The Yellow Ribbon Program

The "Yellow Ribbon" program is not available to active duty personnel.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay up to the most expensive in-state tuition and fees at a public institution of higher learning in the veteran's state, but you may attend any approved school. In instances where the benefit level does not cover the cost of established charges, VA and the educational institution may enter into an agreement to cover the unmet expenses under the Yellow Ribbon Program.

**Note:** Only individuals entitled to the full 100% benefit rate (based on service requirement) may receive this funding, and the matching contribution from the school and VA cannot exceed the full cost of the school's established charges.

Click here to verify your eligibility percentage

**Example:**
An individual wants to attend a school with tuition and fees that exceed the cost of in-state tuition and fees at the most expensive public institution of higher learning in the veteran's state. The highest in-state tuition and fees are $10,000. The school the student selects costs $15,000. Under the "Yellow Ribbon" program, the school and the VA may enter into an agreement to cover the additional $5,000. In this instance, if a written agreement is made between VA and the school the school would cover $2,500 of the charges and the VA will match that figure.

**How much will the VA pay if I attend a private school?**
To answer this question, you need still need to know three things.
1. What percentage of the Post 9/11 GI Bill am I entitled to receive?
2. How much is your school charging you for tuition for a specific term?
3. How much is your school charging you in fees for the same term?

**Assumptions**
To answer the above questions, let's assume the following:
- You are an undergraduate student attending an approved program at a private institution.
- You are enrolled in 12 credit hours for the fall term and your school has charged you $4,000 for tuition and $250 in fees.
- The GI Bill website shows that your state maximum cost per credit hour is $250 and fees is $1,000.

**How much will VA pay?**
If you are entitled to 100% of the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, VA will pay your school $3,250.
- VA will pay the $3,000 of your charged for tuition. The VA cannot exceed the maximum payable.
- The maximum VA could pay was determined by multiplying the number of credit hours you are enrolled in and the maximum the VA could pay (12 credit hours x $250 max cost per credit hour in your state = $3,000 max VA can pay.)
- VA will pay the $250 of fees you were charged. This was the amount you were charged and does not exceed the maximum $1,000 VA can pay per term.

**Note:** If you are entitled to less than 100% of the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, multiply the amount VA pays by your percentage of entitlement

**Example:**
You're entitled to 70%, the payment to the school would be $2,275 ($3,250 X 70% = 2,275).
For more information, please visit the following links:

United States Department of Veteran Affairs
GI Bill Web site
Yellow Ribbon Program
2008-2009 Maximum In-State Tuition & Fees