

Dear Montgomery GI Bill Recipient:

This letter is designed to help you with a list of important items for 2009-2010.

New for 2009-2010 – CHAPTER 33 – The Post-9/11 GI Bill

This new program becomes effective August 1, 2009 which means it applies to eligible SRU students beginning with the fall 2009 semester. This program is available to veterans who served active duty after September 10, 2001. The VA is still finalizing the details to the program. However, we will present the current information at a meeting open to all veterans on April 23, 2009 in Room 205 of the University Union from 12:30 to 1:30.

File the FAFSA for 2009-2010

The **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) must be filed and received at the processing center by **MAY 1, 2009** to be considered for both State and Federal aid programs. You can still apply for federal financial aid after May 1, but some financial aid programs may be exhausted by that time.

- Slippery Rock University's federal school code is **003327**.
- You should submit the FAFSA **on-line** at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- If you anticipate a reduction in income or unusual expenses for 2009, contact the Financial Aid Office to request a special circumstances form.

GI Bill Enrollment Form for summer 2009, fall 2009 and spring 2010

Complete the enclosed form and return it to the SRU Veterans Office by May 1 if you wish to receive the GI Bill for **SUMMER 2009, FALL 2009, and/or SPRING 2010**. You can still submit the form after May 1, but we encourage you to complete the form prior to this date because of the processing time needed by the VA.

- **Note:** *If you would like to request an Advance Pay check for fall, be sure to complete the section on the certification form.*

EAP

If you are in the PA National Guard, be sure to apply for your tuition benefits in April through your unit if you are eligible. In some cases, EAP can reduce other sources of financial aid such as Federal SEOG/ACG Grant/SMART Grant and Federal Stafford Loan. EAP will not be deducted from your bill until the funds have been received from the military. Typically, EAP funds are received about a month into the semester. Payment can be deferred if SRU has received an EAP letter. The fall/spring EAP letter has been received if your financial aid award letter lists VA – Other with the fall and spring amounts. You can also check your EAP status on the Pennsylvania web site, Account Access, at www.aessuccess.org. EAP is listed under your special programs section.

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)

The SRU Student Accounts Office processes the FTA information as it comes to SRU. Once you have been approved by the military for FTA, you can contact Student Accounts (724-738-2088) if you have any questions regarding your billing and FTA. If you are in the National Guard or Reserve, contact your unit regarding the procedures for applying for this benefit. In some cases, FTA can impact other sources of financial aid such as PHEAA State Grant, SEOG, ACG Grant/SMART Grant and Federal Stafford Loan. **NOTE:** *If you are receiving EAP benefits, your FTA funds will be limited because you can't have tuition paid by two different programs.*

Your Responsibilities

Verify monthly enrollment. It is your responsibility to verify your enrollment with the VA on the last day of each month. You should do this via phone @ 1-877-823-2378 or by the internet WAVE option at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>.

Pay your bill. Montgomery GI Bill Benefits are considered a part of your financial aid package for use towards education-related expenses. If your other financial aid does not cover your billable charges at SRU, you will be responsible for paying the remaining portion of the bill.

Notify the Veterans Coordinator of:

- Your intended enrollment each semester (you do this by completing the enclosed enrollment form)
- Any change in course load (drop, add, withdrawal, no longer attending a class), in a timely manner
- Your current campus/local address and phone number
- A change in your major
- **Military activation/mobilization** of your Reserve or Guard unit. You must provide the SRU Veterans Coordinator with a copy of your orders and indicate the last day you attended classes. Phone: 724-738-2219. You may fax a copy of your orders to: 724-738-2922. If you are activated and will not be able to complete a semester, you should officially withdraw from SRU by contacting the Office of Retention Services, 724-738-2011.

Termination or Adjustment of GI Bill Education Benefits

Attendance. The Veterans Coordinator must monitor class attendance via your professors, midterm and final grades. Students who do not attend on a regular basis, **stop attending** or withdraw (either officially or unofficially) will be reported to the VA Buffalo Regional Processor. Such notification can include a last date of attendance for each class and may result in a reduction, overpayment or termination of your GI Bill eligibility by the VA.

Two Semester Policy (Academic Probation/Suspension). A student who is placed on academic probation and/or suspension for TWO CONSECUTIVE terms of attendance at SRU will have his/her GI Bill benefits terminated. Refer to the SRU Veterans Affairs website for additional information.

Academic Suspension. A student who is placed on academic suspension will immediately have his/her GI Bill benefits terminated.

Overpayments. An overpayment may result if you receive a grade of I, W, NC or AU, which is not used in computing requirements for your degree/graduation, or if you repeat a course in which you previously received a passing grade. Overpayment may also result if you stop attending class, withdraw from school, or did not attend class on a regular basis to the end of the term. The VA will collect overpayments from you.

***NOTE:** for additional information regarding your responsibilities and information about overpayments and termination of benefits, refer to www.sru.edu/pages/2686.asp

Important phone numbers and websites

SRU Veterans Affairs	tiffany.aloi@sru.edu 724-738-2219 (re: GI Bill, EAP) www.sru.edu/pages/2686.asp HOURS: 8:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:30 (4:00 in summer)
SRU Financial Aid	724-738-2044 (re: applying for aid such as grants, loans and scholarships) www.sru.edu/pages/5013.asp
SRU Student Accounts	724-738-2088 (re: FTA, billing, payment, refund checks)
VA toll-free (questions)	888-442-4551
VA benefits other than GI Bill	800-827-1000
Verify monthly enrollment	877-823-2378 or by internet: https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do
Start/stop GI Bill direct deposit	877-838-2778
Veterans Vocational Rehab	412-395-6070 Fax: 412-395-6071 * This is a program that you can apply for if you have a disability caused by a service-related incident
Department of Veterans Affairs	www.gibill.va.gov

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at tiffany.aloi@sru.edu.

Sincerely,

Tiffany K. Aloï
Assistant Director of Financial Aid and Veterans Coordinator

Return to: Financial Aid/Veterans Affairs Office
Slippery Rock University
1 Morrow Way
Slippery Rock PA 16057

SlipperyRock
University
of Pennsylvania

Montgomery G.I. Bill or Dependent Benefit Enrollment Certification

Name: ID Number
Major: Expected Graduation Date

If your **permanent** address has changed, you should update your information with the VA through WAVE at www.gibill.va.gov.

- You should then list the new address here so that the SRU Veterans Office has up-to-date information.

New Address:

Summer 2009 Enrollment Certification

If you want Summer VA benefits, you must complete this section. Put the **number of credits** you plan to take each session. BE ACCURATE! Your VA payment may be affected by a change in the number of credits or the session you take the credits. If you change your classes after submitting this form, please inform the SRU Veterans Office immediately.

- Three credits is full-time in each particular summer session unless your class extends beyond the end of the session.
- Report internship/practicum credits only on the internship/practicum line.

I will be taking: Pre-session _____ # of credits
Summer I _____ # of credits **Do not put check marks. Put number of credits.**
Summer II _____ # of credits
Internship or Practicum _____ # of Credits
• You will need to attach a signed letter from your professor that indicates your beginning and end dates for your internship/practicum.

I understand that my enrollment will be reported to the VA for educational benefit purposes.

Signature _____ Date _____

Fall Advance Pay Request – This form must be returned by June 12, 2009 for Advance Pay

If you will **not** attend Summer 2009 Session II, you may apply for Fall Advance Pay. You should complete this section if you want Advance Pay. Advance Pay will be an early check that will replace your end of September payment. This option is not available for Dependent benefit recipients.

- If you want Advance Pay, you must sign below and return this form no later than **June 12, 2009**.
- The Advance Pay Check will be released no earlier than 1 week prior to the beginning of the fall semester in the Veterans Office and you must be registered for your fall courses.
- You should check to be sure that you have certified all prior months including May 2009. If you have not certified a prior enrollment, the VA will not send an Advance Pay Check.

I am requesting Advance Pay. Signature _____ Date _____

Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Enrollment Certification

If you want Fall 2009 and/or Spring 2010 VA benefits, you must complete this section. Put the **number of credits** you plan to take each semester.

- Be accurate. Changes in credits may affect your GI Bill eligibility. E-mail tiffany.aloi@sru.edu if you become part-time.

I will be taking: Fall 2009 _____ # of credits **Do not put check marks. Put number of credits.**
Spring 2010 _____ # of credits

I understand that my enrollment will be reported to the VA for educational benefit purposes.

Signature _____ Date _____