



Guide to Utilizing GI Bill Benefits

The Center for Natural Wellness School of Massage Therapy is proud to have a long history of providing Veterans with the training necessary to become successful Massage Therapists. We have created this brief guide to help ensure your success in receiving the benefits that you may be eligible for under the Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bill.

1. **Determine your eligibility.** To find out what benefits you may be eligible to receive please contact your local VA rep, call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551), or visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.
2. **Make it count.** If you qualify for tuition assistance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you must provide this information to our Financial Aid office so that it can be added to your Financial Aid package and Financial Plan. This can be a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility or other documentation from the VA listing your specific eligibility for funding.
3. **Get Certified.** Once you have enrolled for classes with the Admissions Office, make sure the school knows to certify your enrollment status to the VA. This certification is done by our Certifying Official in the Registrar's office, and is necessary for your benefit payments to be approved by the VA.

Tips for success:

Start Early! The time it takes to get from applied to approved to paid can be quite lengthy. If you plan to use your tuition benefits as part of your Financial Plan, the school needs to know your funding level before you begin attending.

Have a backup plan. If you will be depending on your Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) to support yourself while attending, you should be prepared for the possibility that you may not receive a payment in the first month or two of school. Make sure to know the exact amount of your MHA payment based on your specific class schedule, and when in doubt get it in writing.

Apply for Federal Student Aid. All students can apply for financial aid by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. This aid can be in the form of Pell Grants and/or Stafford Loans.

Apply for scholarships. There are many types of scholarships available, some specifically for Veterans, as well as private and general scholarships for students of Massage Therapy and bodywork. Check our website for suggestions and always remember: you should not pay for any scholarship application.

Helpful school contacts:

Michael Vaughn – Registrar/School Certifying Official Email: mvaughn@cnwsmt.com

Dylan Palazzo – Financial Aid Administrator Email: dpalazzo@cnwsmt.com

Dawn Danis – Admissions Director Email: ddanis@cnwsmt.com