

VETERANS' CONTACTS

For questions concerning your eligibility, contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,
St. Louis RPO toll-free number: **1-888-442-4551**

OR VISIT ON-LINE AT: www.gbill.va.gov

For questions concerning employment opportunities, contact the Montana Job Service office
nearest to you.

HOW TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS

1. **VA Form 22-1990 (Application for Education Benefits)**
If you are a Veteran, Reservist, or National Guard member and have never used VA education benefits previously, go to www.gbill.va.gov and "Apply for Benefits". The instructions for completion are on the website. A certified copy of your DD Form 214 (Separation from Active Duty or a Notice of Basic Eligibility for Reservists/National Guard must be submitted with the application).
2. **VA Form 22-1995 (Request for Change of Program)**
If you have previously used VA education benefits and are changing your program or place of training, this form must be submitted. Instructions are on the form.
3. **VA Form 22-5490 (Application for Survivors and Dependents Education Assistance)**
If you are filing a claim to determine eligibility as a dependent child or spouse, this form must be submitted. The instructions for completion are on the form.
4. **VA Form 22-5495 (Request for Change of Program for Survivors and Dependents)**
If you have used VA education benefits previously, this form must be submitted. Instructions for completion are included on the form.

ALL COMPLETED VA FORMS ARE TO BE MAILED TO:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Office
PO Box 66830
St. Louis, MO 63166-6830



**Employers, Veterans,
Eligible Dependents,
members of the
National Guard and Reserve**



**Have you considered ...
On-the-Job
or
Apprenticeship Training?**

****Employers**—Veterans, Dependents, National Guard members and Reservists can be your best employees.

****Veterans**—You may be eligible to receive a monthly benefit check from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

**MONTANA STATE APPROVING AGENCY
for
VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

BACKGROUND

Various public laws provide for the payment of a monthly training allowance by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for eligible persons pursuing a full-time on-the-job or apprenticeship program that is approved for GI Bill educational and training benefits.

WHAT IS ON-THE-JOB TRAINING?

On-the-Job Training (OJT) is training you receive while actually performing a job and earning wages, as well as receiving VA benefits.

- A skilled occupation is learned under the supervision of a skilled worker in a practical, hands-on way.
- **Six months to two years** in length. Some examples of approvable OJT programs include law enforcement officer, welder, painter, auto mechanic, and locksmith.

BENEFITS TO EMPLOYERS

Veterans, dependents, National Guard members and Reservists can be your best employees.

- Veterans who have worked in technically-oriented military occupations are better prepared for civilian technical training.
- Veterans have demonstrated the aptitude to be trained in a structured environment.
- Veterans have developed a work ethic that enables them to report for work on time and in the proper frame of mind.
- Veterans tend to be more mature, self-confident, and drug-free employees.
- Veterans who receive GI Bill assistance will work toward a training objective and make satisfactory progress to receive continued benefits.
- Veterans possess higher education and training achievements.
- Veterans receive the same prevailing wage as other employees in the same position. Scheduled pay increases develop employee loyalty.
- Veterans possess work traits, such as adapting to physical demands, following safety guidelines, working under pressure, and setting priorities.

HOW TO BEGIN

1. Determine the occupations within your company that may be trained by apprenticeship or on-the-job training programs.
2. Determine whether veterans, eligible dependents, National Guardsmen, or Reservists are currently employed in any of those positions.
3. If the program has been approved for veterans' educational benefits, veterans can receive VA benefits while working full-time and earning wages.

Employers: For information regarding program approval for veterans' educational benefits, contact: Montana State Approving Agency

Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501
(406)444-4122 or (406)444-0691
jbailey3@mt.gov or bnelson2@mt.gov

WHAT IS APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING?

Apprenticeship training is on-the-job training coupled with theoretical related instruction. You receive your VA benefits while working full time and earning wages.

- A skilled occupation learned through a structured, systematic program of supervised on-the-job training to learn necessary manual mechanical or technical skills.
- Includes technical and theoretical related instruction.
- Normally **two to five years** in length.
- Occupation clearly identified and commonly recognized throughout an industry.

Some examples of approved apprenticeship programs include: carpenter, electrician, plumber, sheet metal worker, firefighter, and machinist.

Employers: For more information regarding registration of apprenticeship training programs, please contact:

Department of Labor & Industry, Workforce Services Division,
Apprenticeship & Training Program, 1327 Lockey, PO Box 1728,
Helena, MT 59624-1728 Telephone: (406) 444-3556

Although program registration with the Department of Labor or the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT) is not mandatory for veterans' benefits, it is recommended in order to receive journey worker's papers upon successful completion.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1. **Post 9/11 Montgomery GI Bill—(Chapter 33)**
Honorably discharged veterans who entered active duty after September 10, 2001 and served an aggregate of at least 90 days.
2. **Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty (Chapter 30)**
Honorably discharged veterans who entered active duty after 7-1-85 and participated in the pay reduction program.
3. **Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserves (Chapter 1606)**
Reservists or National Guard members who enlisted, re-enlisted, or extended an enlistment in the Selected Reserve or National Guard for a period of six years after October 1, 1990.
4. **Dependents Education Assistance Program (Chapter 35)**
A child or spouse of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability or has a total disability permanent in nature as a result from a service-connected disability.
5. **Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) (Chapter 1607)** Selected Reservists or National Guard members with at least 90 consecutive days or more of active duty on or after 9-11-01.