

Monthly benefit check amount

Monthly benefit payment rates are based on a percentage of the full-time school rate, which varies depending on each veteran's circumstances. In most cases, the amount will be 85 percent of the basic full-time school rate for the first six months, 65 percent for the next six months and 45 percent for the balance of the program or until eligibility is exhausted. Veteran rates are reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly.

For application forms or assistance completing the forms, contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at **1-888-442-4551**.

Veterans may also visit the VA Web site at www.mnworkforcecenter.org/veterans for more information about educational benefits.

Licensing/certification examinations

As of March 1, 2001, if you are eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (Chapter 30), VEAP (Chapter 32) or Dependents Educational Assistance (Chapter 35), you may use your benefits for reimbursement for the cost of licensing and/or certification tests. (This benefit is not available for the Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve, Chapter 1606 and 1607, at this time.) You can receive up to \$2,000 a test, but no more than the actual cost of the test. For more information, visit www.gibill.va.gov or www.mncertifiedvets.us.

The role of DLI Apprenticeship

The DLI Apprenticeship unit is charged with promoting, developing, certifying and monitoring quality registered apprenticeship-training programs for Minnesota's businesses.

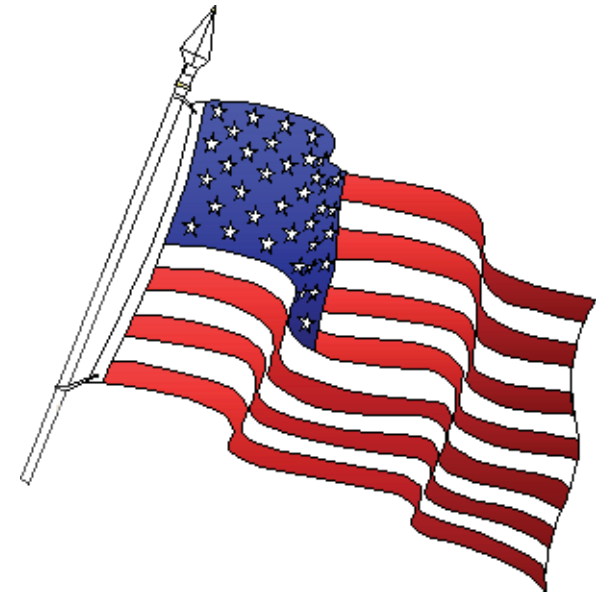
It is the **only official** state approving-agency for apprenticeship training or on-the-job training programs for eligible veterans.

Contact the Apprenticeship unit if you have any questions regarding the use of the cash benefits you accumulated while on active duty.

This material can be provided to you in different formats, such as Braille, large print and audiotape, if you call (651) 284-5090; TTY (651) 297-4198.

Veterans, eligible dependents, members of the National Guard and Reserve

Have you considered on-the-job or
apprenticeship training?



**You may be eligible to receive a
monthly benefit check from the
Department of Veterans Affairs.**



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR & INDUSTRY**

Apprenticeship unit (state approving-agency)
443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 284-5090; 1-800-342-5354
Fax: (651) 284-5740
Web: www.doli.state.mn.us/appr.html
E-mail: dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us

Did you know Chapter 30, 32, 35, 1606 and 1607 veterans can use their GI Bill benefits for **apprenticeship training** and **on-the-job training** (OJT), if they are employed and are being trained for the job?

Eligibility

- As a general rule, veterans have 10 years after their separation from active service to use their GI Bill benefits.
- Certain members of the National Guard/Reserve may be eligible for educational assistance allowance for participation in an approved apprenticeship training or on-the-job training program. Contact your National Guard/Reserve unit to verify your eligibility under Chapter 1606 and 1607 benefits.

Eligible veterans, National Guard or Reservists can receive GI benefits **in addition** to their salary when enrolled in a company's approved OJT or apprenticeship training program.

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Apprenticeship unit approves apprenticeship and OJT programs. A National Guard or Reservist's eligibility is determined by the local unit administrator. Veterans Administration determines a veteran's eligibility and pays the benefits.

Where do I apply?

To apply to the VA for apprenticeship or OJT benefits, contact your county Veterans Service Officer or write to: VARO St. Louis, P.O. Box 66869, St. Louis, MO 63166. You may also contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (1-888-442-4551) for 24-hour service about further eligibility requirements and other VA programs.

After the veteran's eligibility has been determined, DLI Apprenticeship schedules an on-site visit.

What is on-the-job training?

On-the-job training is training that you receive while actually performing a job and earning wages. You may be eligible to receive GI Bill benefits while in an OJT program.

Getting an on-the-job training program approved

- The employer identifies a job that requires entry-level training.
- The employer agrees to pay the veteran a set wage – commission, piece rate or other variables do not qualify as a set wage. There must be at least one wage-increase during the training period.

- The employer designates an on-the-job training supervisor.
- The employer agrees training will be conducted for at least six months and will not exceed 24 months.
- The employer agrees to the VA criteria of the on-the-job training program which, when approved by the DLI Apprenticeship unit, becomes the standards for training.
- The employer agrees not to artificially lower the wage to compensate for the eligible monthly benefits the veteran is entitled to receive.
- The on-the-job training should lead to continuous employment for the veteran who completes the program.

What is apprenticeship training?

Apprenticeship training is on-the-job training combined with related technical instruction. You receive your GI Bill benefits while working full-time **and** receiving wages. Apprenticeship programs are usually two to five years in length.

Getting an apprenticeship training program approved

- An employer identifies a trade or occupation that requires at least 2,000 hours of hands-on training. DLI Apprenticeship assists employers in making this determination.
- Apprentice wages start at a percentage of journeyworker wages; they should progress during training to the journeyworker wage at the completion of the training program.
- Apprenticeship training is typically for higher-level skilled occupations. Additionally, 144 hours a year of occupationally related classroom training are required. Upon completion of the program, the apprentice receives a state-recognized *Certificate of Completion* in the occupation.
- The employer agrees to the requirements of the apprenticeship training program which, when approved by DLI Apprenticeship, become the standards for training.
- The apprenticeship training should lead to continuous employment for the veteran who completes the program.

What happens after the program is approved?

After an employer's training program is approved, the employer receives an approval packet containing procedural information.

The veteran receives a certification form each month, to verify the hours worked each month. The certifying official and the veteran must sign this form and keep a copy with the employee's other work records. **Note:** A VA supervisory visit will be conducted at least annually with each participating sponsor.