

Enclosure A

Background: Executive Order (EO) 13607, Establishing Principles of Excellence (PoE) for educational institutions serving service members, Veterans, spouses, and other family members was signed on April 27, 2012.

PoE is to ensure that Veteran educational benefits programs provide Veterans, service members, spouses, and their eligible family members with the information, support, and protections they deserve. PoE also strengthens, provides oversight, enforcement, and accountability within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) education benefit programs for educational institutions.

Overview: The VA shall notify all institutions participating in the Post-9/11 GI Bill program that they are strongly encouraged to comply with the Principles and post their commitment on the GI Bill® Comparison Tool.

Principles of Excellence

Educational institutions participating in the Principles of Excellence program agree to the following guidelines:

- Provide students with a personalized Financial Aid Shopping Sheet covering the total cost of an education program.
- Inform students who are eligible to receive Veterans education benefits of the availability and potential eligibility of Federal financial aid before packaging or arranging private student loans or alternative financing programs.
- Avoid fraudulent and unduly aggressive recruiting techniques as well as misrepresentations, payment of incentive compensation, and failure to meet State authorization requirements.
- Obtain the approval of the institution's accrediting agency for new courses or program offerings prior to enrolling students.
- Accommodate service members and reservists to be readmitted to a program if they are temporarily unable to attend class or have to suspend their studies due to service requirements.
- Align institutional refund policies with those under Title IV, which governs the administration of Federal student financial aid programs.
- Provide educational plans for all military and Veteran education beneficiaries.
- Designate a point of contact to provide academic and financial advising.

Foreign schools, high schools, on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs, residency and internship programs, and institutions that do not charge tuition and fees are not requested to comply with the Principles of Excellence.

Additional information about the Principles of Excellence is available at

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/principles_of_excellence.asp

You may also access a Q&A produced by the Department of Education about the Principles at

<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN1210.html>

The published Executive Order is available at:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-02/pdf/2012-10715.pdf>