

Fall 2024 FAQs

Please complete and submit the [request for certification form](#) if you plan to attend classes in the Fall 2024 semester and use your VA educational benefits. The request for certification form **MUST** be completed and submitted every term you wish to receive your GI Bill® benefits and may not be used for more than one term. This form allows the VA office to place a hold on your account to prevent your classes from being dropped for non-payment. Please email this form to va@montgomerycollege.edu.

15 Week Terms vs 7- week Terms- Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill BAH Guidelines

15 Week Terms

- To qualify for full housing benefit, students must be enrolled in at least one residential class and registered for at least 12 hours if you are registered for 15-week classes.

15 Week Term- Housing Equivalency

Credit Hours	BAH
12 or more = Fulltime	100%
11	90%
9 to 10	80%
7 to 8	60%
6 or Less	0%

7 Week Terms

- To qualify for full housing benefit, students must be enrolled in at least one residential class and registered for at least 6 hours if you are registered for 7-week classes.

7 Week Term- Housing Equivalency

Credit Hours	BAH
6 or more = Fulltime	100%
5	80%
4	60%
3 or Less	0%

**Disclaimer: the charts above are to be used as guidelines only. To find out exactly what your housing allowance /stipend will be you must contact the VA directly at 1-888-GI BILL1.*

- Housing, books and supplies stipends are paid “in arrears.” This means that housing stipend for the month is usually paid the beginning of the following month. We expect the first allowance/stipend payments of the Fall 2023 term to be paid at the beginning of October and will include your September housing allowance/stipend and the prorated portion of your August housing allowance/stipend.
- The housing allowance and stipends are only paid for the duration of the classes you are enrolled in. For example: if you are enrolled in a class that ends on September 15 your last payment for the class would be paid in October and it would be prorated for 15 days.
- Full-time students taking all online (distance learning) courses will receive a housing allowance of \$825.00 per/month.

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- Remedial/developmental courses **MUST** be taken in person.
- Remote classes are certified as online classes.
- **3 credits hours is considered full time for winter term. We expect Winter housing allowance/stipend payments to be paid in February and payments will be a prorated amount for December and January.**

MHA reminders for NEW Post-9/11 GI Bill students

New Post-9/11 GI Bill students are counting on their monthly housing allowance (MHA) benefits to support themselves and their families while they attend school. Given how essential, and complicated, these benefits can be, please see the following reminders for new beneficiaries:

1. MHA is paid only when students are **actively enrolled and attending**. Breaks between semesters, quarters, or terms are not eligible for MHA reimbursement, which means that no housing payment will be paid for these periods.
2. Housing payments are prorated. Payments are prorated if their course(s) do not span an entire month. If they are certified for part of a month, the payment will be prorated as follows:

VA uses a 30-day month. Divide the monthly rate by 30 to get the daily rate. If the courses begin mid-month, starting on the 15th and running through the 30th, then they are entitled to 15/30ths of the full housing rate.

3. **Students must have a rate of pursuit over 50% in order to be eligible to receive MHA payments.** If their rate of pursuit is equal to or less than 50%, they are not eligible to receive MHA for the certified period.
4. Changes in enrollment can affect their rate of pursuit, which will subsequently affect their MHA. VA always encourages students to talk with their School Certifying Official, before they make any changes to their course load. They can contact VA to see how the change in pursuit may affect their MHA payments.

Example 1: dropping a course takes a student's rate of pursuit from 100% to 90%. This will cause the student's MHA payments in future months to be prorated. If those months were already paid (the change was not reported before payment), a debt for the overpayment will be assessed.

Example 2: terminating all enrollment (dropping all courses) will cause MHA to stop being paid effective the date of termination. If the student was already paid for the full month, or longer, a debt will be assessed for the overpayment.

5. MHA payments are made in arrears, meaning that the student will routinely receive the previous month's MHA payment during the first week of the following month. While VA will make every effort to make the payment on the first day of the month, students should not be concerned about non-payment until the end of the first business week.

Example: course began mid-August. The MHA payment the student receives during the first week of September will be the prorated August MHA payment.

Students will need to plan accordingly to ensure that they are taking courses and using GI Bill benefits in a way that fits their specific needs and so that they maintain their quality of life.

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Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill Book Stipend

Chapter 33 students will receive an annual book stipend of up to \$1,000/year with the Post-9/11 GI Bill. It is paid proportionately based on the number of credits taken by each student at \$41 per credit hour. Payment will come directly to the student via check or direct deposit from the VA.

Enrollment verification is a requirement for Post-9/11 GI Bill students

Students who receive MHA/kicker payments will have their payments withheld if they fail to verify or report that they are no longer enrolled in their courses or training. To streamline the process, VA is providing the option to **verify enrollment easily and securely via text message**. Read more below.

This requirement is only for Post-9/11 GI Bill and does not impact other programs, including Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC), Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA), Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP), or the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.

If you are a Montgomery GI Bill® (MGIB) student, this requirement does not represent a change for you, as MGIB students are already required to verify enrollment.

How do I verify enrollment?

You can verify enrollment using the following methods:

- **Via Text Message**

Students with a U.S. mobile phone number can use text messages as a simple, quick option for verifying monthly enrollment. You will receive the following opt-in text: "POST-9/11 GI BILL HOUSING AND KICKER PAYMENTS NOW REQUIRE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUBMIT YOURS VIA TEXT? PLEASE REPLY YES OR NO." **Reply "YES" to opt in.** The text message link will expire **14 days after receipt**, so please respond within that time frame. After opting in, you can verify your enrollment simply by responding to the following text message from VA: "DID YOU REMAIN ENROLLED IN YOUR COURSES IN MON YYYY AS CERTIFIED? PLEASE REPLY YES OR NO. IF YOU HAVE DROPPED ALL YOUR COURSES, YOU MUST REPLY NO." **Reply "YES" to verify enrollment for the previous month.**

Please be assured that enrollment verification via text message is safe and secure. The VA will **never** ask for your personal information, such as social security number or bank account information, via text.

VA **strongly recommends this method** for verifying enrollment. It will be easier and faster than calling the ECC.

If you're not sure if VA has your phone number on file, please contact the Education Call Center

(ECC) at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to ensure VA has your mobile phone number.

- **Via Education Call Center**

Contact the ECC at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) and ask a representative to verify enrollment on your behalf. NOTE: ECC wait times may be high due to the number of students verifying enrollment each month.

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If you opt out of text verification and later change your mind, or need to update your mobile number on file, you can opt into text message verification by calling the ECC at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

What happens if I fail to verify my enrollment?

If you fail to verify enrollment for two consecutive months, your MHA/kicker payments will be placed on hold. You must take steps to verify your enrollment to have the payments released.

Why am I being required to verify my enrollment?

By regularly verifying your enrollment, you protect your GI Bill entitlement by preventing charges for classes or training you did not attend. Though this new requirement is an additional step, enrollment verification is easy to do and will help you better manage and access your earned benefits, as well as help prevent overpayments.

Get more information

If you have questions about the monthly verification requirement or if/when it applies to you, contact a VA education representative at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) domestically or 001-918-781-5678 overseas.

Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation Book Vouchers

Local Students

Please contact va@montgomerycollege.edu to receive a voucher to pick up books and supplies from the MC bookstore.

Students Out of State/Out of Montgomery County

Please follow the steps below.

1. Please visit the book store website at <https://www.bkstr.com/montgomerycollegestore/home> and select up to \$50 of basic office supplies (notebooks, pen, pencil, paper, etc.) and add them to the shopping cart. (WEPA cards, electronics, clothing items, cups, bags, and keychains will not be approved. Any electronic items like laptops, printers, cameras, headphones must be preapproved by your vocational rehabilitation counselor and listed on an authorization form. If the supplies you select are not in stock MC Bookstore may send you a comparable product at the same price.)
2. Send a screenshot or snip of the shopping cart with the total cost of your supplies to va@montgomerycollege.edu **along with the address where you want your books and supplies shipped.**

We will add your text books to the book voucher based on your class schedule and email it to you for you to review.

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You must email the voucher back to us with your signature as this will be submitted to the bookstore for approval. Once the approval is confirmed, you may go to the indicated MC bookstore to receive your books & supplies.

If needed, appropriate items may be purchased independently and reimbursed by the VA. This request would be approved and processed through your vocational rehabilitation counselor.

We cannot process book vouchers until authorizations are received from your vocational rehabilitation counselors.

Survivors' and Dependent's - (DEA/Chapter35) Increased Educational Benefit Institutional Training

The DEA rates listed here are for October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The VA will make the payments directly to you.

Training Time	Monthly rate
Full-time enrollment	\$1,488 for each full month
$\frac{3}{4}$ - time enrollment	\$1,176 for each full month
$\frac{1}{2}$ - time enrollment	\$862 for each full month
Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ - time and more than $\frac{1}{4}$ - time enrollment	\$862 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)
$\frac{1}{4}$ - time enrollment or less	\$372 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)

Chapter 30- MGIB-AD rates if you served at least 3 continuous years on active duty.

Effective October 1, 2023

The MGIB-AD rates listed here are for October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The VA will make the payments directly to you.

The amounts listed here are for a full month of enrollment. The VA will pay you a percentage of the full month's rate based on the number of days that you're enrolled in the month. This is a prorated payment. For example, if classes start on the 20th, you would get a payment for 10 days of enrollment that month. Your payment would be 1/3 of the monthly rate.

The VA will pay you up to the rate listed here based on how many courses you're taking:

- **Full-time enrollment:** \$2,358.00 for each full month
- **3/4-time enrollment:** \$1,768.50 for each full month
- **1/2-time enrollment:** \$1,179.00 for each full month

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If you're enrolled less than 1/2 time, the VA will pay you up to the amount listed here for every month you're enrolled—but no more than the cost of your tuition and fees:

- **Less than 1/2-time and more than 1/4-time enrollment:** \$1,179.00 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)
- **1/4-time enrollment or less:** \$589.50 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)

Chapter30 - MGIB-AD rates if you served between 2 and 3 years on active duty.

Effective October 1, 2023

The MGIB-AD rates listed here are for October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The VA will pay you directly each month. These are sometimes called the "2-year" rates.

The amounts listed here are for a full month of enrollment. The VA will pay you a percentage of the full month's rate based on the number of days that you're enrolled in the month. This is a prorated payment. For example, if classes start on the 20th, you would get a payment for 10 days of enrollment that month. Your payment would be 1/3 of the monthly rate.

The VA will pay you up to the rate listed here based on how many courses you're taking:

- **Full-time enrollment:** \$1,913.00 for each full month
- **3/4-time enrollment:** \$1,434.75 for each full month
- **1/2-time enrollment:** \$956.50 for each full month

If you're enrolled less than 1/2 time, we'll pay you up to the amount listed here for every month you're enrolled—but no more than the cost of your tuition and fees:

- **Less than 1/2-time and more than 1/4-time enrollment:** \$956.50 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)
- **1/4-time enrollment or less:** \$478.25 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)

You'll need to use the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) website to verify your enrollment for Montgomery GI Bill benefits at the end of each month to keep receiving payments. You can sign in to WAVE to verify your enrollment. <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>

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CH.1606 Current MGIB-SR rates

Effective October 1, 2023

The MGIB-SR rates listed here are for October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The VA will make the payments directly to you.

The amounts listed here are for a full month of enrollment. The VA will pay you a percentage of the full month's rate based on the number of days that you're enrolled in the month. This is a prorated payment. For example, if classes start on the 20th, you would get a payment for 10 days of enrollment that month. Your payment would be 1/3 of the monthly rate.

The VA will pay you up to the rate listed here based on how many courses you're taking:

- **Full-time enrollment:** \$466.00 for each full month
- **3/4-time enrollment:** \$349.00 for each full month
- **1/2-time enrollment:** \$233.00 for each full month
- **Less than 1/2-time enrollment:** \$116.50 for each full month

You will need to verify your enrollment at the end of each month to keep receiving payments. You can verify your enrollment online through our Web Automated Verification system (called "WAVE") <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL VA BENEFICIARIES: If you decide not to attend classes, please remember that you are responsible for dropping them and notifying the school VA Office of any schedule change(s). If you do not fulfill this obligation your benefits will be affected. If you drop classes, you are required to return the funding that you have been provided. In addition, if you stop attending class(es) before the end of the enrollment period and fail the course(s) the VA office is required to report to the VA unsatisfactory attendance and academic progress. **The reporting of unsatisfactory attendance, and academic progress generates a debt for you with Montgomery College and the Department of Veterans Affairs.**

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site benefits.va.gov