

THE NEW GI BILL

(also called Post 9/11 Bill)

AT A GLANCE

In 2008, Congress passed the most comprehensive GI Bill since WWII, providing benefits to veterans for their service. The benefits include more than \$62 Billion in educational assistance beginning in August of 2009 and goes significantly beyond the benefits provided under existing programs that provide a single monthly stipend from which the veteran student is expected to pay tuition, fees, books, housing and other living expenses. The entitlement is for up to 36 months.

For most veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, the new GI Bill will pay full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a \$1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies. Those veterans already enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, and who also meet the criteria for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, will have the option to transfer to the new program and veterans who did not opt-in for the Montgomery GI Bill when they entered the service will also be eligible for this program. Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since the 9/11 attack will have access to certain benefits.

Currently more than 17,000 veterans are enrolled in Florida's postsecondary institutions. Over 150 thousand men and women deployed in the Global War on Terrorism list Florida as their home of record. With the new benefits, and the downturn in the economy, it is expected that a greater percentage of these new veterans will be seeking postsecondary education. Our state is preparing now for this new influx of students to our public and private institutions.

Tuition - Tuition expenses are covered up to the highest established charges for full-time undergraduate students charged by the public institution of higher education in the State in which you are enrolled. Tuition is paid directly to the school.

Eligibility - A veteran who has served a total of at least 90 consecutive days on active duty in the Armed Forces since Sept. 11, 2001, is eligible. However, the amount of benefits received under this program are determined by the actual amount of accumulated post 9/11 service. To be eligible for the **full benefit**, a veteran must have three years of active duty service after 9/11 or have been discharged due to a service-connected disability.

Officers who graduated from a service academy or received ROTC scholarships, also qualify for the new GI Bill benefits. However, ROTC/Service Academy associated obligated active-duty service time does not count toward the three years necessary to qualify for the full benefits.

Monthly Housing Stipend - For students enrolled in a traditional college program as a half-time to full-time student, a monthly housing stipend will be paid equal to the monthly Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents. The average housing stipend will be approximately \$1,100 a month. However, distance learning programs such as correspondence courses and online do not qualify for this stipend.



Welcoming our heroes to Florida's Educational Institutions

What is Florida Boots to Books?

With encouragement and assistance from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, the Chancellor of the State University System and the Chancellor of Florida's community colleges, along with the presidents of each institution, are working in collaboration to prepare for the influx of veterans. Together, they have made it a priority to provide services and information to aid in the successful implementation of these education benefits.

Numerous other post secondary institutions, organizations and agencies will be engaged in this collaborative effort in the coming months. Working together, Florida will be a leader in assisting returning veterans with maximizing their dreams for higher education and training.

Our veterans deserve nothing less.

Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

www.flbog.edu

Division of Community Colleges, FLDOE

www.fldoe.org



www.flbootstobooks.org
Website is currently under construction to
provide the latest information.
The estimated "go live" date for the website is
March 2009.