



Washington County Veteran's Newsletter



September/October 2009

Washington County Website

Our Newsletter is now available on-line. Please visit the Washington County Website for the most up-to-date information regarding VA Programs and Benefits. You can also find current events, publications, and applications. Or you can log on to the WDVA Website.

www.co.washington.wi.us

or

www.dva.state.wi.us

Washington County Veterans Service Office

To contact our office please call 262-335-4457
Office Hours: Monday–Friday
8:00AM – 4:30PM

Transportation

If you have an appointment at the VAMC in Milwaukee, the Red Cross may be able to assist or you may use the Washington County Commuter Express (WCCE). For information on WCCE call: 1-888-675-9223 or www.rideWCCE.com

For further information on the Red Cross call:
262-673-4400 (Hartford area)
262-334-5687 (West Bend area)

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Veterans Service Office

*Our office is located in the
Washington County Courthouse
432 E. Washington St., Room 2006
West Bend, WI 53095.*

Calendar of Events:

September 11, 2009 – Patriot Day: September 11th of each year is a day set aside by federal law as “Patriot Day,” in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001. (http://dva.state.wi.us/pa_patriot.asp)

September 11-13, 2009: WDVA/Wisconsin Veterans Museum present veterans benefits booths at the *Indian Summer Festival* at Henry Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee. (<http://www.indiansummer.org/>)

November 5-11, 2009: Veterans Recognition Week. (http://www.dva.state.wi.us/PA_VetsDays.asp)

November 7, 2009: Veterans Day Parade of Milwaukee, Inc. (<http://www.veteransdayparade-milw.org/index.html>)

November 11, 2009: Veterans Day – WDVA WVH-Union Grove Veterans Day Program at 11:00 am.



Primary Mortgage Loan (PML)

Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) offers state veterans a 30 year 5.55%, effective 06/11/09, fixed home loan program, entitled the Primary Mortgage Loan (PML), WDVA can finance up to 95% of the purchase price of a residence with a maximum mortgage amount of \$343,750. One advantage of the PML program is that private mortgage insurance (PMI) is not required, even with as little as 5% down. Eligible veterans must apply for a mortgage loan within 25 years from their date of discharge. These mortgage loans can be used to finance the following.....

- Purchase or purchase and improvement of a single family home or condominium
- Construction of a new single family home
- Purchase of certain existing 2 or 4 unit owner occupied residence. (Must be occupied as borrower's principal residence.)
- Check the WDVA website at wisvetloans.com for future updates.

Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP)

The Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) may be used for:

- Additions, garage construction, repairs and remodeling (i.e., replace a roof, install new windows, a new furnace or a central air conditioning system) of a veteran's residence.

Loan amount: Veterans, you can borrow up to 90% of your home equity for home improvements. The \$25,000 cap has been removed from the Home Improvement Loan Program. You **MUST** have at least 10% remaining in the property to be improved.

For a loan amount of \$25,000 current HILP rates are:

- ❖ 6.75% for a term of 5 years
- ❖ 7.00% for a term of 7 years
- ❖ 7.00% for a term of 10 years
- ❖ 7.25% for a term of 15 years.

Personal Loan Program PLP

You may borrow up to \$25,000 (depending on type of security used see details below) for any use such as debt consolidation, school, etc. with up to 10 years to repay. There are two ways you can secure the PLP. Either you must have 10% remaining equity on the property, or use a co-signer.

For those using mortgage as security (90% loan to value) the terms are as follows:

Loan Amount \$25,000:

- 5 years with 6.75% interest
- 7 years with 7.00% interest
- 10 years with 7.00% interest

For those using a co-signer as security the terms are as follows:

- \$5,000 for 3 years with 8.50% interest
- \$5,000 for 5 years with 10% interest

As with all loans you must be credit worthy. If you have questions on these loan programs please contact our office.

**“He who loves not his country can love nothing.”
~ Lord Byron**

Returning Veteran's

Returning veteran's who have served in **Afghanistan** and **Iraq** should have their discharge recorded and reviewed by the Veteran Service Officer. Many returnees need to have dental work completed or claims filed due to injuries/conditions that occurred "in area." **Dental claims must be filed within 90 days of discharge** if dental work was not completed prior to discharge. Claims for conditions or injuries should be filed within one year of discharge.

Requesting Medals/Ribbons

If you would like to request your medals and ribbons earned while on active duty please contact our office and we will assist you. Currently, the time between the request and receiving your medals is about one year.

CIB or Combat Medic Badge

If you received the CIB or Combat Medic Badge during WWII period, you may apply for the **Bronze Star Medal**. Contact our office and we will assist you in your application.

Korea Defense Service Medal

Korean veterans, the Korea Defense Service Medal is now being awarded to those who have served in Korea (post Korean War to present.) Veterans can receive this medal by providing proof of service in Korea. Examples would be Discharge papers, DD 215, special orders or recognition documentation. If you need assistance in locating your discharge or other supporting documents please contact our staff.

"Peace rules the day, where reason rules the mind."

~ William Collins

VA Headstones and Markers

VA BURIAL BENEFIT UPDATE 04: The VA has changed the regulation concerning the provision of a VA headstone or marker for a grave already marked in a private cemetery. As a result of passage of the Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act of 2007, the VA can now provide a headstone or marker for those graves already marked in a private cemetery for those Veterans who died after NOV 1, 1990. The claimant must pay the cost of the installation of the Government headstone or marker in a private cemetery. Details of the new regulation can be read at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-10635.htm> .

[Source: VFW VSO Richard Springer 13 May 08]

Attention Veterans! ***FRAUD WARNING!***

Veterans around the country are reporting that they are getting calls from a company identifying itself as the "Patient Care Group."

This company is claiming that VA prescriptions are now being dispensed through them and that if veterans want to continue to properly receive their medications, they must provide a credit card number.

*VA has **NOT** changed the process of receiving and dispensing prescriptions.*

DO NOT GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER TO ANYONE WHO CALLS YOU!

Please contact your local VA Medical Center if you have questions about VA prescriptions or services.

Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit

Article retrieved from Internet www.dva.state.wi.us

The Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit provides a refundable state income tax credit which has expanded the program for property taxes paid in 2009 (and providing a refundable state income tax credit for state taxes filed in 2010) that will **remove the age limit** (currently age 65 or older), **reduce the residency requirement to five continuous years of state residency**, and **include totally disabled veterans determined to be Individually Unemployable (IU)**. The credit is extended to an eligible veteran's unremarried surviving spouse. Also eligible, are the unremarried surviving spouses of Wisconsin veterans who die in the line of duty, including those killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To claim the credit, eligibility must be established with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), and the WDVA certification must be included when filing the state income tax forms with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Eligible veterans and surviving spouses will receive the credit even if they do not have any income tax eligibility.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs brochure WDVA B0106 dated February 2007 provides information, procedures, and instructions on this new program. This brochure can be found at the WDVA Web site www.dva.state.wi.us, by calling 1-800-WIS-VETS, or by contacting our office



Military Family Support Group

The Military Family Support group has moved from King Pin Bowl (formerly Weiland's Fun Center) to the West Bend American Legion. The West Bend American Legion is in the Mutual Mall Building located at 1043 S Main Street, across the street from King Pin Bowl, every second Tuesday of the month from 7 – 8:30 pm. For more information contact: Robert Kudek at (262) 675-2801, Ed Denzin at (262) 334-4184 or Victoria Duncan at (262) 384-3004.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all..."

~ President Abraham Lincoln

Expansion of Dental Eligibility

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008 was signed by President Bush on January 28, 2008. Among the many provisions, this Act extends the period of enhanced dental eligibility provided a recently discharged veteran.

Prior to NDAA, veterans who served on active duty 90 days or more were eligible to receive one-time VA dental benefits if they made application to VA within 90 days post discharge from active duty and if his/her DD214 did not indicate necessary dental treatment had been provided within 90 days of release from active duty.

The NDAA has extended the timeframe for veterans to make application for the one-time VA dental benefit from 90 days to 180 days post-separation.

There are no software implications for this change as eligibility for dental benefits is determined at site of application. Consequently, the field should implement this expanded benefit immediately. CBO is developing a directive to provide formal guidance and anticipates release to field to be expedited.

For questions contact Tony Guagliardo, Director Business Policy (202) 254-0406.



Freedom... Pride & Glory

In the truest sense,

Freedom cannot be bestowed,

It must be achieved. ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

Expansion of Eligibility for Combat Veterans

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008 was signed by President Bush on January 28, 2008. This Act extends the period of enhanced health care eligibility provided a veteran who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 (commonly referred to as combat veterans or OEF/OIF veterans) as follows:

- **Currently enrolled veterans and new enrollees who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003** are eligible for the enhanced benefits, for 5 years post discharge.
- **Veterans discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, who apply for enrollment on or after January 28, 2008**, are eligible for the enhanced benefit until January 27, 2011.

As before, veterans included in this authority may be enrolled in Priority Group 6, if not eligible for a higher Priority Group placement, and may be charged co-pays for medication and/or treatment of conditions that are clearly unrelated to their combat service (e.g. common cold, broken bone). These veterans, while not required to disclose income, may do so to determine their eligibility for a higher priority status, beneficiary travel benefits and exemption of co-pays for care unrelated to their military service.

There is no change to VA's policy of continuing enrollment of veterans who enroll with VA under this "Combat Veteran" authority after their enhanced eligibility period ends. At the end of the enhanced eligibility period, VA will reassess the veteran's information and make a new enrollment decision. If the veteran was in Priority Group 6 and no other eligibility factors apply then he/she will continue enrollment in either Priority Group 7 or Priority Group 8 depending on their income level and will be required to make applicable co-pays.

VistA and national enrollment (Health Eligibility Center's information system) software enhancements to implement the provisions of NDAA are expected to be released in early April.

"Wisconsin GI Bill" provides educational benefits for veterans and their families

Article retrieved from Internet www.dva.state.wi.us

Effective with the fall semester of the 2005-06 academic year, a new "Wisconsin GI Bill" remits half the tuition and fees for college education benefits through University of Wisconsin System (UW) or Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) institutions for Wisconsin Veterans. Dependents of **certain** veterans who entered active duty as Wisconsin residents may be eligible for 100% of tuition costs to be covered.

The 2005 Wisconsin Act 25, the 2005-2007 Wisconsin Biennial Budget Act that took effect on July 27, 2005, made a provision for the WI G.I. Bill, which stipulates:

- Eligible WI veterans who were state residents when they entered active duty may receive **100% (bill was signed in May of 2006 to raise benefit from 50 % to 100%)** tuition waivers to attend any US or WTCS institution for up to 128 credits or 8 semesters, whichever is longer.
- Qualifying children and the unmarried surviving spouse of a WI veteran who dies in the line of duty are eligible for a set time period for the waiver of 100% of academic fees (tuition) at a UW institution or of 100% of program (tuition) and material fees at a WTCS institution. Dependents of service-connected disabled veterans who have a service-connected disability rating by the US Dept of Veterans Affairs of 30% or greater are also eligible.
- For the spouse or child of a veteran to be eligible for the WI GI Bill the veteran must have met certain statutory requirements as a veteran, must have been a WI resident at the time of entry into active military duty, and must have been a WI resident at the time of death or disability determination. The veteran must either have established eligibility for WI veteran's benefits previously or must do so at the time of application for WI GI Bill benefits. If the veteran is deceased, the applicant may apply on the Veteran's behalf.
- Spouses are eligible for 10 years following the date of the line-of-duty death or the service-connected disability rating and are not required to study full-time. Children are eligible at age 18 and through age 25, must be WI residents and must be full-time students.

For additional eligibility requirements and application information, see the WI Dept of Veterans Affairs WDVA B0105 (application/instructions booklet) on the website at www.dva.state.wi.us or contact our office.

Pre-9/11 Disability Ratings Review

October 27, 2008 – Military Health System

Servicemembers who have been medically separated since September 11, 2001, will have the opportunity to have their disability ratings reviewed to ensure fairness and accuracy.

The new Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR) will examine each applicant's medical separation, compare DoD and VA ratings, and make a recommendation to the respective Service Secretary (or designee). A disability rating cannot be lowered and any change to the rating is effective on the date of final decision by the Service Secretary.

To be eligible for PDBR review, a service member must have been medically separated between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2009 with a combined disability rating of 20 percent or less, and not found eligible for retirement.

There are significant differences between this new PDBR review and a Board for Correction of Military (or Naval) Record (BCMR/BCNR) review. These differences are outlined here and will also be on the application.

While the Air Force is the lead for the PDBR process, case tracking and reporting, a joint service board will conduct the evaluation and review of each case. Applicants will not be able to appear in person, but may include any statements, briefs, medical records or other supporting documents with their application. After the document review is completed and a final decision is made, each applicant will be notified of the decision and any further information regarding a change of rating.

Pending final approval, the application form should be available on the Web site on or about December 1, 2008. Applications will be accepted immediately thereafter.

Please refer to the FAQ document for more information about the Physical Disability Board of Review.

You may contact the PDBR intake unit at the following address:

SAF/MRBR
550 C STREET WEST
SUITE 41
RANDOLPH AFB, TEXAS 78150-4743

Please keep in mind that the office above cannot discuss the merits of your application. You may wish to contact your local veterans' service organization for advice or guidance.

The DoD Instruction on the PDBR process is available here:
<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/604044p.pdf>



FREE ACCESS TO STATE PARKS

Beginning October 1, 2008, certain disabled veterans and former Prisoners of War (POWs) are eligible to receive waivers of vehicle admission and trail pass fees. Please see your CVSO Office or visit the following website for more information/qualifications:

<http://www.wisvets.com/parks>

VETERANS' BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

On October 10, 2008, the President signed s.3023, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. Enhanced VA Mortgage Options are now available for Veterans of potential benefit to those in FINANCIAL DISTRESS. The Federal VA is willing to refinance up to 100% on VA loans. If you have any questions you can call 1-877-827-3702 or visit the website at http://www.homeloans.va.gov/docs/home_loan_enhancements.pdf



Lou Gehrig's Disease/ALS

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to provide full disability payments for *Lou Gehrig's disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS)* tacitly acknowledging for the first time a generalized link between the fatal neurological disorder and military service.

The VA already extends full compensation to ALS-stricken veterans of the first Persian Gulf war, who, according to a study earlier this decade, are twice as likely as other service members to contract the disease.

If you know of a veteran who has ALS or a widow of a veteran who died of ALS, they should contact their CVSO office to file for benefits.

Honors Flight Program

The Stars and Stripes Honor Flight Program is affiliated with the National Honor Flight Program.

We are in the process of establishing a "hub" in the greater Milwaukee Area, based in Ozaukee County.

The goal of the Honor Flight Program is to provide veterans the opportunity to see their National Memorials in Washington D.C., before they pass away.

The current emphasis is on WWII veterans, as we are losing far too many of them every day. However, special consideration will be given to Korean War and Vietnam veterans who are terminally ill.

The object of this endeavor is to provide the trip at NO COST to the veteran.

Guardians must pay their own way. Rules for Guardians are contained on the application form.

Donations are being accepted, and can be mailed to:

Veterans Service Office
1201 S. Spring Street
PO Box 994
Port Washington, WI 53074-0994

Checks should be made out to: Stars and Stripes Honor Flight C/O Flag Day Foundation.
(The Flag Day Foundation has graciously allowed us to utilize their 501.c.3 while we complete the application process for a separate designation.)

Questions can be directed to County Board Supervisor Joe Dean by Email: jdean@co.ozaukee.wi.us or at: (262) 284-9426.



WWII Memorial Plaza at Night
[Link to more pictures](#)



Honors Flight Veteran Application

<http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/departments/Veterans/HonorsFlightProgram/Application.pdf>

Honors Flight Guardian Application

<http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/departments/Veterans/HonorsFlightProgram/GuardianApplication.pdf>

Honors Flight Volunteer Application

<http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/departments/Veterans/HonorsFlightProgram/VolunteerApplication.pdf>

Board of Directors

<http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/departments/Veterans/HonorsFlightProgram/Board.htm>

Education Programs

If you served after September 10, 2001, and are currently using the WI GI Bill or plan to use the WI GI Bill, the following information is very important. Do not make an irrevocable choice to change to Post 9/11, Chapter 33 Federal GI Bill benefits until you have all the facts.

The budget bill (Act 28) recently signed into law on June 29th 2009, will affect veterans who use the Wisconsin GI Bill. The legislation would **require** veterans eligible for the Post-9/11 Chapter 33 GI Bill to access Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits prior to using the combination of the Wisconsin GI Bill and other Federal benefits.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun accepting Post-9/11 GI Bill applications on May 1, 2009, www.gibill.va.gov. ***A veteran's choice to apply for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits is irrevocable. The veteran should NOT make this decision until he/she has all the facts.***

Veterans with questions should regularly check gibill.wisconsin.edu. Sign up there for the RSS feed to receive alerts when updates are posted. The website will have information on the interpretation of the law and will let you know when you may need to take action. If you are a returning student and think you might be impacted by these changes, you should stay in contact with your School Veterans Certifying Official.

As we near the implementation date, August 1, 2009, VA continues to issue new policies and procedures regarding the program's administration. Federal rules and procedures do not take into account state programs such as the Wisconsin GI Bill. In addition, **Wisconsin veterans speaking to VA benefits counselors, who are unaware of state programs, will receive partial information that only deals with federal programs.**

These changes only impact veterans who are eligible for both the WI GI Bill and Post 9/11 Chapter 33 Federal GI Bill. If you did not enter service from Wisconsin or are not otherwise eligible for the Wisconsin GI Bill, you need not worry about the proposed legislative changes.

For the latest information go to gibill.wisconsin.edu or contact your School Veterans Certifying Official. Please see next page for information on the link in this paragraph.

Changes to the WI GI Bill

LAST UPDATED 7/30/2009.



Stay updated, subscribe to our [rss](#).

The following is a list of the major new important changes to the Wisconsin G.I. Bill tuition remission benefit program (WI GI Bill). The timing for these changes is described in #2 below.

These changes are complex. Understanding the relationship among state and federal veterans benefits, and knowing which are best for your specific circumstance will require you to be well informed. You are urged to speak directly with the following resource people:

- County Veterans Service Officer regarding Wisconsin Veterans Benefits programs (<http://dva.state.wi.us/CVSO.asp>),
- Veterans Administration regarding federal benefits programs (<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>), and
- School Veteran Certifying Officer at your campus (see sidebar)

1. **New Eligibility Requirement:** If a student has federal active duty service since September 10, 2001, he or she must apply for benefits provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill before he or she can receive benefits under the WI GI Bill. If a student is eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and does not elect to use them, he or she will not be eligible to receive the WI GI Bill tuition remission until such time as he or she does elect to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit.
2. **Timing:** Beginning Spring semester 2010 and thereafter, students with active duty service since September 10, 2001 will be required to provide a Certificate of Eligibility or a rejection notice for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits in order to use the WI GI Bill. For Fall semester 2009 only, students are not required to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits in order to receive WI GI bill benefits.
3. **Continuing Eligibility Form Required:** All students who have used or applied for the WI GI Bill prior to Fall 2009, will need to complete a new form to verify continuing eligibility for the WI GI Bill. This form will ask students to indicate if they have had active duty service since September 10, 2001.

If no Active Duty Since September 10, 2001: Students who complete the form and indicate that they have had no active duty service since September 10, 2001, will continue to be eligible for WI GI Bill benefits.

If Active Duty Since September 10, 2001: Students who declare they have had active duty service since September 10, 2001, will be required to apply for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and subsequently to supply a federal Veterans Administration Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or rejection notice for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the campus School Veteran Certifying Officer in order to use the WI GI Bill.

4. **New Applicants:** New applicants for the WI GI Bill will be asked on the WI GI Bill application form (WDVA form #2029) to declare that they have had no active duty service since September 10, 2001. Applicants who have had active duty service since that date will not have access to WI GI Bill benefits unless they apply for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits as well. Form #2029 will be available from the School Veteran Certifying Officer and as part of the packet of application materials for the WI GI Bill available from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.
5. **Clarification Regarding the 128 Credit Limit:** The Wisconsin 2009-2011 Biennial Budget Act clarifies the total WI GI Bill eligibility to 128 credits or 8 semesters, whichever is longer, for the combined total credits and semesters attended at all UW System and Wisconsin Technical College institutions. For example, if a student has already used 30 credits of WI GI Bill tuition remission at a Wisconsin Technical College, and 30 credits of WI GI Bill tuition remissions at UW Institutions, that student will have 68 credits remaining of the 128 total tuition allowed. The Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board is responsible for tracking the total WI GI Bill credits used by a student at all Wisconsin Technical College and University of Wisconsin institutions.
6. **Relationship between Federal and State Benefits:** The Wisconsin 2009-2011 Biennial Budget Act changed the relationship between federal and state benefits. As described in #1 above, as long as a veteran elects to apply for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits he or she may be eligible to also receive WI GI Bill benefits. If the student receives less than 100 percent of the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit, the WI GI Bill can be used to remit any remaining tuition amount (up to the amount that would normally be covered by the WI GI Bill).

Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits used will count against the total 128 credits or 8 semesters, whichever is longer, that Wisconsin allows an eligible veteran, spouse, or child to receive under the WI GI Bill.

7. **Supplemental Payment:** Students who elect to switch from Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty), Chapter 1606, or Chapter 1607 (REAP), to the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit in order to continue to use WI GI Bill benefits, may be eligible for a supplemental payment. This payment is intended to approximately make up the difference between what a student would have received from Chapter 30, Chapter 1606, or Chapter 1607 compared to what the student will receive after enrolling for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. Students who receive an equivalent or larger benefit package under Post-9/11 GI Bill, or have exhausted their 36 months of Chapter 30 benefits, will not receive a supplemental payment. The supplemental payment will be made following existing student account practices:

Students who apply for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits beginning Fall semester 2009 will be eligible to begin receiving the supplemental payment for the Fall semester.

Students using the WI GI Bill as children and spouses may be eligible to receive a supplemental payment depending upon whether they are eligible to switch from Chapter 1606, Chapter 1607, or Chapter 35 benefits to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. Children and spouses switching from Chapter 30 to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are not eligible for the supplemental payment.

Students receiving a supplemental payment should be aware that it may reduce the total amount of financial aid they are eligible to receive.

Students should discuss any potential tax consequences of receiving the supplement payment with their own tax advisors.

8. **Additional Months of Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits Eligibility:** The Federal Veterans Administration has provided that some veterans may be eligible for up to an additional twelve months of eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits if they exhaust their Chapter 30 benefits prior to enrolling for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

At the point when a student wanting to use the WI GI Bill has 12 or fewer months of remaining eligibility under Chapter 30, Chapter 1606, or Chapter 1607 and has qualifying active duty service following Sept. 10, 2001, he or she will be allowed to receive WI GI Bill benefits until his or her Chapter 30, 1606, or 1607 benefits are exhausted. The twelve or fewer months of remaining eligibility will be counted from the first date of the term in which the student wants to use the WI GI Bill. After those benefits are exhausted, the student can continue to use WI GI Bill benefits only by applying for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

9. **Dropping/Withdrawing.** Students should be aware that there are **SIGNIFICANT** financial consequences when adding or dropping classes under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Dropping classes or withdrawing may result in students being required to repay the federal VA for any benefits received during that term, and to repay the supplemental payment granted under the Wisconsin GI Bill. Students are urged to carefully consider the financial consequences of any enrollment changes with federal VA benefits counselors.

All University of Wisconsin institutions and Wisconsin Technical Colleges have appeal processes in place for students who disagree with a decision or action. For details contact the specific institution and office involved.

For more information about Veterans' Benefits contact your County Veterans Service Officer, the Federal Veterans Administration, or the School Veteran Certifying Officer at your campus.

Updated 7/30/09

Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008

The federal Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, signed into law on June 30, 2008 (PL 110-252), *effective August 1, 2009*, will provide up to 36 full-time months educational benefits for qualifying veterans for the 15 year period following discharge or release from the last period of active duty military service.

COVERED VETERANS:

Category	If the Veteran has Aggregate Post-9/11 Active Duty Military service			...then the rate of payment for tuition and fees, living allowance, and stipend, is:
	of at least...	...but less than	...and...	
1	36 months	N/A	includes active duty service for entry level and skill training	100%
2	30 continuous days	N/A	<i>is discharged or released due to a service-connected disability</i>	100%
3	30 months	36 months	includes active duty service for entry level and skill training	90%
4	24 months	30 months	includes active duty service for entry level and skill training	80%
5	18 months	24 months	<i>excludes</i> active duty service for entry level and skill training	70%
6	12 months	18 months	<i>excludes</i> active duty service for entry level and skill training	60%
7	6 months	12 months	<i>excludes</i> active duty service for entry level and skill training	50%
8	90 days	6 months	<i>excludes</i> active duty service for entry level and skill training	40%

CORE BENEFITS:

- I. **Tuition and Fees Payments:** Lump sum payment made directly to the school per quarter, semester, or term, with the maximum rate of payment equal to the full established charges for the program of study (not to exceed the maximum in-state rate for full-time study at the highest-cost in-state public institution). For private schools participating in the *Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program*, VA will match the remaining charges with the participating school.
- II. **Housing Stipend:** A maximum monthly rate of payment equal to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rate for an E-5 with dependents, based on the school's zip code (See: <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>).
- III. **Stipend for Additional Educational Costs:** Maximum rate of payment of \$1,000 each year for books, supplies, equipment, and other educational costs, paid in a lump sum prorated by quarter, semester, or term.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

- **Tutorial Assistance:** Maximum payment of \$100 per month, up to a 12-month or \$1,200 maximum.
- **Relocation Assistance:** A one-time \$500 payment for qualifying individuals.
- **Licensure or certification:** Maximum payment of \$2,000 or the actual cost of one test, whichever is less.
- **Transfer to Dependents:** An active duty service member with qualifying service with an agreement to serve additional years may transfer unused benefits to the veteran's spouse (upon 6 or more years of service) or children (transfer at 6 years of service, with use beginning at 10 or more years of service; child must be age 18 or older).
- Information about the new program and VA's other educational benefits can be obtained through www.GIBILL.VA.gov <<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>> or by calling 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).