



## Policies and Procedures for the Yellow Ribbon Program

PBA is a proud participant in the Yellow Ribbon Program. The Yellow Ribbon Program was established by the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (such as colleges, universities, and other degree-granting schools) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fee expenses. The institution can contribute a specified dollar amount of those expenses, and VA will match the contribution-not to exceed 50% of the difference. The purpose of the Yellow Ribbon Program is to help the student receive aid which comes closer to the cost of tuition and fees when their other Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits do not reach that level.

Effective August 1, 2011, the Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay up to \$19,198.31 per academic year for a private school (such as Palm Beach Atlantic University).

Palm Beach Atlantic University has elected to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program to make additional funds available for your educational program. In our agreement with the VA we have elected to provide Yellow Ribbon for Undergraduate students during the Spring semester. Graduate students are not eligible for Yellow Ribbon. No Yellow Ribbon awards will be administered during the summer semester. Our commitment is to provide a total package, including all of the following, which is **up to, but not exceeding, the total of tuition and fees:** Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits; Tuition restricted scholarships and grants; Palm Beach Atlantic University Yellow Ribbon contribution (this will include unrestricted PBA institutional scholarships); VA Yellow Ribbon contribution.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, Palm Beach Atlantic University has committed to a maximum Yellow Ribbon Program match of \$3,650. This level of match will allow the undergraduate student to receive aid equal to tuition and fees for Fall and Spring semesters only. If the student receives tuition restricted grants or scholarships, the match will be reduced so that the total package is equal to tuition and fees. Unrestricted PBA scholarships (Ex. PBA Merit, PBA Assist, Res Life, and other PBA institutional scholarships) will be used as the 50% institutional match. If the unrestricted institutional scholarship does not meet the 50% institutional share, a PBA Yellow Ribbon scholarship will be awarded for the difference.

## Procedures to apply for your Yellow Ribbon Program benefits:

1. Student applies for VA Education Benefits (VANOPP) <http://www.gibill.va.gov>
2. Student receives written notification from VA regarding eligibility for Post-9/11 benefits. The Certificate of Eligibility will advise the student if his/her service meets the requirements for the Yellow Ribbon Program.
  - a. Only individuals who are entitled to the maximum benefit rate based on service requirements (qualified at the 100% rate) are eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.
    - i. To be eligible for 100% of the benefit, an individual must have served an aggregate of 36 months of active duty service after September 10, 2001,
    - ii. or have been honorably discharged for a service-connected disability and served 30 days of continuous service after September 10, 2001.
    - iii. Active-duty service time required by graduates of a Service Academy or ROTC does NOT count toward the three years necessary to qualify for full benefits.
  - b. Veterans must have an honorable discharge or other qualifying discharge to be eligible.
  - c. Dependents may be eligible for Transfer of Entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on an individual's service under the eligibility criteria above.
3. The student completes the Palm Beach Atlantic University Yellow Ribbon Program Application (Registrar's Office has application).
4. Student brings both the Palm Beach Atlantic University Yellow Ribbon Program Application and the Certificate of Eligibility to the Palm Beach Atlantic University School Certifying Officer (SCO) – Audrey Schofield in the Registrars' Office: PH: 561-803-2072, FAX: 561-803-2081, Email: [audrey\\_schofield@pba.edu](mailto:audrey_schofield@pba.edu)
5. SCO requests certification of enrollment from the Veteran's Administration and notifies Financial Aid Office of student's eligibility.
6. SCO determines if student has unmet tuition/fees after Post- 9/11 benefits.
  - a. Post-9/11 GI Bill pays \$19,198.31 maximum amount for private institutions.
  - b. The institution contributes up to 50% of tuition and fee expenses that exceed the basic Post-9/11 benefits.
  - c. The VA will match the institution's contribution.
7. The Financial aid office determines the total of unmet charges applicable to Yellow Ribbon Program and certifies Yellow Ribbon eligibility with VA.