Facts about the GI Bill

#1 You have 10-15 years to use your GI benefits. Once you have separated from the service you have 10 years to use all of your benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill and 15 years to use your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. Although separating from service “starts the clock” on your 10-year time limit, you should know that if you rejoin active-duty service for more than 90 days, during the 10-year period, your 10-year clock is reset. In other words, you get 10 years from your last discharge.

#2 The GI Bill is not Federal Financial Aid (Pell) The GI Bill is not considered financial aid in the traditional sense. College and University financial aid departments do not consider the MGIB financial aid because it is normally paid directly to you, not the school. Most schools will require you to sign a promissory note or apply for student loans to pay them upfront. You will then be required to pay these loans - hopefully with your GI Bill payments. This also means that you are eligible for student loans, scholarships, and Pell Grants along with the GI Bill.

#3 You can start and stop using the GI Bill as needed Unfortunately, many people believe that once you apply for benefits you have to remain enrolled in school to get the full benefit. Thankfully, that’s not true; you can use the GI Bill for any period of time, take time off and re-apply to use it again at a later date. (Keeping in mind fact number one)

#4 A “month” of benefits doesn’t always mean a month. The GI Bill benefit provides 36 months of education benefits. The term “months” can often be confusing. The “36 months” of benefits does not mean you have only 36 months to use it, nor does it mean you must use it all in one 36 month period. (Clarification can be found at www.military.com/education.)

#5 The GI Bill pays according to the number of credits you take. The GI Bill payment rates are based on several factors, the biggest being your credit load. For example a full-time student using the Montgomery GI Bill will get up to $1564 a month while a half-time student will only get half that amount.

For more information on military educational benefits and issues go to www.military.com. This information was reprinted from the www.military.com website.
Anthony Hammonds started his college journey at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He attended UAM for a year and a half before being deployed to Iraq in late 2009. When Anthony came home in summer 2010, he decided to finish his basic core classes at Southern Arkansas University Tech. He says that his experience at SAU Tech turned out to be the his best experience so far at an institution of higher education.

“I wasn’t an ID number anymore, I was a student and SAU Tech valued me. I really appreciated that. I loved all my classes at SAU Tech and the faculty worked with me even giving me their cell phone numbers. I worked while in school and the faculty were willing to work with me so that I was a successful student.”

Anthony graduated from SAU Tech in the spring of 2012 with his Associates degree and transferred to SAU in Magnolia. He currently attends SAU and will graduate with a coaching endorsement and a teaching degree in physical education and wellness. Anthony is currently still active in the US Army Reserve.

Southern Arkansas University Tech has been providing education to the military personnel in our service area for over 40 years. SAU Tech offers technical and transfer programs, many of which, can be completed online, providing options for deployed soldiers. The college works with VA programs to make sure soldiers receive all educational benefits to which they are entitled.

SAU Tech has an agreement in place with the Arkansas National Guard to waive the cost of tuition for eligible soldiers. For more information contact our financial aid office at 870.574.4511.

Important Forms for Utilizing GI Bill Benefits

1) Form 22-1990 (Veterans)
2) Copy of DD-214-4 (Notice of Enrollment)
3) Copy of Certificate of Eligibility

Classes cannot be certified if all items are not received by financial aid.

SAU Tech VA Financial Aid Representative
Connie Riley - 870.574.4511

Online Programs

Business Administration
General Studies
Teacher Education
Entrepreneurship
Fire & Emergency Response
Fire Science Management
Law Enforcement (for officers)
Environmental Science
Wildlife & Fisheries Enforcement (for officers)

Technical Career Programs

Aviation Maintenance
A+ Certification (computer repair)
Cisco Networking
Child Development Associate
Computer Networking & Systems Administration
Computer Technician
Engineering Technician
Film & Video Production
Graphic Design
Industrial Maintenance
Materials & Operations Management
Medical Transcription
Nursing
Nursing Assistant
Office Systems Technology
Office Software Specialist
Programmable Logic Controllers
Simulation and Game Design
Welding Academy