

# Veterans Affairs Benefits



## Montgomery GI Bill & Veterans Educational Assistance Program

### General Information

Reimbursement by the VA for flight training is limited to 60% of the costs associated with the maximum approved dual, solo, and ground instruction hours. The number of maximum approved hours is based on the Federal Aviation Regulations Part 141 Appendices for each level of certificate or rating. The VA does not reimburse books, materials, or FAA medical exams. You may request the VA reimburse you for practical checkrides and written FAA exams. The total VA program cost for each course is published in the school's Veteran's Information Bulletin and outlined in the attached literature.

It is important to understand that the total cost of each course cannot be exactly determined in advance. Students must train to FAA Practical Test Standards and their progress depends on their background, aptitude, and motivation. Therefore, additional training, beyond the FAA Part 141 course minimums may be required for the student to reach proficiency. Conversely, the student may elect to terminate or test out of training and take the Practical Test whenever they meet the FAR Part 61 hour requirements for the certificate or rating and have reached the proficiency required for the FAA Practical Test.

To enroll, you will need to provide a copy of your FAA Pilot Certificate (Private Pilot or Higher). You must complete an Application for Benefits and, if active duty military, have the completed application signed by your commanding or education officer. A second-class medical is required prior to enrollment in all courses except for the ATP which requires a first-class medical certificate required prior to enrollment.

Specific policies concerning payments, cancellations, scheduling, ramp procedures, and general operating rules including safety procedures are detailed in the school's Safety & Procedures Manual. You will be required to be familiar with and comply with all rules and procedures included therein.

### Program Costs

All costs for training or aircraft rental are on a "pay as you go" basis, with payment due before each flight or training session. There are no provisions for deferring the costs of training, aircraft rental, or supplies. Payments can be made with cash, local checks, debit card, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card.

Instruction and aircraft rental will be billed per the school's current rate schedules. The fee for FAA Practical Test or checkrides varies from \$350.00 to \$500.00.



## **Reimbursement to Veterans, Reservists & Other Eligible Persons**

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs reimburses an enrolled veteran and eligible person for dual flight and ground training at the rate of 60%. The allowance is paid monthly by the VA to the student based upon actual training certified by the flight school as indicated on VA Form 22-6553c, "Monthly Certification of Flight Training." Entitlement is charged based on the rate of one month for a benefit amount equal to the full-time institutional rate (plus dependents where applicable).

### Example:

Reporting Period 11/7/03 – 11/30/03

Total cost of training to the student this reporting period + \$1,250.00

\$1250 X 60% = \$750 reimbursed to the student this reporting period

No reimbursement is made for books or other charges. Additional hours over that allowed by the course will not be reimbursed. Advanced pay is not authorized for flight training courses.

For information or for resolution of specific payment problems, the veteran should call the VA Regional Office in his or her area:

**1 (888) 442-4551**

## **Maximum Reimbursable Costs**

A. Maximum reimbursable costs are based on the most expensive aircraft approved for a particular course. For example, the Commercial pilot course is approved for 85 hours of solo flight training in a 360 horsepower BE76 at \$197.00 per hour. However, a student will typically train utilizing a far less expensive aircraft such as the Cessna 172. Specific aircraft rates are available in the course descriptions contained in this bulletin and the prices may vary (but can not exceed VA approved limits) according to current fuel prices and aircraft availability.

B. The specific aircraft, fees, and hours included in these examples are to provide illustration of the required format to be used by school personnel in preparing a veterans' information bulletin and are incorrect and erroneous representations.

C. Maximum total cost pricing is a means of providing full flexibility to flight school operators and students for designing an instructional program within the limitations of the FAR and the FAA-approved curriculum to meet the needs of the individual student. Maximum Total Cost pricing must be based on the most expensive aircraft



permitted and authorized for the course. For example, if a course requires 25 hours of flight but only five hours in a 600 horsepower aircraft, the rest in lesser horsepower aircraft, the entire Maximum Total Cost for the course is figured on approved hourly rates for the 600 horsepower aircraft.

## **Course Cancellation & Refund Policies**

This school has and maintains a policy for the refund of the unused portion of tuition fees and other charges in the event the veteran or eligible person fails to enter the course or withdraws or is discontinued there from at any time prior to completion. The amount charged to the eligible person for tuition, fees, and other charges for a portion of the course may not exceed the approximated pro rata portion of the total charge for tuition, fees, and other charges. The length of the completed portion of the course should bear to its total length. However, no more than \$10.00 may be retained as a registration fee.

## **Attendance Policies**

A. Veterans, service members or reservists receiving federal educational assistance benefits under Title 38, U. S. Code, are required by DAV to complete a minimum of 15 hours of instruction per quarter (defined as every 90 -day period following the date training began). Additionally, Each VA student must complete a minimum of 5 hours of flight or ground training during each 30 day period following the training began. Exceptions may be granted due to weather, illness or other unavoidable circumstances and must be documented in the student file to be considered acceptable.

B. Veterans, service members or reservists failing to meet these monthly and quarterly minimums will be terminated for the purpose of VA payment effective the last day of that month or quarter. A student may be reenroll only after evidence is shown that the conditions relating to the unsatisfactory attendance have been rectified. A student may reenroll more than one time if mitigating circumstances allow.

## **Student Progress Standards**

A. The School's grading system for flight and ground training is as follows:

1. Introduction no grade
2. Superior 85% - 100%
3. Satisfactory 70% - 84%
4. Un-Satisfactory 69% or below

Completion of each flight and ground lesson must be indicated by signature of



student and instructor.

B. Grade average for certifying course completion is a minimum average passing grade of 70%.

C. Conditions for training interruption due to unsatisfactory flight and ground training progress;

D. When the grade average of a student is unsatisfactory for a calendar month, he/she will be placed on probation. If, during the next month the grade is still unsatisfactory, his/her training will be interrupted and the VA will be promptly notified.

E. Student Training Course Outlines (TCO's) are the property of SDFTI. Students may request copies of their TCO's if requested.

## **Procedures for Unsatisfactory Progress**

A student who fails to meet satisfactory progress guidelines during the probationary period will be terminated from training. The student will then be reported to the Veteran Affairs Regional Office on the next "monthly Certification of Training Report", VA 22-6553c.

Students may also be terminated for willful violation of the FAR's or the policies and procedures of San Diego Flight Training International, Inc.

## **Grievance Policy**

Grievances should be brought to the attention of the President of San Diego Flight Training International, Inc., Mr. Philip L. Thalheimer, or the Chief Flight Instructor, Mr. Niclas Eriksson. Every attempt will be made to ensure that the student receives the best instruction possible in an acceptable manner.

## **Complaints Against the School**

The San Diego VA regional office has jurisdiction over this school and will handle complaints against this school. The San Diego office will reply directly to the person making the complaint, if appropriate. Please utilize the free VA phone number at 1-888-442-4551, or write to: Department of veterans Affairs Regional Office, 8810 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego, CA 92108.



## **Incomplete Grades**

A student may "drop out" or "test out" of any San Diego Flight Training International, Inc. training program without penalty. All training is conducted under FAR Part 141, which specifies the minimum requirements for course completion. However, if the student attains the proficiency required to pass the Practical Test prior to completing the course curriculum, you may be able to "drop out" and take the practical test under FAR Part 61.

## **Training Records**

Training records of all students using VA benefits will be kept on file for a period of three years from the date of the student's completion or termination. Photocopies of all training records will be made available to the student at their request.

## **Tour of School Facilities**

Prospective students can arrange for a tour of the school, maintenance facilities, and training aircraft by contacting the Admissions Office.

## **Data on Job Availability in Aviation**

A source of current data on airline jobs in the US and worldwide can be found in the monthly publication;

Airline Pilot Job Monthly Newsletter by AIR, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia.

It is suggested that subscribing to this publication and reviewing other resource information supplied by AIR, Inc. is a good method of determining where the airline jobs are located and which companies are currently recruiting. Other sources include Trade A Plane, regional and national aviation periodicals, and the Internet.

San Diego Flight Training International gives flight instructor hiring preference to those who have completed their training with the school.

## **Loans & Grants**

There are organizations that offer financial assistance. Pilot Career Foundation and SallieMae loans are available for training at San Diego Flight Training International.

Veterans enrolled in a degree program are eligible for government student tuition loans. [Click here for additional information.](#)