

(i) The individual is a reservist who is eligible for basic educational assistance provided under 38 U.S.C. 3012, and has established eligibility to that assistance partially through service in the Selected Reserve; or

(ii) The individual is a member of the National Guard or Air National Guard who has established eligibility for basic educational assistance provided under 38 U.S.C. 3012 through activation under a provision of law other than 32 U.S.C. 316, 502, 503, 504, or 505 followed by service in the Selected Reserve.

(2) An election under this paragraph (c) to have Selected Reserve service credited towards eligibility for payment of educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30 or under 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606 is irrevocable when the reservist either negotiates the first check or receives the first payment by electronic funds transfer of the educational assistance elected.

(3) If a reservist is eligible to receive educational assistance under both 38 U.S.C. chapter 30 and 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606, he or she may receive educational assistance alternately or consecutively under each of these chapters to the extent that the educational assistance is based on service not irrevocably credited to one or the other chapter as provided in paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this section.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16132; 38 U.S.C. 3033(c))

(d) *Dual eligibility.* An individual who has established eligibility for basic educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30 solely through service on active duty may establish eligibility for educational assistance under 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606 by meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16132(d), 16134)

(The information collection requirements in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2900-0594)

[53 FR 34740, Sept. 8, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 9628, Mar. 7, 1991; 57 FR 57106, Dec. 3, 1992; 61 FR 20729, May 8, 1996; 61 FR 29301, June 10, 1996; 63 FR 45718, Aug. 27, 1998; 68 FR 59731, Oct. 17, 2003; 71 FR 1497, Jan. 10, 2006]

§ 21.7550 Ending dates of eligibility.

(a) *Time limit on eligibility*—(1) *Reservists who become eligible before October 1, 1992.* Except as provided in § 21.7551 and paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this section, if the reservist becomes eligible for educational assistance before October 1, 1992, the period of eligibility expires effective the earlier of the following dates:

(i) The last day of the 10-year period beginning on the date the reservist becomes eligible for educational assistance; or

(ii) The date the reservist is separated from the Selected Reserve.

(2) *Reservists who become eligible after September 30, 1992.* Except as provided in § 21.7551 and paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this section, if a reservist becomes eligible for educational assistance after September 30, 1992, the period of eligibility expires effective the earlier of the following dates:

(i) The last day of the 14-year period beginning on the date the reservist becomes eligible for educational assistance; or

(ii) The date the reservist is separated from the Selected Reserve.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16133)

(b) *Extension due to active duty orders.* If the reservist serves on active duty pursuant to an order to active duty issued under section 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, or 12304 of title 10, U.S. Code, the period of this active duty plus four months shall not be considered in determining the time limit on eligibility found in paragraph (a) of this section.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16133)

(c) *Completion of term of program.* (1) If a reservist is enrolled in an educational institution regularly operated on the quarter or semester system, and the reservist's period of eligibility as defined in paragraph (a) of this section would expire during a quarter or semester, the period of eligibility shall be extended to the end of the quarter or semester.

§21.7551

38 CFR Ch. I (7-1-10 Edition)

(2) If a reservist is enrolled in an educational institution not regularly operated on the quarter or semester system, and the reservist's period of eligibility as defined in paragraph (a) of this section would expire after a major portion of the course is completed, the period of eligibility shall be extended until the earlier of the following occurs:

- (i) The end of the course, or
- (ii) 12 weeks from the date on which the reservist's eligibility otherwise would have expired.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16133(b)(1); Pub. L. 98-525)

(d) *Discharge for disability.* In the case of a reservist separated from the Selected Reserve because of a disability which was not the result of the individual's own willful misconduct and which was incurred on or after the date on which the reservist became entitled to education assistance, the reservist's period of eligibility expires effective the last day of the—

- (1) 10-year period beginning on the date the reservist becomes eligible for educational assistance if the reservist became eligible before October 1, 1992; or
- (2) 14-year period beginning on the date the reservist becomes eligible for educational assistance if the reservist becomes eligible after September 30, 1992.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16133)

(e) *Unit deactivated.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (e)(3) or (e)(4) of this section, the period of eligibility of a reservist, eligible for educational assistance under this subpart, who ceases to become a member of the Selected Reserve during the period beginning October 1, 1991, and ending December 31, 2001, under either of the conditions described in paragraph (e)(2) of this section will expire on the date—

- (i) 10 years after the date the reservist becomes eligible for educational assistance if the reservist became eligible before October 1, 1992; or
- (ii) 14 years after the date the reservist becomes eligible for educational assistance if the reservist becomes eligible after September 30, 1992.

(2) The conditions referred to in paragraph (e)(1) of this section for ceasing to be a member of the Selected Reserve are:

- (i) The deactivation of the reservist's unit of assignment; and
- (ii) The reservist's involuntarily ceasing to be designated as a member of the Selected Reserve pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 10143(a).

(3) The provisions of paragraphs (e)(1) and (e)(2) of this section do not apply if the reservist ceases to be a member of the Selected Reserve under adverse conditions, as characterized by the Secretary of the military department concerned. The expiration of such a reservist's period of eligibility will be on the date the reservist ceases, under adverse conditions, to be a member of the Selected Reserve.

(4) A reservist's period of eligibility will expire if he or she is a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and (after having involuntarily ceased to be a member of the Selected Reserve) is involuntarily separated from the Armed Forces under adverse conditions, as characterized by the Secretary of the military department concerned. The expiration of such a reservist's period of eligibility will be on the date the reservist is involuntarily separated under adverse conditions from the Armed Forces.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16133)

[53 FR 34740, Sept. 8, 1988, as amended at 57 FR 57106, Dec. 3, 1992; 58 FR 51783, Oct. 5, 1993; 61 FR 29302, June 10, 1996; 68 FR 59731, Oct. 17, 2003; 71 FR 1498, Jan. 10, 2006; 71 FR 24582, Apr. 26, 2006]

§21.7551 Extended period of eligibility.

(a) *Period of eligibility may be extended.* VA shall grant an extension of a delimiting period determined by §21.7550(a) of this part provided:

- (1) The individual applies for an extension within the time period specified in §21.1033(c) of subpart B.
- (2) The individual was prevented from initiating or completing the chosen program of education within the otherwise applicable eligibility period, because of a physical or mental disability, which is not the result of the reservist's own willful misconduct, and