

# Winter/Spring 2024 FAQs

Please complete and submit the [request for certification form](#) if you plan to attend classes and use your 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. By completing and submitting this form a “hold” will be placed on your class schedule so your courses are not dropped for non-payment while we process your file with the VA. Please email this form to [va@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto: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 credit 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 credit 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 2024 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 \$825.00 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 the 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.**

## 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

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(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.

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](mailto: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**

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](mailto: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.

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

Training Time	Monthly rate
Full-time enrollment	\$1,401 for each full month
$\frac{3}{4}$ - time enrollment	\$1,107 for each full month
$\frac{1}{2}$ - time enrollment	\$812 for each full month
Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ - time and more than $\frac{1}{4}$ - time enrollment	\$812 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)
$\frac{1}{4}$ - time enrollment or less	\$350.25 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)

**REMINDER:** If you decide not to attend classes, you are responsible for dropping from classes and notifying the school VA Office of any schedule change(s). If you do not fulfill this obligation, your benefits may be delayed. You are required to return the funding that you have been provided by the VA. Please keep in mind that all unsatisfactory attendance will be reported to the VA and will create a debt for you with the VA and Montgomery College.

*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](https://benefits.va.gov)*