



## Post-9/11 GI Bill:

## Yellow Ribbon Program

### What is the Yellow Ribbon Program?

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree-granting institutions) in the United States to enter voluntarily into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fee expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The institution can contribute a specified dollar amount of those expenses and VA will match the same amount as the institution not to exceed 50% of the difference.

### Participating schools agree to:

- Provide contributions to eligible individuals who apply for the Yellow Ribbon Program on a first-come, first-served basis, regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training in any given academic year
- Provide contributions during the current academic year and all subsequent academic years in which the institution is participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program and the student maintains satisfactory progress, conduct, and attendance
- Make contributions toward the program on behalf of the individual in the form of a grant, scholarship, etc.
- State the dollar amount that will be contributed for each participant during the academic year
- State the maximum number of individuals for whom contributions will be made in any given academic year.

### Who is eligible?

Only individuals entitled to the maximum benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive this funding. Active duty members and spouses of active duty members eligible for Transfer of Entitlement are **not** eligible as their tuition and fees are paid in full. An individual may be eligible if s/he:

- Served an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of at least 36 months
- Were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability and served 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001
- Is a dependent eligible for Transfer of Entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on an individual's service under the eligibility criteria listed above

### How does the Yellow Ribbon Program benefit a participant?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill pays up to the highest public, in-state undergraduate tuition and fees. A participant may have tuition and fees that exceed that amount if s/he is attending a private institution, graduate school or attending in an out-of-state status. If s/he is enrolled at a Yellow Ribbon participating institution and the tuition and fees exceed the highest public, in-state undergraduate tuition or fees, additional funds may be available for an education program without an additional charge to entitlement. Institutions that voluntarily enter into a Yellow Ribbon Agreement with VA choose the amount of tuition and fees that will be contributed. VA will match that amount and issue payment directly to the institution.

**When will benefits be paid?**

Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

Detailed information about the Yellow Ribbon program – for individuals and participating institutions – can be found at [http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_Bill\\_Info/CH33/Yellow\\_ribbon.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Yellow_ribbon.htm).

**For more information, call toll-free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551),  
or visit the VA GI Bill Website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.**