EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GI BILL OPTIONS

On-the-Job & Apprenticeship Training Programs

Both on-the-job (OJT) and apprenticeship training programs are available for Veterans using their VA education benefits, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These programs allow Veterans to learn a trade or skill through training on the job participation rather than attending formal classroom instruction. A Veteran generally enters into a training contract for a specific period with an employer or union, and at the end of the training period, the Veteran gains job certification or journeyman status.

Employers or unions generally pay a reduced OJT/apprenticeship wage (generally 40 - 50% of journeyman wages). Veterans in an approved program can use their GI Bill benefit and receive a tax-free stipend. The Post-9/11 GI Bill stipend is the equivalent of the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) of an E-5 with dependents, which is paid in addition to the entry-level wage.

Stipend =	First six months of training	100% of your applicable MHA
	Second six months of training	80% of your applicable MHA

The stipend is reduced 20% every six months thereafter as the Veteran's wages regularly increase until the Veteran has attained journeyman status and pay. Stipend payments for other GI Bill programs are found here: http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.html

Approved employers can use this benefit as a recruiting tool by using wages + stipend to attract Veteran candidates.

State Approving Agencies (SAA)

The State Approving Agencies are responsible for approving OJT/apprenticeship programs in their respective states. Requirements generally entail submitting a training request form that specifically outlines the proposed program, wages, and standard workweek information, as well as the company contact name and phone number. Once all required documents are submitted, approval is generally completed in 1-2 months. For more information regarding OJT & apprenticeship programs, and how to apply see: http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/education_resources/programs/on_the_job_apprenticeship_training.html

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) OJT/Apprenticeships

In addition to the services listed above, VR&E also provides employers with other benefits through the Special Employer Incentive Program (SEI). Employers hiring Veterans with a service-connected disability who are approved for VR&E services may be entitled reimbursements up to 50% of the Veterans' salary for six months to offset training costs. Additional information about the VR&E OJT program is located here: http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/emp_resources.htm