

The Basics

MEASUREMENT & PAY ISSUES - IHL

Calculation of Training Time For NON CH33

- **Undergraduates** measured by VA, usually at 12 semester or quarter hours = Full Time
- **Graduate** students are measured by VA based upon the training time certified by the school
 - If the school is approved to certify “As Certified,” VA accepts the school’s determination of training time
 - If the term is of non-standard length, the VA computes “equivalent credit hours.” Payment is then based on which method gives the higher training time (*the same for undergraduate courses as part of a graduate program*)

Method of Payment

- **Undergraduate rate is determined by the VA**
- **Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ Time Training => Tuition and Fees**
- **Active Duty => Tuition and Fees**
- **Paid monthly rate determined by T&F or, the max rate, *whichever is less***
- **Graduate rates are based on the training time certified by the school**

Standard Undergraduate Term

- **Training is always based on the following:**
 - 12 credits = Full Time
 - 9 credits = $\frac{3}{4}$ Time
 - 6 credits = $\frac{1}{2}$ Time
- **Standard Length of Terms:**
 - Standard Semester = 15 – 19 weeks
 - Standard Quarter = 10-13 weeks
 - Length of term – divide the number of days in term by 7, disregarding remainders of 3 days or less, and addition one week for remainders of 4+ days. Deduct 1 week for each 1 week break or holiday during the term

Non-Standard Terms & Equivalent Credit Hours (ECH)

- If the term does not fit the standard lengths of Semester (15 – 19 weeks) or Quarter (10-13 weeks), the term is “non-standard” and the VA must calculate the “**Equivalent Credit Hours**” (ECH).
- **Equivalent Credit Hours for:**
 - **Semester** = semester hours pursued during a term multiplied times 18, divided by the length of the term in weeks **SH X 18/Weeks**
 - **Quarter** = quarter hours pursued during a term multiplied times 12, divided by the length of the term in weeks **QH x 12/Weeks**

Non-Standard Terms & Equivalent Credit Hours (ECH)

- Example:

Term is 06/09/12 – 07/28/12 semester (50 days), 6 credits

Step 1: 50 days / 7 days = 7 weeks, 1 day (**round to 7 weeks**)

Step 2: $ECH = \frac{18 \text{ hours} \times 6 \text{ credits enrolled}}{7 \text{ weeks}} = \mathbf{15 ECH}$

The student would be considered Full Time for VA standards (if 12 credits was Full Time)

Overlapping Sessions

- **Combine equivalent hours only for periods where sessions overlap and VA pays accordingly**
- Example:
 - Term #1: 05/15/12 – 07/15/12 (9 weeks), 3 semester hours
(Non-standard term, $ECH = (18 \times 3) / 9 = 6$ *equivalent* credit hours)
 - Term #2: 05/15/12 – 08/25/12 (15 weeks), 6 semester hours
(standard term, 6 credit hours)
 - Award: 05/15/12 – 07/15/12 (9 semester hours, Full Time)**
07/15/12 – 08/25/12 (6 semester hours, Half Time)

Verification of Pursuit by Student

- Chapters 30, 1606, and 1607:
 - The student must certify continued pursuit (attendance) to receive payments by:
 - Calling Toll-Free: 877-823-2378
 - W.A.V.E: located at www.gibill.va.gov
- Chapter 35:
 - Only Non-College Degree students must verify continued pursuit (attendance) to receive payments
- Chapters 33:
 - No verification is required

Interval “Break” Payments

- **As of August 1, 2011, “Break” payments are no longer payable under any benefit program (see Public Law 111-377)**
- Prior to August 1, 2011, students could receive payments during the period of time between regularly scheduled terms or other periods of instruction

Repeating Courses

- We will not pay a student to re-take a course which was previously satisfactorily completed
- Doesn't matter whether or not the student received VA education benefits for the prior attempt
- Students can repeat courses for which a D was previously earned if a C or better is required for the student's current program
- **Exceptions:** when student is using the rounding out of terms rule during his/her last term in that program

Supplemental Enrollments

- **Supplemental enrollments**, also known as “guest,” exist whenever a student’s approved program of education involves training at more than one school.
- **Primary School** must certify that it will give credit for the specified subjects taken at the supplemental school and that the subjects taken apply to the students objective.
- Each school, primary or supplemental, certifies the student for courses taken at their school/campus.

Dual Degrees

- If specific dual degrees/majors are listed in school's approved catalog along with the specific requirements for each, no additional approval action is required.
- Only certify courses required to complete the dual major.
- Courses certified will be reviewed during VA or SAA compliance surveys to ensure they are required for the dual major.
- Minors can be certified if they are part of an approved major, even if the minor will require additional credit to graduate.

Rounding Out of Terms

Generally, VA may not pay for courses that are not part of the claimant's program of education. However, for degree courses taken on a quarter, semester, or term basis, rounding out of terms is permitted.

This means that a claimant may enroll in sufficient credit hours during his or her one last term to allow payment of (up to and including) full-time training.

If the claimant does not graduate for any reason, he or she cannot round out again during that degree program.

Credit for Prior Training

- Schools **must** review **ALL** prior education and training.
- Student has no choice - even if (s)he doesn't want prior credit transferred, school **must** do the transfer & evaluation.
- Schools are not required to grant transfer credit, but must evaluate it and grant it in accordance with the rules published in their approved catalog.
- Schools should accomplish this in first two terms of enrollment to avoid certifying the student for courses previously satisfactorily completed from transfers.

Deficiency, Remedial, & Refresher Courses

- **Deficiency course:** Secondary level course required to correct a deficiency in a particular subject matter.
- **Remedial course:** Secondary level course required to overcome a handicap such as in speech or hearing.
- **Refresher course:** A course previously taken during or prior to veteran's military service and in which significant technological advances have occurred, e.g., computer repair or programming.
- Courses must be necessary for or required pre-requisites to pursuit of student's current program.

College Fund “Kickers”

- What is a “kicker”?
- Who is eligible?
- What proof is required?

College Fund “Kickers”

- Additional moneys offered by the military as an incentive for recruitment and retention
- Kicker benefits are paid each month in addition to regular MGIB payments.
- The military determines an individual’s eligibility for kicker benefits.
- Individuals eligible under Chapters 30, 32, 33 (including Transfer of Entitlement), 1606 and 1607 may receive kicker benefits.
- Service information provided to VA by DOD may contain kicker information. Individuals may submit proof of eligibility (i.e. enlistment/kicker contracts) directly to VA.

Additional \$600 Contribution

- This is not the same as a “kicker” and payments are **not offered under the Post-9/11 GI Bill**
- Only paid under Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30) and Reservist Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607)
- Public Law (PL) 106-419 allowed service members to make additional contributions to increase their MGIB monthly rate effect May 1, 2001.
- Maximum contributions of up to \$600 for an additional \$150 in MGIB payments (Full Time)
- **Proof of contribution is required** (i.e. DD Form 2366, Cash Collection Voucher, Leave and Earning Statement (LES))

Example #1: 2 Kickers

- Mr. Smith enlisted in the Army for 4 years and trained as a Munitions Specialist. He receives an active duty “kicker” of \$333.33 per month.

Upon completion of his active duty service, he enlisted in the Army Reserve for 6 years and continued his munitions training. He receives a selected reserve “kicker” of 350.00 per month.

What is his full-time CH30 monthly rate?

Example #1: 2 Kickers

Mr. Smith's Monthly Rate:

MGIB (3-YR rate)	\$1,473.00
Active Duty "Kicker"	333.33
Selected Reserve "Kicker"	<u>350.00</u>
Total monthly rate	\$2,156.33

Example #2: Kicker & Additional Contributions

- Ms. Jones enlisted in the Army for 4 years. She receives an active duty “kicker” of \$333.33 per month. In addition, she has a LES Statement showing she contributed \$600.00 Additional Contributions to her MGIB-AD.

What is his full-time Ch30 monthly rate?

Example #2: Kicker & Additional Contributions

Ms. Jones' Monthly Rate:

MGIB (3-YR rate)	\$1,473.00
Active Duty "Kicker"	333.33
"\$600 Additional Contributions"	<u>150.00*</u>
Total monthly rate	\$1,956.33

*contributing the maximum of \$600, equates to a Full-Time Monthly Rate of an additional \$150.00 added to the MGIB payment

Questions?

