



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Post-9/11 GI Bill: Yellow Ribbon Program

What is the Yellow Ribbon Program?

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, or the Yellow Ribbon Program, is a part of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows U.S. institutions of higher learning to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA. These degree-granting institutions partner with VA to cover tuition and fee expenses that exceed VA's maximum payable amount. Schools can contribute a specified dollar amount. VA will match the amount, not to exceed 50 percent of the difference.

How Does the Yellow Ribbon Program Benefit Participants?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill pays up to all public in-state tuition and fees. If a recipient attends a private or out-of-state school, tuition rates may be more than the covered amount. However, if the school participates in The Yellow Ribbon Program, additional funds may be available to the student. Institutions that voluntarily enter into a Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement with VA choose the amount of tuition and fees to contribute. VA will match that amount and directly pay the institution.

Participating Schools Agree to:

- Provide funds to eligible individuals who apply for the Yellow Ribbon Program on a first-come, first-served basis. Contributions must be given regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training.
- Provide funds during the current academic year and all following academic years. This continues as long as:
 - The institution is participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program.
 - The student maintains satisfactory progress, conduct and attendance.

- Contribute toward the program on behalf of the individual. Money can be in the form of a grant, scholarship, etc.
- State the dollar amount the agency is contributing for each participant each academic year.
- Provide the maximum number of individuals the institution will contribute for in each academic year.

Who Is Eligible?

Individuals entitled to the maximum benefit level, based on service requirements, may receive this funding. Others who may be eligible include:

- Those who served at least 36 months of active duty after Sept. 10, 2001
- Service members who were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability and served 30 days in a row after Sept 10, 2001
- A dependent eligible for Transfer of Entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” was signed into law on Aug. 17, 2017. It brings significant changes to Veterans’ education benefits. This new law provides that, as of Aug. 1, 2018, those who receive the Fry Scholarship and those who received the Purple Heart may use the Yellow Ribbon Program.

For more information, call 888-GI BILL 1, or 888-442-4551. You may also visit the GI Bill website at <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.