the remaining Chapter 30 entitlement.
- Individuals will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from the date of last discharge or release from active duty.
The housing allowance is based on the location of the school and will be sent directly to the veteran for each month of enrollment in school training at more than half time.

- **Not entitled to benefit:**
  
  Individuals on active duty,
  anyone training at half time or less,
  and those solely pursuing distance learning (on-line).
Transfer Chapter
Benefits and Restrictions

- Individuals transferring from Chapter 30 will have a proportional amount of their basic $1,200 contribution refunded in the last monthly housing allowance payment when entitlement exhausts.

- Individuals who do not exhaust entitlement under the Post 9/11 GI Bill will not receive a refund.

- A refund of the $600 additional contribution is not authorized.
Applications

Application processing began on May 1, 2009 for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33.
Questions

Updated information will be available at

www.gibill.va.gov

Veterans Affairs
Toll Free: 1-888-442-4541