

Enrollment Verification for students using Ch 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill-Starts after December 17th, 2021

Starting in the 2021-2022 school year, all Post-9/11 GI Bill® students who receive Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments are required to verify their enrollment to continue receiving their payments. Read below to learn more about what enrollment verification is and how to do it.

What is enrollment verification?

Enrollment verification is a new requirement for Post-9/11 GI Bill students to verify that they have remained enrolled in the same courses or training every month. 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 new requirement does not represent a change for you, as MGIB students are already required to verify enrollment.

When does enrollment verification start?

Currently, the monthly verification requirement is only being applied to Post-9/11 GI Bill students who receive MHA/kicker payments. It will become effective in phases:

Students that attend a **Non-College Degree (NCD)** facility, with terms starting **on or after August 1, 2021**.

Students that attend an **Institution of Higher Learning (IHL)** facility, with terms starting **on or after December 17, 2021**.

If you are an IHL facility student, there is no action required of you at this time. You will be provided with information on next steps in the coming months. For all other students, including students at NCD and IHL facilities who do not receive MHA/kicker payments, you will be provided with more information before the enrollment verification requirement applies to you.

NOTE: If you are taking multiple classes and **any of them** start after the effective date of this requirement, you will be required to verify enrollment even if your other classes started earlier.

How do I verify enrollment?

You can verify enrollment using the following methods:

Via Text Message

- o 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.

- o 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.**

- o Please be assured that enrollment verification via text message is safe and secure. VA will **never** ask for your personal information, such as social security number or bank account information, via text.

- o VA **strongly recommends this method** for verifying enrollment. It will be easier and faster than calling the ECC.

- o **If you're not sure if VA has your phone number on file**, please contact the Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to ensure VA has your mobile phone number.

Via Education Call Center

- o 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.

o 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).

NCD Facility Students: [Learn more about how to verify your enrollment.](#)

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.