

Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011 Questions and Answers

On August 3, 2011, President Obama signed the Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011 into law, amending the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The provisions of the bill are retroactive and are applicable to training pursued under the Post-9/11 GI Bill that begins on or after August 1, 2011.

How does the new law change the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

The new legislation authorizes VA to pay more than \$17,500 (or the appropriately reduced amount based on your eligibility percentage) in tuition and fees under the Post-9/11 GI Bill for certain students attending private colleges and universities in seven states - Arizona, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Texas.

To qualify for the increased payment (also referred to as the “grandfathered” tuition and fee amount), students must have been enrolled in the same college or university since January 4, 2011, and have been enrolled in a program for which the combined amount of tuition and fees for full-time attendance during the 2010-2011 academic year exceeded \$17,500.

How much of my tuition and fees will be covered?

If you meet the requirements and your tuition and fee charges for the academic year exceed \$17,500, VA will pay you a percentage (based on your eligibility tier) of the greater of \$17,500, or the amount you would have been paid for your training during the 2010-2011 academic year (based on the tuition and fee in-State Maximums). The 2010-2011 in-State maximums are listed on our website at http://gibill.va.gov/gi_bill_info/ch33/tuition_and_fees_2010.htm.

I’m at a private school in one of the covered states, but my school has already submitted my enrollment for the Fall term. How do I get the additional amount for tuition and fees covered?

Your school certifying official will need to submit an amended enrollment certification to VA with remarks stating “*Student eligible for restored rates*” to verify that you were enrolled in that school on or before January 4, 2011 and that the tuition and fees for full-time attendance in that program exceeded \$17,500 during the 2010-2011 academic year. Upon receipt, VA will review your claim and process any additional payment due.

How long will I remain eligible for the “grandfathered” rate for tuition and fees?

You will receive the “grandfathered” rate for tuition and fees for all terms that begin before August 1, 2014, as long as you are continuously enrolled at the same institution. If you transfer to a different institution, even if it’s located in the same state, you will no longer qualify for the “grandfathered” rate.

How much will the “grandfathered” rate for tuition and fees increase each year?

The amounts payable to individuals eligible for the “grandfathered” rate are set through July 31, 2014. The new law does not authorize VA to make annual adjustments to the “grandfathered” rates for tuition and fees.

If the Post-9/11 GI Bill Tuition and Fees rate is higher than the “grandfathered” rates for tuition and fees after the 2011-2012 academic year, what rate will I receive?

If you are eligible for the “grandfathered” rates for tuition and fees and your tuition and fee charges for the academic year exceed \$17,500, you will receive payments authorized for “grandfathered” participants. VA will pay you a percentage (based on your eligibility tier) of the greater of \$17,500, or the amount you would have been paid for your training during the 2010-2011 academic year (based on the tuition and fee in-State Maximums). The 2010-2011 in-State maximums are listed on our website at http://gibill.va.gov/gi_bill_info/ch33/tuition_and_fees_2010.htm.

The “grandfathered” provisions described above will expire on August 1, 2014.

I transferred schools during the 2010-2011 academic year, am I eligible for the increased payment?

You may be eligible for the increased payment if you were enrolled in your current school on or before January 4, 2011 and the tuition and fee charges for full-time attendance in your program of education during the 2010-2011 academic year exceeded \$17,500.

If you have not been continuously enrolled in your current school since January 4, 2011, or the tuition and fee charges for full-time attendance in your program of education did not exceed \$17,500 for the 2010-2011 academic year, the tuition and fees payable to you during the 2011-2012 academic year will be capped at

\$17,500 (or the appropriately reduced amount based on your eligibility percentage).

I moved to a different State during the 2010-2011 academic year and transferred to a different branch of the same school. Will I get the “grandfathered” rate?

No. You must have continuously attended the same school in the same State since January 4, 2011, to receive the “grandfathered” rate.

I’m enrolled at a private school that is not located in one of the seven states mentioned in the new bill. How much will I get towards tuition and fees?

The tuition and fees payable to you under the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be capped at \$17,500 (or the appropriately reduced amount based on your eligibility percentage) for the academic year. An academic year begins on August 1st and ends July 31st.