Vocational Rehab (Chapter 31)
Commonly called Vocational Rehabilitation; this program covers those service members with a service connected disability. Those looking to qualify for this program will first need to have the VA determine both their level of disability and the appropriate remedy. Note that the program of study will need to be approved prior to enrollment, and all classes attempted must lead to the specified degree. Tuition, fees, books, and supplies will be paid by the VA to the college directly. The student is responsible for presenting the form 1905-22 to the VA certifying official to insure payment. The student is responsible for reporting any changes in enrollment and academic progress to his or her VA counselor. Students may apply online for these benefits at www.wilkes-barre.va.gov or calling 570-824-3521 to speak with someone.

Survivor Benefits (Chapter 35)
Survivor benefits are paid to the children or spouse of a veteran declared 100% disabled, died as a result of a service connected disability, killed action, or missing in action. The benefit is a monthly stipend paid after school certification, and the student is not required to report attendance each month. Payment is prorated if the student is less than full time, and those taking less than 6 credits will only receive partial payment for the semester.

Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). Active Duty Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 30) Service beginning after June 30, 1985
This program is for active duty veterans who served after July 1st, 1985. The benefit is a monthly stipend paid after the school certifies registration. The amount paid is based on length of active duty service and number of credits taken. Those who served 4 years or longer receive the full payment while those who less than 4 years will have their awards reduced. Similarly, part time students will have their payments prorated. Those taking less than 6 credits will be paid only the tuition and fees associated with their class and do not receive a stipend to assist with living expenses. Students are responsible for certifying their attendance each month. If a student does not certify his or her attendance, the VA will withhold future payments until the student is in compliance.

New GI Bill. Selected Reserved Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1606).
This program is limited to reservists and National Guard personnel who have not been called to active duty. Similar to the Montgomery GI BILL, the benefit is a monthly stipend paid after the school certifies registration. The amount paid is the same regardless of length of service; however payment is prorated for those taking less than full time study. Those taking less than 6 credits will only receive partial payment for the semester. Also, the student is required to certify attendance each month, and payment will be withheld if this is not completed.

REAP
This program is for reservist and Guard personnel who served extended overseas tours of duty. Your monthly stipend will vary depending on how long you spent on active duty. The minimum length of active duty service is 90 days. Those who served less than 90 days are eligible for Chapter 1606 only. Note that active duty does not include training. Once the monthly payment had been decided, the program is similar to Chapters 30 and 1606. Students receive payment after certification by the school, and students must certify their attendance each month. Those who do not certify their attendance will not receive the next monthly payment. Also, payment is prorated for those taking less than full time study, and those taking less than 6 credits will only receive partial payment.

Post-9/11 GI bill effective August 1, 2009
This program creates a new veterans education benefits program for persons on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. It increases the maximum monthly veteran’s education benefits under the pre-existing Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB) and allows active duty service members to transfer to family members MGIB and other veterans’ education benefits. Veterans will have 15 years to use the Post-9/11Bill benefits as compared to 10 under MGIB. Benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill are paid directly to the beneficiary.
Who Is Eligible

- Veterans who served in aggregate at least 90 days active duty after September 10, 2001.
- Those who served at least 36 months active duty are eligible for maximum benefits.
- Those who served less time are eligible for pro-rated benefits to a minimum of 40%.
- National Guard and Reserves members who served pursuant to a federal call to active duty.
- Veterans who serve at least 30 continuous days and sustained a service connected disability.
- Veterans discharged in some circumstances.
- Active duty service members
- In some cases, spouses and children of active service members.

Veterans enrolled more than half-time in an approved educational program are entitled to tuition benefits, monthly housing stipends and yearly books and supplies stipends. The tuition stipend would be that charged at Johnson College. Yearly stipend for books and supplies is up to $1,000. The housing stipend is based on military housing benefit rates based on the zip code of the college. Students enrolled in distance education are not eligible for a housing stipend. Students enrolled half-time or less are eligible for a reduced tuition and books and supplies stipend. They are, however, not eligible for a housing stipend.

Compared to the pre-existing veteran’s education benefits programs, which remain in effect, the Post-9/11 GI Bill generally provides a better benefits package in terms of eligibility criteria, eligibility period and financial value. However, please be aware that the best veterans’ education benefits program for a person who is eligible for multiple programs, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill will depend on the personal individual circumstances.

**NOTE:** Once a veteran selects the Post-9/11 GI bill program, he/she cannot revert back to the Montgomery GI Bill. Veterans are therefore cautioned to weigh carefully which of the two programs will serve them better.