

# MATC VET'S UPDATE



Milwaukee Area Technical College

Fall 2008

## IMPORTANT DATES: 2008

- **August 25 - 2008:** Start of Fall Semester
- **October 1:** Accepting Applications-Fall 2009 Semester
- **November 27-28:** Thanksgiving Recess
- **December 18:** End of fall 2008 Semester
- **January 2:** Accepting financial Aid Application for Fall 2009/ Spring 2010 Semester
- **January 21:** Beginning of Spring 2009 Semester

## MATC Veterans Office's Mission:

The MATC Veterans Affairs Office's major goal is to facilitate the process so you can receive your veterans' educational benefits.

### Services include:

- Processing VA forms for GI Bill educational entitlement benefits
- Answering questions about GI Bill entitlement benefits, such as the pay schedule and eligibility requirements
- Assisting veteran students with problems such as missing, lost or delayed checks
- Referring veteran students to community sources that can assist them with various issues, including health care and employment
- Advising veteran students on matters pertaining to their educational goals

## Vet's Update

A newsletter for MATC Veteran/Reservist Students  
Fall 2007

**MATC Veterans Affairs Office**  
Downtown Milwaukee Campus  
Room S223  
414-297-6394

scottjl@matc.edu

MATC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and complies with all requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

## THINGS YOU MUST DO

### Recipients of the GI Bill must do the following:

- Maintain MATC academic standards for each semester
  - Submit a Pre-Application (WDVA 2201) no later than 180 days after the semester start date
1. Register at the beginning of the fall and summer semesters. This is done by completing a **VA Benefits Request form** at the MATC Veterans Affairs Office in person.  
Submit this form immediately after you have registered for classes to prevent a delay in receiving your GI Bill.  
To complete the form in-person, go to MATC's Veterans Affairs Office (Downtown Milwaukee Campus) or Admissions offices at the Mequon, Oak Creek or West Allis campuses.  
You must complete this form, sign and date it as well as bring, mail, or fax (414-297-7229) it to MATC's veterans Affairs Office.
  2. Take courses in your selected associate degree or diploma program, or courses required for graduation from MATC. The Department of Veterans Affairs will pay **only** for required courses.
  3. Inform the MATC Registration Department as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs of any change of address.
  4. Complete the necessary forms for dropping a course with the MATC Registration Department. You must also inform MATC Veterans Affairs Office of changes in classes.
  5. Submit a Pre-Application within 30 days of the start of the semester to apply for the WI Veteran Education Grant. This GI Bill benefit can apply to veterans, reservists and National Guard members.
  6. In addition to the five steps above, we also recommend that you submit your Veteran Education Grant online for reimbursement of your courses. Go to <https://services.dva.state.wi.us>. Click on "veteran login ID and password."

### REAP RECIPIENTS MUST NOW VERIFY THEIR ATTENDANCE MONTHLY

Effective April 1, 2008, all REAP recipients attending school must verify their attendance each month in order to receive payment. You can verify your attendance online through the Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) at <https://www.gibill.va.gov.va.gov/wave> or by calling the Interactive Voice Response telephone line at 1-877-823-2378.

## NEW GI BILL FOR VETERANS SIGNED INTO LAW

A new GI Bill called the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 was signed into law on July 3, 2008. This GI Bill is a new benefit providing educational assistance to veterans who have served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. In addition to a monthly stipend, veterans will be entitled to a percentage of other benefits as follows, as determined by length of active duty service:  
Amount of tuition and fees charged  
Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing amount payable to a military E-5 with dependents  
Yearly books and supplies stipend to the amount of \$1,000 per year.  
For more information, see [www.gibill.va.gov/S22/Post\\_911\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.gibill.va.gov/S22/Post_911_Factsheet.pdf)

## MONTGOMERY GI BILL (CHAPTER 30) INCREASED

The following increase in basic monthly rates is effective August 1, 2008 for Chapter 30 (veteran) recipients: Veterans completing an enlistment of three years or more:

Training Time	Monthly Rate
Full Time	\$1,321.00
3/4 Time	\$990.75
1/2 Time	\$660.50
Less than 1/2 time	\$660.50 *
1/4 Time or less	\$330.25 *

### Veterans completing an enlistment of less than three years

Training Time	Monthly Rate
Full Time	\$1073.00
3/4 Time	\$804.75
1/2 Time	\$536.50
Less than 1/2 time more than 1/4 time	\$536.50 *
1/4 time or less	\$268.25 *

\* Tuition and fees only. Payment cannot exceed the listed amount.

## COMPARISON OF FEDERAL GI BILL PROGRAMS

	CH 30	CH 35	CH 1606	CH 1607
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	DISCHARGE MUST BE HONORABLE	VETERAN'S DEATH OR PERMANENT AND TOTAL DISABILITY RESULT OF SERVICE	COMPLETION OF INITIAL ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING. 6-YEAR OBLIGATION	90 DAYS OR MORE ACTIVE DUTY (AD) SUPPORT OR FULL-TIME NATIONAL GUARD DUTY
<b>BENEFITS FOR VETERAN STILL IN MILITARY</b>	PAYABLE AFTER 2 YEARS CONTINUOUS ACTIVE DUTY	NO	YES	YES
<b>ENTITLEMENT</b>	36 MONTHS. MAY EXTEND TO END OF TERM	45 MONTHS. NO EXTENSION	36 MONTHS NO EXTENSION	36 MONTHS NO EXTENSION
<b>DELIMITING DATE</b>	10 YEARS AFTER DISCHARGE. MAY EXTEND FOR LATER PERIOD OF (AD) OR DISABILITY	CHILD: 8 YEARS SPOUSE: 10 YEARS. SURVIVING SPOUSE: 10 YEARS. 20 YEARS IF DEATH WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY	14 YEARS FROM ELIGIBILITY DATE. DATE IF SEPARATION IF LEAVE RESERVES BEFORE 14 YEARS	10 YEARS FROM THE SEPARATION DATE IF DISCHARGE ISN'T DISHONORABLE
	DISABILITY	DEATH WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY	BEFORE 14 YEARS	

## Payment Rates Factors

Payment rates are based on the following:

- **Length of your original enlistment.** Veterans who served three years of active duty or longer get a higher rate than those who served less than three years.
- **Type of training taken.** Payment rates for clinical/shop courses, as opposed to classroom format, are higher.
- **Participation in the GI Bill \$600 buy-up program.** This program pays an additional \$150 per month if you are a full time student.
- **Participation in a college fund.** This fund is added to the regular GI Bill payment and is prorated like the regular GI Bill payment.
- **Number of credits taken.** Payment rate is based on full-time, three-quarter time, half-time, and less-than-half-time rate.

## Useful Department of Veteran Affairs Telephone Numbers and Web Sites

**Federal Educational Benefits, 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551),** [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov), for veterans/reservists/dependents to inquire about their Montgomery GI Bill benefits.

**State (Wisconsin) Educational Benefits:** 608-266-1311/[www.dva.state.wi.us](http://www.dva.state.wi.us)

**Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment:**

1-800-827-1000, [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov), for veterans who have a service-connected disability.

**Home Loans: 1-800-827-1000,** for veterans to inquire about information for obtaining a mortgage.

**Compensation and Pension: 1-800-827-1000,** for information on Service Connected Disability Compensation, Survivors' Benefits.

**Hospital and Medical Benefits: 1-877-222-8387,** for information on VA medical benefits.

**CHAMPVA: 1-800-733-8387,** for information on healthcare services and supplies for dependent and spouses of veterans.

**VA's Debt Management Center: 1-800-827-0648,** for information about resolving debts resulting from participation in GI Bill Entitlement Programs.

## How the Montgomery GI Bill Is Received and Paid

The Montgomery GI Bill is received monthly, and payment is prorated based on the start or end date of the semester. Payments are always issued after one month is completed, and enrollment must be certified with the VA each month. In some cases, payments are issued in a lump sum.

Enrollment can be certified either online ([www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)) or over the phone (1-877-823-2378 for recipients of chapter 30, 1606, and 1607. Recipients of chapter 35 are sent an enrollment certification form through the mail.

## Current GI Bill Rates - Effective October 2007

Chapter 30 (three-year - or more regular active-duty vets), **\$1,101/month**  
Chapter 1606 (reserve and guard), **\$317/month**  
Chapter 1607 (deployed reserve and guard members), **\$880/month** (service of one year)  
Chapter 35 (dependents /spouses), **\$881/month**

Part-time students will be adjusted based on whether they attend three-quarters time (9-11 credits), half-time (6-8 credits) or less than part-time (5 credits or less).

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

**MONTGOMERY GI BILL — Chapter 30 (veterans), 1606 (reservists), 1607 (reservists), 35 (dependents, spouses):** Provides up to 36 months (48 months for chapter 35) of full-time educational benefits. This benefit may be used for degree, diploma and certificate programs, flight training, apprentice/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Generally, this benefit is payable for 10 years following your release from active duty.

**ACCELERATED PAYMENT FOR MONTGOMERY GI BILL:** This is a lump sum payment of 60% of tuition and fees for certain high-cost, high-tech programs. To qualify, you must be enrolled in a high-tech program and must certify your intention to seek employment in a high-tech industry.

**LICENSING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:** You can receive reimbursement for licensing and certification tests approved for the GI Bill. The reimbursement is up to \$2,000 per test but not more than the actual cost of the test. Visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) and click on the Licensing and Certification page for more information.

**WORK-STUDY PROGRAM:** This program is available to any student receiving VA educational benefits who is attending school three-quarter time or more. The work-study job must be in an establishment (such as the veterans' hospital) that serves military veterans. The hourly rate is either the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is greater. Call the toll-free number 1-888-442-4551 for more information.

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING:** The VA offers an entrepreneurial training course for veterans. The course focuses on the development of a comprehensive business plan that addresses present and future needs of businesses. The course is funded through the Veterans Corporation at no cost to the veteran. For more information, call 608-267-7329 or 1-800-947-8387.

**TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** This program pays 100% tuition and fee reimbursement at MATC. Along with the Montgomery GI Bill, reservists and active duty military personnel may be eligible to receive this benefit. You must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credits or more) to be eligible. Contact your unit administrator for more information, or visit [www.usarc.army.mil/88thrsc](http://www.usarc.army.mil/88thrsc).

## Veteran Educational Benefits — Glossary of Terms

1. **Accelerated Payment (Chapter 30 Only):** For students enrolled in certain high-cost programs that lead to high-technology employment in high-technology industries. For more information, see the VA website at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) and click on Accelerated Payment Information for High Technology.
2. **American Council on Education (ACE) Guide:** ACE is a guide to assist military veterans to determine which college courses may be eligible for advance standing for learning acquired in military life. The guide enables students to apply their experience, training, and expertise to their degree work at colleges and universities.
3. **Advance Payment:** Payment received from the VA at the beginning of the semester for courses taken during the current enrollment. To be eligible, the student must be at least one-half time (6 or more credits) and submit the request at least 30 days before the beginning of the enrollment period.
4. **Concurrent Enrollment:** A veteran student attends two schools at the same time toward the approved occupational objective. One school would be recognized as the parent institution (degree-granting institution) and the other is the receiving institution. The student can receive payment from both schools simultaneously.
5. **Extension of Entitlement to End of Term:** An extension of educational benefits to the end of the term, provided there is enough entitlement of the months remaining to begin the term. The VA student must be within his or her delimiting date for the full extension.
6. **Interval/Break Pay:** The period between two terms, such as fall and spring semesters, spring and summer session, and summer session to fall semester.
7. **Kicker-College Fund:** An additional amount added to the Chapters 30 and 1606 monthly rate for veteran students who were given the "college fund" upon enlistment in the military. This fund is commonly referred to as a kicker, as it increases the monthly rates.
8. **Program Changes for VA Students:** There are no limitations to the number of educational, professional, or vocational objectives a VA student may pursue when they complete each program certified.
9. **Remedial, Deficiency, Refresher Training:** Veteran students may receive benefits for remedial or deficiency courses if they need courses to assist them in overcoming a weakness in a particular area of study.
10. **Six Credit Exclusion:** VA will grant a one-time allowance for the first time a veteran student drops six or fewer credits. That is, up to six credits would be exempted from an overpayment assessment.
11. **Transfer of Entitlement:** This provides for the transfer of the Chapter 30 benefit to one or more dependents. When an active military soldier contributes \$1,200, has completed six years of military service, and re-enlists for four more years, he or she can transfer up to 18 months of Chapter 30 eligibility to a spouse or child.
12. **Mitigating Circumstances:** Unanticipated and unavoidable events beyond a student's control which are responsible for the student's inability to complete a course or courses, or which result in the student's receipt of a nonpunitive grade.

## Interesting Facts About GI Bill Benefits

1. VA education GI Bill benefits are not taxable.
2. Payments are prorated for the actual period (to the day) that you are enrolled. Example: if you start classes August 25, your August check will be for six days, not the full monthly rate.
3. Education benefits normally will not be terminated during any semester because your entitlement runs out. If you have one day of entitlement remaining at the beginning of a semester, the VA will pay you through the end of that semester provided you are within the ten-year period.
4. It normally takes three to six weeks for any changes in course work, dependent status, or address change to be reflected in your benefit checks.
5. Associate degree students in their last semester before graduation can add elective credits to their credit load to become eligible for a higher benefit rate. (Example: A student who needs only six credits to graduate in May 2007 may add six additional credits to become eligible for full-time GI Bill benefits.)
6. Just attending classes will not qualify you for veteran benefits. A veteran student must be doing satisfactory work in all classes in order to receive GI Bill benefits.
7. Courses offered online and via TV are approved for the GI Bill.
8. With the exception of an advance pay, the payment received on the first of the month is payment for the previous month. (Example: The October 1 check is for September 1-30.)
9. You may receive a special allowance for individual tutoring if you are enrolled at one-half time or more.
10. You may receive GI Bill benefits for remedial or deficiency courses if you need them to overcome an academic weakness in a particular area of study. The courses must be necessary for your program of education.

### MATC Veterans Office Staff

**Maureen Crump-Phillips**  
Manager  
414-297-8811

**James Scott**  
Veterans Certifying Official  
414-297-6394

**Maria Galindo**  
Veterans Education Support Staff  
414-297-7016

**Laura Woelfel**  
Financial Aid Specialist  
414-297-6230

## QUESTIONS ABOUT GI BILL PAYMENT

### When will I get paid?

If you are continuing your GI Bill benefits, your entitlement should be deposited into your account approximately 30 days from the date certified by MATC. If, for example, you were certified for payment on January 17, 2007, your check will be deposited/mailed during the first week of February.

### How much will I get paid?

The amount of entitlement depends on the number of credits taken during the semester and your enlistment contact. If, for example, you served more than three years on active duty, and you were taking 12 or more credits, your payment would be \$1,075 per month. If, for example, you entered as a Selected Reservist and took 12 or more credits, your payment would be \$309 per month.

### How long can I receive my entitlement?

If you were in active duty, your GI Bill ends 10 years from the date of your last discharge. The 14 years period is generally effective for Selected Reservists (Your GI Bill can end earlier than 14/10 years if you received the maximum monetary amount of your entitlement before.)

### Can I receive additional entitlement?

You may be eligible for additional entitlement if you re-enlist, change military occupational specialty (MOS), or participated in the "kicker" program. You also may receive additional allowances for tutorial assistance or as

a work-study student. Please contact the MATC Veteran Affairs office for more information about these allowances.

### Can I receive advance pay?

You may receive advance pay (two months of entitlement) if you: Train at one-half time or more Request an advance payment in writing Submit your VA registration to the MATC VA office at least 35 days before classes start

### Can I spend my VA money if the amount is incorrect?

You may spend the money, but if the amount is incorrect, the VA will make the appropriate adjustment on subsequent entitlement payments.

### Can I receive the Montgomery GI Bill (Federal) and WI GI Bill at the same time?

Yes. The Montgomery GI Bill does not conflict with the WI GI Bill. The former is funded by the federal government, while the latter is funded by Wisconsin state government.

### What is Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment?

Vocational Rehabilitation is a program to assist eligible veterans in achieving maximum independence in their daily life through providing services such as personal counseling, education and training, medical and dental treatment and subsistence allowance. For more information, call 1-800-827-1000 or contact Gretchen Schutney at (414) 902-5121.

If you have a question about MATC programs, classes or services, call any campus:

**Monday-Thursday**  
7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Friday**  
7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Downtown Milwaukee Campus

Enrollment Information Center  
Room S101  
700 West State Street  
414-297-MATC

#### Mequon Campus

5555 West Highland Road  
262-238-2300

#### Oak Creek Campus

6665 South Howell Avenue  
414-571-4074

#### West Allis Campus

1200 South 71st Street  
414-456-5310

## Where to Turn for Answers

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

★ The MATC Veterans Affairs Office is looking for students to participate in the MATC Veteran Club for the upcoming 2008-09 school year. The mission of the club will be to provide financial, social and academic support to MATC veterans/reservists.

To learn more about the MATC Veteran Club, please send an e-mail with your name and student ID to [scottjl@matc.edu](mailto:scottjl@matc.edu) or [erwinharper68@yahoo.com](mailto:erwinharper68@yahoo.com), or visit the MATC Veterans Office at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus, Room S223.

**Contact information:** James Scott, MATC Veteran Coordinator, 414-297-6394, [scottjl@matc.edu](mailto:scottjl@matc.edu) and Erwin Harper, MATC veteran student, 414-446-5482, [erwinharper68@yahoo.com](mailto:erwinharper68@yahoo.com).

★ MATC Veteran Affairs will be adding estimated Montgomery and WI GI Bill benefits to the 2008/2009 financial aid award letters. These estimates will be based on VA benefits received during the 2007-08 fall, spring and summer semesters. The purpose of these estimates is to prevent over-awarding from occurring in the amount of financial aid received.

★ MATC Student Employment Services has 2008 fall job listings. Available jobs include employment in business and industry, health care, food service and more. For more information, contact Student Employment Services at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus, 414-297-6244, see the JOBshop area at [matc.edu](http://matc.edu), or visit Room S203A.

★ The Montgomery GI Bill is available for veterans enrolled in apprenticeship training and on-the-job training. This training

is supervised on-the-job training coupled with related technical instruction in occupations such as electricity, plumbing, carpentry and firefighting. For more information, contact the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Division of Employment and Training Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, 608-266-3132, [www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/appr](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/appr)

★ The Montgomery GI Bill provides reimbursement for required license or certification tests. A test must be approved for VA purposes and the request for reimbursement must be received by the VA within one year of when the test was taken. The reimbursement is up to \$2,000 per test. For more information, visit [www.GIBill.va.gov](http://www.GIBill.va.gov) and click "educational benefits."