

## **Veteran Education Benefits**

### **Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty**

The MGIB program provides up to 36 months of education benefits. Generally, benefits are payable for 10 years following your release from active duty.

#### **What is the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty?**

The Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty, called "MGIB" for short, provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans for:

- College, Business
- Technical or Vocational Courses
- Correspondence Courses
- Apprenticeship/Job Training
- Flight Training

#### **Who is Eligible?**

You may be an eligible veteran if you received an Honorable Discharge, AND you have a High School Diploma or GED or, in some cases 24 hours of college credit, AND you meet the requirements of one of the categories below:

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#### **CATEGORY I**

- Entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985
- Had military pay reduced by \$100 a month for first 12 months
- Continuously served for 3 years, OR 2 years if that is what you first enlisted for, OR 2 years if you entered Selected Reserve within a year of leaving active duty and served 4 years ("2 by 4" Program)

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#### **CATEGORY II**

- Entered active duty before January 1, 1977
- Served at least 1 day between 10/19/84 and 6/30/85, and stayed on active duty through 6/30/88, (or 6/30/87 if you entered Selected Reserve within 1 year of leaving active duty and served 4 years)

- On 12/31/89, you had entitlement left from Vietnam Era GI Bill
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### **CATEGORY III**

- Not eligible for MGIB under Category I or II
  - On active duty on 9/30/90 AND separated involuntarily after 2/2/91,
  - OR involuntarily separated on or after 11/30/93,
  - OR voluntarily separated under either the Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI) or Special Separation Benefit (SSB) program
  - Before separation, you had military pay reduced by \$1200
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### **CATEGORY IV**

- On active duty on 10/9/96 AND you had money remaining in a VEAP account on that date AND you elected MGIB by 10/9/97
  - OR entered full-time National Guard duty under title 32, USC, between 7/1/85, and 11/28/89 AND you elected MGIB during the period 10/9/96, through 7/8/97
  - Had military pay reduced by \$100 a month for 12 months or made a \$1200 lump-sum contribution
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### **What is the Period of Eligibility?**

You usually have 10 years to use your MGIB benefits, but the time limit can be less, in some cases, and longer under certain circumstances.

### **How Much Does VA Pay?**

The monthly benefit paid to you is based on the type of training you take, length of your service, your category, and if DOD put extra money in your MGIB Fund (called "kickers").

[Current Benefit Rates for Chapter 30 Benefit Recipients](#)

### **How Do I Apply?**

#### **New Applicant**

You may apply by filling out [VAF 22-1990 - Application for VA Education Benefits](#) and submitting the completed form along with your DD-214 member 4, and a Mount Olive College VA Certification Form to the Veterans Affairs. You

must also request transcripts from all previous education/training be sent to the Registrar's Office.

You may also apply online at the **V**eterans **O**n Line **A**pplications ([VONAPP](#)) website. If you choose to apply online, please print out the application and bring it along with your class schedule to the Veterans Affairs Office so we know that you applied online and can remind the Veterans Administration Office of your method of applying for benefits.

### **Transfer Applicant**

You may apply by filling out [VAF 22-1995 - Request for Change of Place or Training](#). The original VA Form 22-1995 and a Mount Olive College VA Certification Form must be submitted to the Veterans Affairs Office.

### **Mount Olive College VA Certification Form**

All educational benefits recipients must submit a course schedule EVERY semester to receive VA benefits. [MOC VA Certification Form](#)

### **How can I Prevent Overpayments and Penalties?**

An overpayment is an incorrect benefit payment that is more than the amount to which you are entitled. You must promptly notify the Veteran Affairs Office of changes affecting your benefits to prevent or reduce overpayments.

In addition, you should use reasonable judgment when you accept and cash a check. Carefully read all letters from the VA about the monthly rate and effective dates of your benefits. If you think a VA check is wrong, contact the VA **before** cashing the check. Return any checks for too much money to the VA. If you cash a check for the wrong amount, you will be liable for repayment of any resulting overpayment.

If you apply for financial aid with the Mount Olive College Financial Aid Office and complete the FAFSA, you must declare your veteran benefits on the FAFSA or you will be liable for repayment of an overpayment.

### **How Can I Get More Information?**

Visit the [Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty Education Benefits](#) web page. Or Call toll free 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).