

Winter/Spring 2026 FAQs

A 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 no payment, and review your enrollment. Please email the 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 Spring 2026 semester to be paid at the beginning of March and will include your February housing allowance/stipend and the prorated portion of your January 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 March 15 your last payment for the class would be paid in April and it would be prorated for 15 days.
- Full-time students taking all online (distance learning) courses will receive a housing allowance of \$1,476 per/month.

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- Remedial/developmental courses **MUST** be taken in person.
- Remote classes are certified as online classes.
- **3 credit 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

- **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

In order to receive a books & supplies voucher, a request for certification form must be submitted to va@montgomerycollege.edu, or to an Enrollment Services VA Specialists at your campus. This will allow us to review your authorization, verify your classes, and prepare a voucher with required course material(s). The voucher will be sent for you to review, sign, and return to the Enrollment Services VA Specialist that prepared the voucher. Your signed voucher will be sent to the bookstore manager for the funding to be added to your account.

You will receive receipts at the bookstore for course material(s) (Digital course materials receipts can be obtained through your sling shot account online), technology item(s), and supplies that you pick up from the Rockville MC bookstore. The receipts MUST be signed and sent back to va@montgomerycollege.edu.

Please be aware that Sponsor billing is required to submit receipts signed by students when invoicing the VA for course materials, technology items, and supplies that you have received from the bookstore.

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

The DEA rates listed here are for October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026. The VA will make the payments directly to you.

Training Time	Monthly rate
Full-time enrollment	\$1,574.00 per month
$\frac{3}{4}$ - time enrollment	\$1,244.00 per month
$\frac{1}{2}$ - time enrollment	\$912.00 per month
Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ - time and more than $\frac{1}{4}$ - time enrollment	\$912.00 per month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)
$\frac{1}{4}$ - time enrollment or less	\$393.00 per month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)

Verify school enrollment every month to receive your benefits. Find out how to verify your enrollment [here](#)

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

Effective October 1, 2025

The MGIB-AD rates listed here are for October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026. 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:** \$2,518.00 for each full month
- **3/4-time enrollment:** \$1,888.50 for each full month
- **1/2-time enrollment:** \$1,259.00 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:** \$1,259.00 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)
- **1/4-time enrollment or less:** \$629.50 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, 2025

The MGIB-AD rates listed here are for October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026. 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:** \$2,043.00 for each full month
- **3/4-time enrollment:** \$1,532.25 for each full month
- **1/2-time enrollment:** \$1,021.50 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:** \$1,021.50 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)
- **1/4-time enrollment or less:** \$510.75 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)

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CH.1606 Current MGIB-SR rates

Effective October 1, 2025

The MGIB-SR rates listed here are for October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026. 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:** \$493.00 for each full month
- **3/4-time enrollment:** \$369.00 for each full month
- **1/2-time enrollment:** \$246.00 for each full month
- **Less than 1/2-time enrollment:** \$123.25 for each full month

For Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty and Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve

If you're getting VA education benefits through the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD) or the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR), you can verify your enrollment online using the VA tool.

For other ways to verify your enrollment, please visit <https://www.va.gov/education/verify-school-enrollment/>

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