

# IMPORTANT CHANGES TO YOUR G.I. BILL BENEFITS ARE COMING!

## Effective August 1, 2011:

- Break or interval pay is no longer payable under any VA education benefit program unless under an Executive Order of the President or due to an emergency situation such as a natural disaster or strike.
- Allows those who are eligible for both Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to choose the Post-9/11 GI Bill's monthly housing allowance instead of the Chapter 31 subsistence allowance.
- Allows reimbursement for more than one "license and certification" test (previously only one test was allowed).
- Allows reimbursement of fees paid to take national exams used for admission to an institution of higher learning (e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT).
- Allows VA to pay kickers on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum at the beginning of the term and also pay kickers to those who are attending school at half-time or less.
- VA will no longer pay non-resident tuition; non-resident students are responsible for the additional charges.
- **The next four items do not impact Palomar College students because of our low tuition rates:**
  - Simplifies the tuition and fee rates for those attending a public school and creates a national rate for those enrolled in a private or foreign school.
  - No individual state caps.
  - Private school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually.
  - The Yellow Ribbon Program still exists for costs above the cap (if the school participates in YRP).

## Effective October 1, 2011:

- Prorates housing allowance to training time:
  - A 3/4 time student would receive 3/4 housing allowance.
  - A 1/2 time student would receive 1/2 housing allowance.
  - Less than 1/2 would only receive tuition and mandatory fees.
- Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning; the housing allowance is 1/2 the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents (the rate would be \$673.50 for 2011).
- Allow students to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for non-college degree programs such as: on-the-job training, flight (for other than a private pilot license) at flight schools, apprenticeship training, and correspondence courses.
- Flight programs: Pays the lesser of actual net costs for in-state Tuition and Fees assessed by the school or \$10,000, whichever is less "per academic year".
- Allow students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend.

## Effective now but not payable until October 1, 2011:

- Expands the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include certain Active Service performed by National Guard members who served under title 32 U.S.C. for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency.