

Q. Does your school accept the Post 911 GI Bill (Chapter 33)?

A. The Colorado School of Trades is approved for all Veterans' Assistance Programs including the Post-9/11 Veterans' Educational Assistance Act of 2008. To choose which program is right for you, please visit the following link to compare the different Veterans' Assistance Programs.

<http://gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/road-map/>

Q. What does the GI Bill cover at your school?

A. Depending on your benefit percentage, the GI Bill covers your tuition to the school. Currently if you have a benefit rate of 100% they cover all tuition. If your benefit percentage is 90%, they will cover 90% of the tuition. If 80%, they cover 80% of the tuition and so on and so forth.

You may have heard the VA has put a yearly tuition cap on private institutions, such as CST. This is true. If you have attended a private institution before you plan to attend CST please let us know and we can see if your tuition payments made by the VA will be affected. If you have not attended a private institution before attending CST, the cap will not affect you at all.

The GI Bill does not pay for the tools you need. These tools cost approximately \$3500.00. The GI Bill does however pay directly to you a "books and supplies" stipend. This stipend, if you have a 100% benefit percentage, will pay you up to \$1000.00 per VA year. You can, in turn, pay the school for part of your tools using this stipend.

Q. How do I know what my benefit percentage is?

A. The VA analyzes your DD-214 to determine your eligibility. You can also call a VA education benefits specialist by calling toll-free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)

Q. How much do I get for housing?

A. Depending on your benefit rate, you get the BAH equal to an E-5 with dependents for the zip code of the school, our school zip code is 80215. If your benefit rate is 100% you will get the full amount. If your benefit rate is 90%, you will get 90% of the E-5 with dependents for our school's zip code. If 80%, you will receive 80% and so on and so forth. BAH rates change yearly effective August 1. Keep in mind, you will not be paid BAH if you are considered active duty.

You can find a BAH Calculator by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>

Q. How do I apply for the Post 911 GI Bill?

A. To apply for the GI Bill now, fill out the VONAPP by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/application/>

Q. What do I do with my certificate of eligibility when I receive it?

A. Email/Fax it to the admissions department at CST, or bring it with you to school when you start, and we will put a copy in your VA file.

Q. How does the VA pay for my housing, tuition and my stipend for books and supplies?

A. The tuition is paid directly to the school. Your housing and books/supply stipend will be paid directly to you. If you wish to edit your direct deposit information, you can click the following link:

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>

The VA will deposit your BAH and books/supply stipend directly to your account.

The VA may try to get in touch with you using regular mail. It is very important if you move to keep the VA updated with your current address.

At CST, we certify your attendance on your first day of school. Once processed by the VA, you will begin receiving payments for your BAH and books/supply stipend. Payments for BAH are then paid in arrears. This means you will be paid on the first of every month for the previous month. The school has no control of when the VA will process your certification.

Q. How do I get in touch with the VA if I have a question?

A. The best way to get answers about your particular situation is to submit a question online. Using this resource ensures your answer is accurate and you will get an email response. Using this link, you can also search through questions asked by others to see if your particular question already has been answered.

<https://gibill.custhelp.com/>

There are phone numbers that you can call. If you need any help making your choice, VA Vocational and Employment counseling help is available to all veterans toll free at 1-800-827-1000. You also can discuss your options with a VA education benefits specialist by calling toll-free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or TDD at (800) 829-4833