



GI Bill Apprenticeship and OJT Program

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

The On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program offers veterans or current members of the guard or reserve an alternative way to use your VA (GI Bill) education and training benefits. The following is a summary of these GI Bill alternatives.

Veterans or reservists can receive monthly training benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in addition to your regular salary when being trained for a new job. VA pays veteran GI Bill participants on a scale depending on the amount of time they are enrolled in the program. For example the program pays 75% of the full time college rate per month for the first six months of OJT training, 55% of the full time rate for the second six months of training and 35 % of the full time rate for the remainder of training program. If the veteran or guard member has used education benefits before entering an OJT program, the months of remaining entitlement may impact the number of months the veterans or guard member may receive benefits.

Employers that participate in the OJT program have an employee with a financial incentive to stay with you and it's good for your community because the employee has extra money to spend at local businesses!

Do Positions at My Company Qualify for this Program?

To qualify, your companies training positions must meet the following criteria:

- The trainee must be supervised at least 50 percent of the time.
- Job training must lead to an entry-level position.
- You must be a full-time paid employee — not on commission.
- The training must be documented and reported.
- The trainee must be given credit for previous experience job experience in that field.
- The trainee must be recently hired (within one to two years).
- The job must require at least six months training to become fully trained.
- The employer may be private, local or state government.

What Companies Have Participated in the Program?

Here is a list of well-known companies who have participated in the VA's Apprenticeship/OJT Program in other states:

- Pirelli Tire Co.
- Proctor & Gamble Co.
- Merck Pharmaceuticals
- Cessna Aircraft
- Gulfstream Aerospace Corp.
- Lockheed Martin Corp.
- Bell South
- World Toyota
- Comcast
- Pratt and Whitney Engine Co.
- Law enforcement (police, sheriff, State Patrol)
- Dept. of Corrections (prisons, detention centers)
- Local Fire Departments

Note: Veterans or reservists may not receive GI Bill OJT benefits at the same time they receive the GI Bill education benefits. In Minnesota, all training programs must be approved by the Minnesota State Approving Agency for veterans benefits.

Take the Next Step

If your company is interested in participating in this program contact the Minnesota State Approving Agency for Veterans Education at saa@state.mn.us or call 651-285-8544 for information and assistance.