



Education Service

November Office Hours

School Certifying Officials

November 2021



Choose  A

Saint George Consulting Inc.



Victoria Evans
Chief
National Training Teams - Schools



Compliance Surveys

To support expanded compliance survey capabilities, VA has contracted with **Saint George Consulting Inc.**, a third-party vendor with expertise in the higher education arena.

You may be contacted by staff from St. George Consulting Inc. regarding a compliance survey. **Please coordinate with them as you would when the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or an SAA conducts a compliance survey.** They are performing these surveys on behalf of VA.



Compliance Surveys

At this time, no other changes are being made to the Compliance Survey process, and there are no additional requirements for you or your institution.

Please note that although your institution may have recently completed a consolidated compliance survey, this type of survey process is no longer being executed and your institution's individual main or branch campuses may be scheduled in the next 24 months.



Ask VA Demo

Carlos Robinson and Julie Larson
Change Management Analysts
Veterans' Experience Office



Isakson & Roe Updates Section 1010



Henry Moss
Training Specialist
National Training Team- Schools

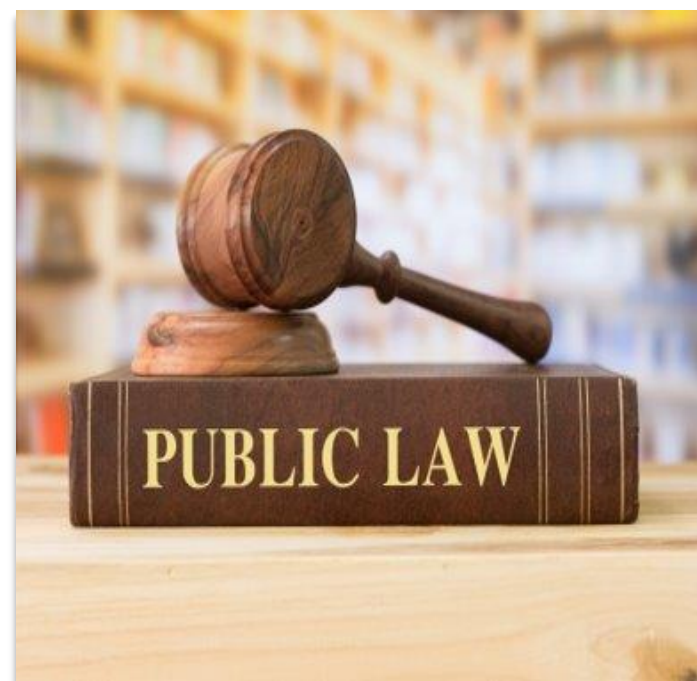


Public Law (P. L.) 116-315 Section 1010

On January 4, 2021, Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-315) was signed into law. Section 1010 of this law amends section 3313 of title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) by adding a new subsection (I) on Verification of Enrollment. This subsection adds new requirements for both beneficiaries and schools.

Note: Section 1010 is applicable to only Chapter 33 students

- Beneficiaries must verify their enrollment status each month for enrollment periods which begin on or after August 1, 2021, to continue to receive their monthly housing allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments
- Schools are required to submit an initial enrollment certification for each beneficiary and a subsequent enrollment certification (verification) after the school drop-add period



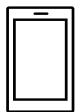
Section 1010 – Monthly Enrollment Verification

Verification of enrollment to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill® Benefits

Effective **December 18, 2021**, the requirement for students to verify their enrollment information will be expanded to include students who attend Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) facilities. This expansion includes those taking IHL programs and NCD programs at an IHL school. The requirements to verify is effective for all terms that begin on or after December 17, 2021

Note: Monthly enrollment verification is applicable to only Chapter 33 students

As of December 18, both NCD and IHL facility students will be able to verify their enrollment status in one of three ways:



Text Messaging – Students who choose VA’s “Opt-In” feature will receive a text message each month prompting them to verify their enrollment status



Telephone – Students who do not Opt-In for text may call the Education Call Center (ECC) at 888-442-4551 to verify their enrollment status



Email – Students who do not Opt-In for text message will be sent an automated email on the last day of the month to verify their enrollment status



Resources and Reminders

NCD SCOs: Remind students to verify their enrollment information if they have not already done so, and/or please update their enrollment if needed!



[@GIBillEducation](#)



[@VAVetBenefits](#)



[VeteransBenefits@
Messages.VA.gov](#)



[NCD SCO Enrollment
Verification Toolkit
Available Now!](#)

**IHL Toolkit
Coming Soon!**



[Enrollment
Verification
Webpage](#)



[How to Opt Into Text
Message Verification Video](#)



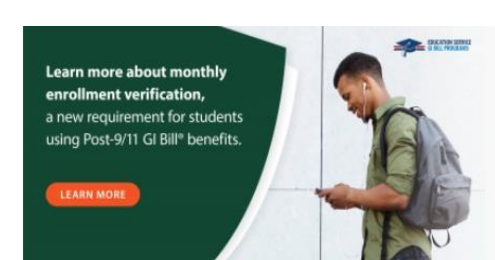
[How to Verify Your
Monthly Enrollment Via
Text Video](#)



[How to Verify
Enrollment
Infographic](#)



[Frequently Asked
Questions](#)



[Enrollment Verification
Vantage Point Blog](#)

Section 1010 – Two Enrollment Certifications

Schools are required to submit two (2) enrollment certifications for each term to ensure the beneficiary is progressing or has completed their training as certified

Note: Guidance for submitting an initial enrollment has not changed and is applicable to chapter 33 students



The first enrollment certification should be submitted to VA after a beneficiary enrolls, up to 180 days before the start of the term



The second enrollment certification (verification) should be submitted after the school's drop-add period, but no later than 30 days after the end of the school's drop-add period

Note: For schools that do not have a drop-add period, the second enrollment certification (verification) should be submitted no less than 30 and no more than 60 days after the term begins



Section 1010 – Two Enrollment Certification

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If a beneficiary is enrolled in multiple mini terms, can a SCO submit a single certification for multiple terms?

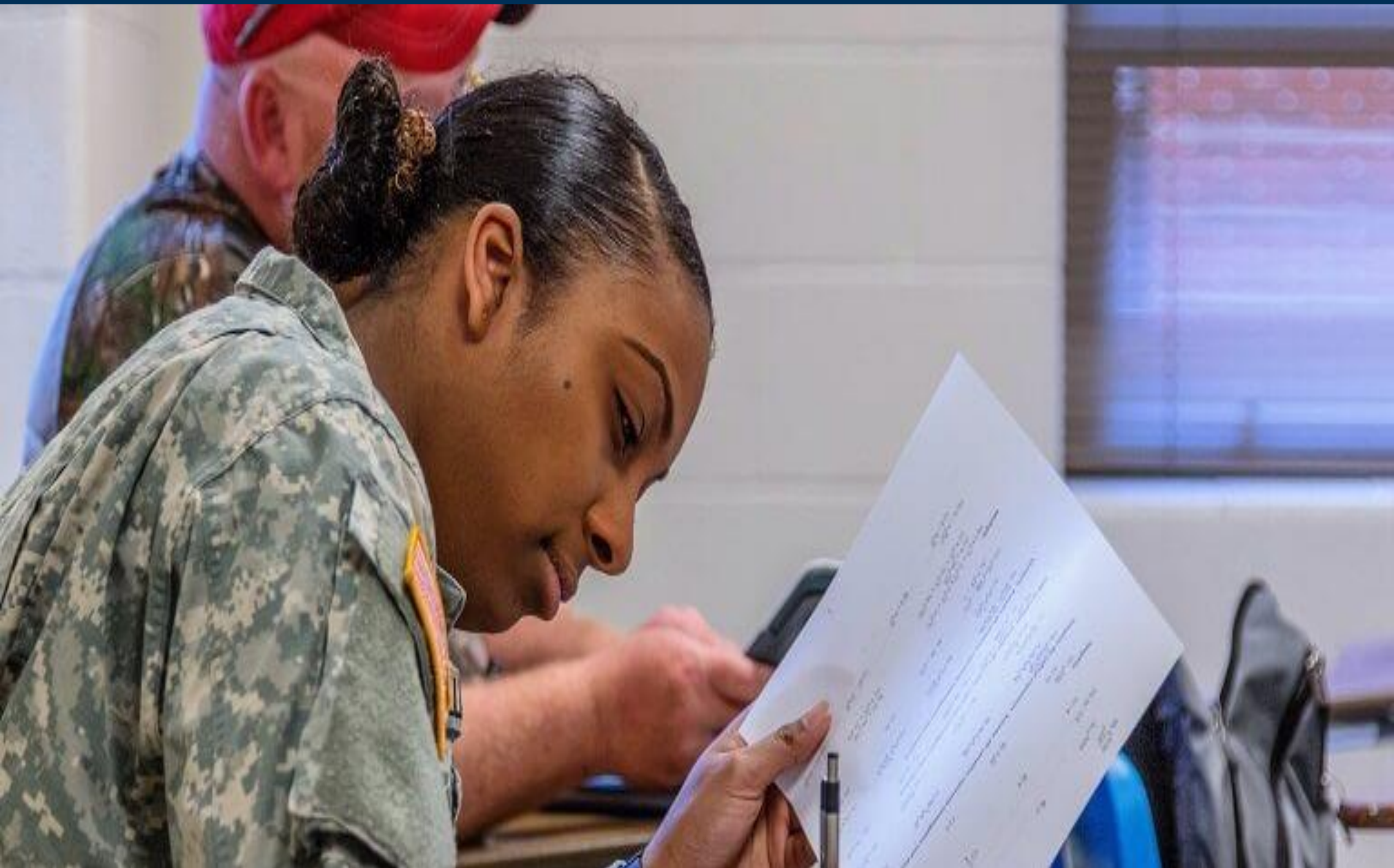
Does VA withhold payment to schools until the second verification is completed?

WHERE TO FIND ANSWERS

- [Section 1010 – Two Certification Requirements](#)
- [August Office Hours Presentation](#)
- [Isakson and Roe Page](#)



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Isakson & Roe Section 1010 “Without Penalty” Clarification



Henry Moss
Training Specialist
National Training Team - Schools



Advisory August 2021

Policy Advisory released on August 17, 2021, entitled “**Without Penalty’ in Section 1010 of Public Law (P.L.) 116-315, Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M. D., Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020**”

With Drop Add Period	Without Drop Add Period
the last day of the school’s drop-add period	the day before the first day of the enrollment period.



September 2021

September 29, 2021, Policy Advisory: The Post-9/11 GI Bill and Section 1010 of Public Law (P.L.) 116-315, Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M. D., Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020

This advisory rescinds the Policy Advisory released on August 17, 2021.

With Drop Add Period	Without Drop Add Period
VA is defining “without penalty” as either an academic penalty or a financial penalty, whichever occurs first at the educational institution.	



Knowledge Check #1

University of Yellowstone Ranch Spring 2022 academic calendar is January 3, 2021 (includes Regular and Pre-Sessions). The schools published calendar notes the following for pre session and regular session. Assuming no other contingencies exist, select the dates when a financial penalty is assessed. Select all that apply.

January 3 (Mon.) – January 14 (Fri.)

Spring 2022 Pre-Session

- January 3 (Mon.) First day UNL offices are open in 2022
- January 4 (Tues.) Last day for late registrations and adds (Pre-Session)
- January 4 (Tues.) Last day to drop a class and receive a full refund (Pre-Session)
- January 5 (Wed.) Last day to drop a class and receive a partial refund (Pre-Session)

January 18 (Tues.) – May 13 (Fri.)

Spring 2022 Regular Academic Session

- January 18 (Tues.) Late Registration begins (\$100.00 late registration fee assessed)
- January 25 (Tues.) Last day for full semester course registrations and adds including adds of thesis or dissertation credits (Census Date)
- January 25 (Tues.) Last day to drop a full semester course and receive 100% refund
- January 28 (Fri.) Last day to file a drop to remove a full semester course from student's record
- January 28 (Fri.) Last day to drop a full semester course and receive 75% refund



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VA-Once and the Two Certification Requirement

Shay Norton-Leonard

Management and Program Analyst
IT Operations and Management Team



Glossary of Terms

Amend is used to change begin date, end date, Tuition and Fees, Yellow Ribbon, add a remark, and advance pay and accelerated pay requests on a certification already submitted. This feature should be used if you are correcting something, other than hours, on the **original enrollment certification**.

Adjust is used to report an increase or decrease in credit hours. If tuition, fees, or Yellow Ribbon were reported, they must also be changed to correspond to the adjusted number of credit hours.



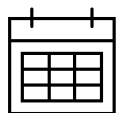
Two Enrollment Certifications in VA-ONCE

Post 9/11 Enrollment Changes

- If the enrollment change occurs on or before the first day of the term (FDOT), an adjustment should be submitted with the new hours and the associated Tuition and Fees

+++++

- If the enrollment change occurs after the first day of the term, an **amendment** should be submitted to report the tuition and fees for the original number of hours



The next day, an adjustment should be submitted with the new hours and the tuition and fees associated with the new hours.



Two Certifications with NO Change in VA-ONCE

Scenario 1 – No Adjustments

The beneficiary was originally certified for 12 credits (with or without T&F). There were no changes to the original number of hours certified.

 AFTER the last day when a student is able to withdraw from the course or program of education without penalty (academic or financial)

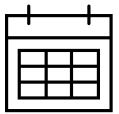
 Second Certification – Submit an **Amendment** ensuring the Tuition and Fees for 12 credits are correct



Two Certifications with a FDOT Change in VA-ONCE

Scenario 2 - Adjustments on or before the first day of the term (FDOT)

The beneficiary was originally certified for 12 credits (with or without T&F). The beneficiary reduced from 12 credits to 9 credits on or before the first day of the term.



AFTER the last day when a student is able to withdraw from the course or program of education without penalty (academic or financial)



Second Certification – Submit the **adjustment** reporting the reduction from 12 credits to 9 credits on or before the first day of the term ensuring the Tuition and Fees for 9 credits are correct

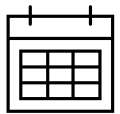


Two Certifications with a Change After FDOT in VA-ONCE

Scenario 3 - Adjustment after the first day of the term

The beneficiary was originally certified for 12 credits at \$0.00. The beneficiary reduced from 12 credits to 9 credits after the first day of the term.

☒ Step 1 – Submit an **Amendment** reflecting the Tuition and Fees for 12 credits



AFTER the last day when a student is able to withdraw from the course or program of education without penalty (academic or financial)

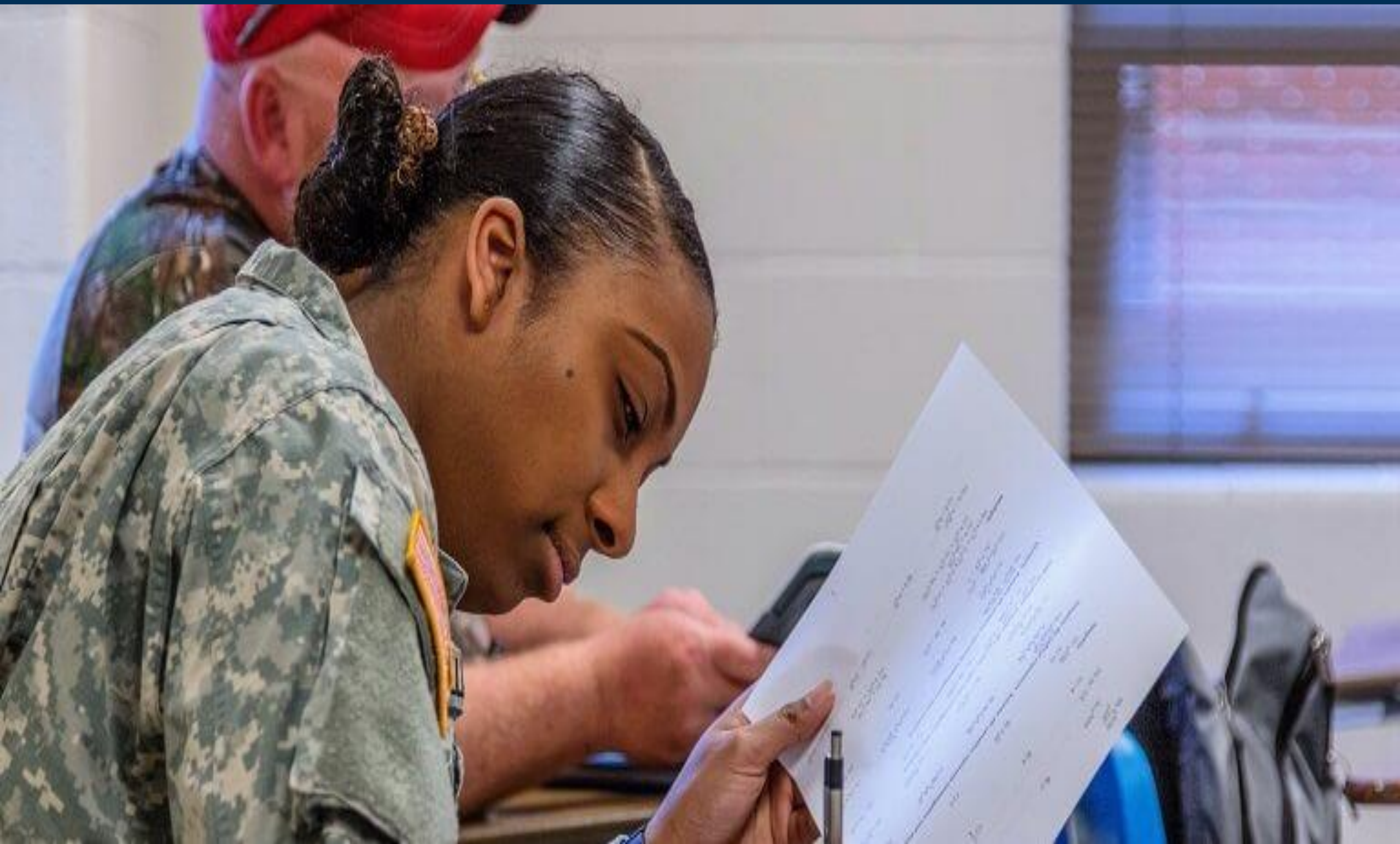


☒ Step 2 – Submit the **Adjustment** reporting the reduction from 12 credits to 9* credits

**Report the Tuition and Fees for 9 credits based on what 9 credits would have cost if only enrolled in 9 in the first place.*



Knowledge Check



Isakson & Roe Updates Section 1102 & 1103



Marit Solem
Training Specialist
National Training Teams - Schools



COVID-19 Update for Students

Special COVID-19 Rules End Soon:

Starting **December 22, 2021**, students will no longer be able to receive their MHA at the resident (in person) rate for classes taken online. This is because special COVID-19 legislation that permits students to receive MHA at the resident (in person) rate, while taking approved courses converted to online training due to COVID-19, will end on December 21, 2021.

When enrolling for courses in 2022 or any subsequent term, students will need to enroll in approved resident (in person) classes to continue receiving their MHA at the resident rate. Otherwise, students will receive the online rate (half the national average)



COVID-19 Update for Students

Special COVID-19 Rules End Soon:

Additionally, many GI Bill® programs are not normally approved for online training; they are only approved for resident (in person) training

These programs are only currently approved for GI Bill® benefits® for online training by virtue of the special COVID-19 legislation set to **expire on December 21, 2021**



COVID-19 Update for Students

Special COVID-19 Rules End Soon:

If the program is one that is normally **only** approved for resident training and **only** approved for online training by virtue to the COVID-19 legislation, students will need to return to resident (in person) training after December 21, 2021, if students want to continue receiving GI Bill® benefits



COVID-19 Update for Students

Special COVID-19 Rules End Soon:

If students continue training online after December 21, 2021:

- GI Bill® benefits, such as a monthly housing allowance, will stop
- Students may end up owing a tuition debt to your school (VA will charge the school a prorated tuition and fee debt which the school may, in turn, pass on to the student)
 - Not applicable to VRRAP or VETTEC



COVID-19 Update for Students

Impact on Certifying

- Continue to certify using the COVID rules (resident due to COVID) even for bridge terms
- However, if the school is not **normally** approved for online training, then the student needs to **return to resident training after Dec 21** if they want to get getting GI Bill® benefits – benefits will stop after Dec 21 for online training



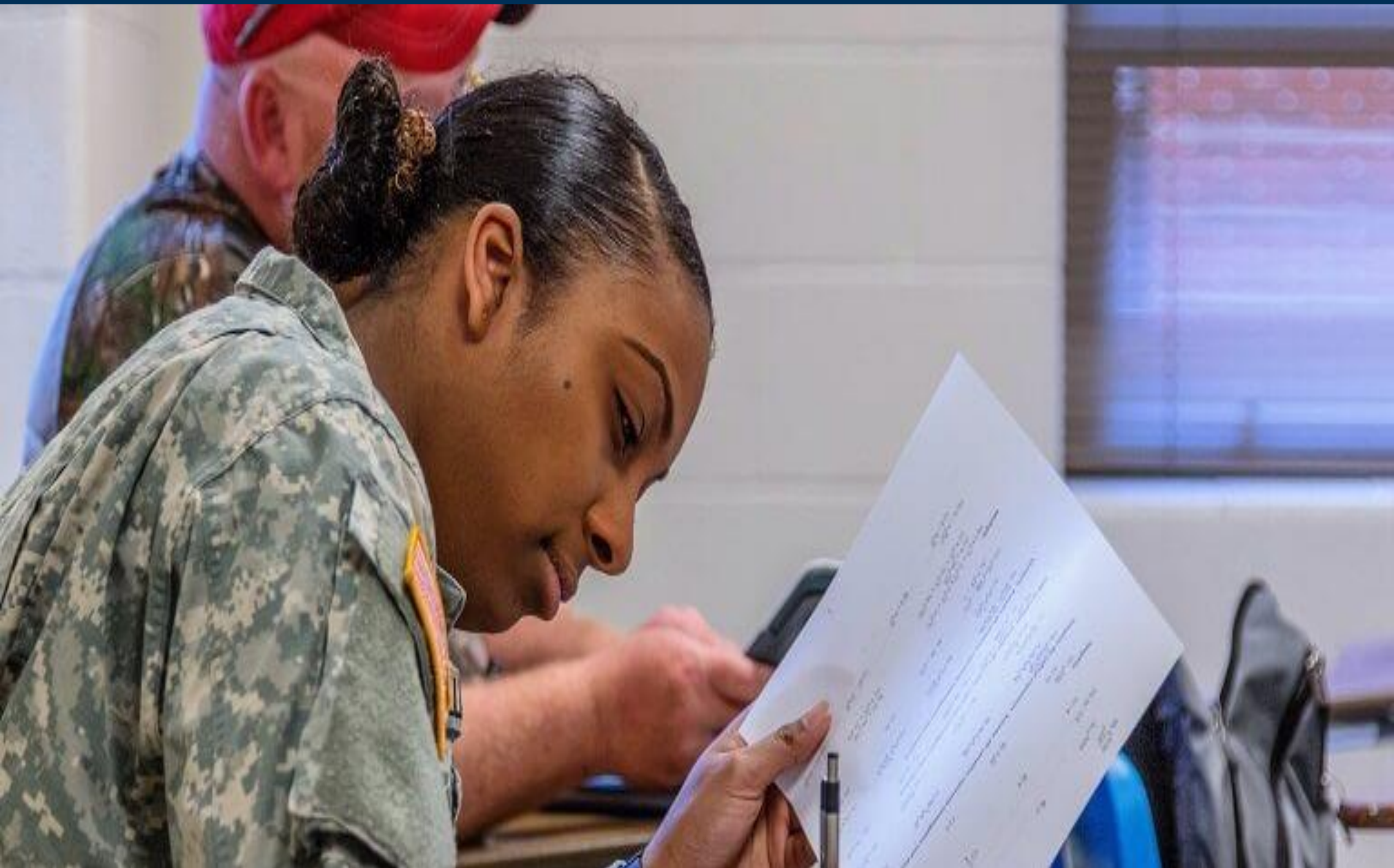
COVID-19 Update for Students

Impact on Certifying

- If you certified a student as resident due to Covid, but the student has come back as a resident or is coming back on or before December 22, 2021, then report the change in VA-ONCE to ensure that there is an accurate enrollment certification



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FY' 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Marit Solem
Training Specialist
National Training Team - Schools



FY22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

New Training Cycle!

- The new training cycle runs from October 1 thru August 31 of the following year
 - Existing SCOs have 11 months to meet their annual training requirement
- September 1-30:
 - Training Window Closes for Existing SCOs
 - New SCO training is continuous throughout the year

Centralized Certifications

- Only designated SCOs are required to complete the annual training ([22-8794 \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/22-8794))
SCOs listed as points of contact are not required to complete the training because they are not authorized to submit enrollment certifications to VA

Help with Training Portal

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/scotraininginstructions.pdf>

FY22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Training modality to complete annual training requirement:

- Asynchronous Online training located on the SCO training portal
 - Mandatory training topics specific to facility type
 - PowerPoint Presentations from virtual training events
- Synchronous SCO Approved training events (virtual or in-person instructor led) presented by or co-presented with a VA employee at:
 - Online Training Events
 - National or Regional Conferences
 - Local Workshops
 - One-On-One Training with the ELR of jurisdiction



FY22 SCO Annual Training Requirements

Training Compliance

- Compliance will be determined by the number of modules completed

New SCOs

- Must complete the training prior to being authorized to certify enrollments to VA
- Upon training completion, must submit training certificates with VA Form 22-8794 to the ELR of jurisdiction

Facility Type	Number of Training Modules Required
Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs)	10
Non-College Degree (NCD) Programs	10
High Schools and Residency Programs	1
OJT/Apprenticeship Programs	1
Vocational Flight	1

FY22 SCO Annual Training Requirements

Existing SCOs

- Must complete one (1) mandatory self-paced online training module specific to their facility type
- Must complete three (3) elective modules using the training modality of their choice

Note: The three (3) electives are not required if only one (1) training module is needed to meet compliance

Facility Type	Number of Training Modules Required
Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs)	4
Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) with Flight Courses	4
Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) with NCDs	4
Non-College Degree (NCD) Programs	4
Vocational Flight	4
*High Schools and Residency Programs	1
*OJT/Apprenticeship Programs	1

FY22 SCO Annual Training Requirements

Department of Veterans Affairs School Certifying Official Training 2022

[Click here to see more details about this portal.](#)

Welcome ➔

Welcome to the Department of Veterans Affairs Training for School Certifying Officials (SCOs). This training is mandated by the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, (The Colmery Act) (Public Law 115-48) for both new and existing SCOs. Please read the descriptions carefully to ensure you are taking training that corresponds with your facility type so that you can meet the annual training requirement. To track your training progress, please see the Year to Date (YTD) summary. The YTD summary list the number of modules or training events you have completed toward your annual training requirement. Also, check the information listed in your profile to ensure it is correct. Each school is responsible for ensuring that their SCOs meet the mandatory training requirement and document it in accordance with compliance regulations. This training is targeted to assist you in performing the tasks required of SCOs. If you have questions about what training to take, contact your local ELR. Thank you for helping our nation's Veterans complete their Educational goals.

Your Completion Status

Completed hours:	0	Online hours:	0
Completed modules:	0	Conference hours:	0

Getting Started

To begin, select a level of training (New or Existing) based upon your experience level. New SCOs must complete the training prior to being authorized to certify enrollments to VA and must submit a copy of their training completion certificate along with the VA 22-8794 to the ELR of their jurisdiction. Existing SCOs are required to complete training every year beginning October 1 through August 31 of the following year.

Instructions

After you select the level of training (New or Existing), a list of courses will be displayed. Select a course to begin your training. Your Education Liaison Representative (ELR) of jurisdiction can assist if you have any questions about the material covered in the training. After completing, you

FY22 SCO Annual Training Requirements

Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training Credit - Click Here ➡

SCOs must self-certify their conference/workshop/virtual attendance to receive conference training credit. If you attended a national, regional, local, or virtual conference or workshop you must complete this form and certify your presence at each session. Attendance is recorded at every session and is maintained by the National Training Team – Compliance.

Click here to view a list of assessments that are required to complete this group.

New SCO Training - Click Here ➡

All New SCOs to include On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship facilities, Vocational Flight Facilities, High Schools and Residency Programs must complete the training prior to being authorized to certify enrollments to VA and must submit a copy of their training completion certificate along with the VA 22-8794 to the ELR of their jurisdiction. All New SCOs, with the exceptions of OJT and Apprenticeship and Vocational Flight SCOs, can start the training by clicking on the green button located under the heading IHL and NCD Facilities Course. This training consists of 10 modules and provides all the basic information to begin assisting Veterans in your educational programs. OJT and Apprenticeship SCOs, can start the training by clicking on the green button located under the heading On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship Programs. This training consists of 1 module specifically developed for OJT and Apprenticeship enrollment certifications. Vocational Flight SCOs, can start the training by clicking on the green button located under the heading Vocational Flight Courses. This training

Your Profile

It is important that this information is current and correct!

First Name *

Marit

Middle Name

M

Last Name *

Solem

Role *

VACO Employee

Facility Code *

11111111

Save Changes

FY22 SCO Annual Training Requirements

Existing SCOs - Click Here

This training is required for all Existing SCOs beginning on or after October 1 through August 31 of the following year. You are required to take the online module that corresponds with your facility type. Additionally, IHLs, NCD and Vocational Flight Facilities must take 3 electives. They can take any 3 electives of their choosing and it can be in any modality (Self-Paced/Online, Instructor Led or Virtual). OJT/Apprenticeship, High Schools and Residency Programs are only required to take 1 module that corresponds with their facility type. As each module is completed, you will be provided with a certification of completion that should be maintained in your school's records for potential verification during compliance surveys.

Legislative Changes - Click Here

The purpose of this training is to explain what the Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) is and how educational institutions can register to participate in the program. It guides schools through the registration process, how to submit enrollment certifications, changes to enrollments and terminations. Although participation in VRRAP is voluntary, VRRAP's unique pay structure requires participating educational institutions to submit a Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form. This agreement binds the educational institutions to the terms of the VRRAP program. Upon completion of the training, you will have an in-depth understanding of the VRRAP program.

Common Email Inquiries & Contact Information

Reminder: Do **NOT** send any emails to the **Education Service Operations Integrity** Mailbox!

If you have questions or concerns regarding any of the following:

- Issues involving SCO Approved Credit & tracking your progress
- SCO Portal Access and its Use
- Inquiries on the [Adobe Connect](#) Registration & Access Process

You must **Only** submit them to the **Education Service Training** Mailbox at edutraining.vbaco@va.gov

Vital Note: All Webinars and Training Sessions are announced via [GovDelivery](#)

You must ensure you are registered there and update your info as needed

GovDelivery Support can be found [Here](#)



How To Self Certify!

1. Click on the URL Below or Copy and Paste it in your web browser
<https://vba-tpss.vbatraining.org/assess/trkSignIn?refid=XSCO>
2. Enter your email address and eight (8) digit facility code and click Next
Note: If you do not have a User Profile, click New User Account and follow the steps to set up your profile
3. Scroll down and click the Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training tab
4. Select the applicable training session from the list of topics that appears on the right side of the screen by clicking Begin
5. To enter Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training Title, click the dropdown arrow, select SCO Virtual Training Session and click Submit
6. Enter the start date and the end date
7. Enter your Facility Name, City and State (Main Campus) and click Submit
8. Certify your attendance by clicking Agree and then submit
9. Print your training certificate and keep for your records

