

Apprenticeship and OJT: GI Bill® basics

Earn wages from an employer while the GI Bill pays you a monthly benefit. Works for welding, HVAC, electrical, lineworker, barbering, truck driving and many more trades.

- ☐ **Who can use it:** veterans, Guard and Reserve members, and qualifying family members. Not while on active duty, or for a spouse using transferred benefits while the service member is on active duty.
- ☐ **What counts:** an apprenticeship or on-the-job training program approved by a State Approving Agency. OJT programs run six months to two years; registered apprenticeships often longer.
- ☐ **Post-9/11 payment:** a share of the housing rate (E-5 with dependents BAH) for the training ZIP: 100% months 1-6, 80% months 7-12, 60% months 13-18, 40% months 19-24, 20% after. Prorated under 120 hours a month. Books: up to \$83 a month.
- ☐ **Montgomery (MGIB-AD) payment, from Oct 1, 2026:** 3-year rate \$1,950.75, then \$1,430.55, then \$910.35 a month by six-month period; 2-year rate \$1,582.50, \$1,160.50, \$738.50.
- ☐ **Already in an apprenticeship?** Department of Labor guidance says veterans may get up to 12 months of retroactive payments once the program is approved. Ask the employer's certifying official.
- ☐ **Find approved employers:** VA's GI Bill Comparison Tool (filter "On-the-job training"), veterantradeschools.com/apprenticeships/, and DOL's Apprenticeship Job Finder at apprenticeship.gov.
- ☐ **Not on the list?** An employer can apply to its State Approving Agency for approval.
- ☐ **Next step:** apply for benefits at va.gov/education/how-to-apply, then ask the employer's certifying official to submit your enrollment.

Sources: VA, On-the-job training and apprenticeships; VA, Post-9/11 GI Bill rates; VA, Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty rates; VA, School and program approval; U.S. DOL, Using the GI Bill for Registered Apprenticeship fact sheet; Apprenticeship.gov. Links at veterantradeschools.com/apprenticeships/

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