



## What is Yellow Ribbon? GI Bill Cap? How Do They Work?



*What is Yellow Ribbon? Does it pay for everything?*



Yellow Ribbon is an additional benefit to the Post 9/11 GI Bill that is dispersed to those who have applied, are eligible, and were awarded in order to help bridge the gap between yearly cap and full-time tuition and mandatory fees. **It does not “pay for everything”.** There are caps for both the Post 9/11 GI Bill (aka Chapter 33) and Yellow Ribbon.



*What is a “yearly cap”? I thought Yellow Ribbon was unlimited?!*



A yearly cap refers to the amount the VA will pay in full tuition and fees that are paid directly to the school for all public school in-state students. For those attending private or foreign schools, tuition and fees are capped at the national maximum rate. Under AU Policy, a student must exhaust the full annual benefit cap at American University (AU) before being designated as eligible to receive Yellow Ribbon. Students transferring from another private university to AU during the same funding year (Aug 1 – July 31) who use part of the cap at another private University, will NOT be eligible to receive AU Yellow Ribbon during that year. This policy is non-applicable to students transferring to AU from state colleges/universities.



Yellow Ribbon is unlimited in terms of the number of slots available, not to be confused with unlimited funding.



*How do “Caps” work? What are the amounts? What happens if I exceed the caps?*

Caps run **from August 1<sup>st</sup>** of a given academic year **to July 31<sup>st</sup>** the following academic year. During that time, you have both the Post 9/11 cap and the Yellow Ribbon cap available to you<sup>1</sup>, but **you must first exhaust your GI Bill cap before Yellow Ribbon can be awarded.** **Tuition and fees that exceed the caps are the responsibility of the student.** **Caps reset each year on August 1<sup>st</sup>** and any leftover funds do **not** roll over (use it or lose it).

Student Status	Yearly Yellow Ribbon Cap	Total Yellow Ribbon
Undergraduate	\$12,393.53 VA + \$12,393.53 AU	\$24,787.06
Graduate	\$10,500 VA + \$10,500 AU	\$21,000
WCL	\$16,526.03 VA + \$16,526.03 AU WCL	\$33,052.06

GI Bill Cap \$23,671.94 ← You must first exhaust/use this before tapping into Yellow Ribbon



*What the VA’s academic year? Where can I apply?*



An academic year **begins August 1<sup>st</sup>** of a given year and **ends July 31<sup>st</sup>** of the following year. The VA issues funds based on *an academic year, not a regular year.*

**Apply here:** [American.edu/veterans](http://American.edu/veterans) then click “Applications and Information” tab. Blue box on the right.

*\*You must apply between Aug 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be awarded Yellow Ribbon*

<sup>1</sup> The annual VA Cap varies by eligibility percentage. Yellow Ribbon is only available to students with 100% eligibility. To find out your eligibility percentage, check your Certificate of Eligibility Letter sent to you from the VA or visit [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)