~ Happy New Year! ~
Welcome to January Office Hours

Your Topics & Presenters Are:

- REMOTE Act: COVID-19 Provision Updates - Marit Solem
- Isakson & Roe Section / Section 1010 Updates - Henry Moss
- SCO Annual Training Requirements – Heather Cates

Important Note on Audio

VOIP Audio is Only Heard via Your Computer/Cell Phone Speakers!
If you Do Not Hear Victoria Speaking Now, either Log Out & Back in Again

OR

Use the Green Speaker Icon at the Top of Your Screen to Select Your Output Method

Today’s Event Qualifies for SCO Approved Credit
Education Service

January Office Hours

School Certifying Officials

January 2022
REMOTE Act: COVID-19 Provision Updates

Marit Solem
Training Specialist
National Training Teams - Schools
Background:

On December 21, 2021, President Biden signed the "Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions Act" or the "REMOTE Act" into law.
COVID-19 Update for Students

What does this mean?

- Among other things, this law extends the various COVID-19 protections for GI Bill® students from December 21, 2021, to June 1, 2022.

- In part, this means that students who were attending a course that was converted to online training because of COVID-19, and were getting paid the resident rate, may continue to train online, and will continue to receive the resident housing rate until June 1, 2022.
COVID-19 Update for Students

More specifically:

Section 2 of this bill extends the following provisions in Pub. L. 116-140 and Pub. L. 116-128 until June 1, 2022:

1. continuation of resident housing rate for online training;
2. continuation of program approval for online training even if only approved for resident training;
3. payment at full-time rate of pursuit even if less than full-time (if student was enrolled as a full-time student on March 1, 2020);
4. Payment of Work-Study allowances during emergency situations; and
5. prohibition of charge to entitlement of students unable to pursue a program of education due to an emergency situation.
COVID-19 Update for Students

More Specifically:

Section 5:

This section extends all COVID protections included in the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (PL 116-315) by extending the covered period from December 21, 2021, to June 1, 2022.

- Delimiting dates extended
- Continuation of benefits when student has been negatively impacted by training being truncated, delayed, relocated, canceled, partially canceled, converted to online training, or otherwise modified or made unavailable
- If an educational institution closes, cancels training, or has training disapproved due to COVID-19, certain entitlement used by an individual at that institution would not be charged against their overall entitlement
- Withdrawal from a school due to covered reasons as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be treated as a mitigating circumstance
COVID-19 Update for Students

More Specifically:

Section 5 continued:

- Protections to avoid negative impacts on a trainee in an on-the-job training program or apprenticeship who is unable to fulfill the 120-hour requirement due to unemployment during COVID-19 or unable to attend the program in person due to COVID-19.

- VA will continue to pay educational assistance and subsistence allowances for up to an additional four weeks to eligible individuals who are enrolled in courses at an educational institution that has closed due to an emergency situation or has been suspended. Additionally, the length in time for which the 4-week period can be granted when educational institutions are temporarily closed under an established policy based on an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation changed from any 12-month period to any 6-month period.
COVID-19 Update for Students

Impact on Certifying

Continue to certify using the COVID rules (resident due to COVID)

Continue to follow COVID FAQ’s here: [https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/covid19faqs.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/covid19faqs.asp)
More information to come!

In addition, this law also modifies certain requirements of educational institutions relating to enrollment verification, exempts foreign schools from certain prohibitions, and amends the “rounding out” provision for students during their final semester, term, or academic period. These sections will be discussed as we receive further guidance.
Isakson & Roe Updates
Section 1010

Henry Moss
Training Specialist
National Training Team - Schools
Verification of enrollment to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits

Beginning with terms starting on or after December 17, 2021, students enrolled at Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) facilities will be required to verify enrollment each month.* If students do not verify their enrollment for two consecutive months, monthly housing allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments will be withheld. This expansion includes those enrolled in IHL programs and those enrolled in Non-College Degree (NCD) programs at IHL facilities.

Post-9/11 GI Bill® students at IHLs have begun to receive text messages allowing them to “opt-in” to receive enrollment verification messaging via text. Beginning January 15, 2022, enrollment verification messaging will go out via text or email based on the students opt-on text status. Students may also verify enrollment by calling the Education Call Center effective January 31, 2022. This change won’t affect NCD facility students already verifying their enrollment.

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 opt out of text and email 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 will be automatically enrolled in email verification and sent an automated email on the last day of the month

Monthly enrollment verification is only applicable to Chapter 33 students!
Section 1010 – Two Enrollment Certification Reminder

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.
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
- Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 - Education and Training (va.gov)
Enrollment Verification Resources and Reminders

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

@GIBillEducation

@VAVetBenefits

VeteransBenefits@Messages.VA.gov

NEW RESOURCE: IHL SCO Enrollment Verification Toolkit

Enrollment Verification Webpage

IHL Students: How to Verify Enrollment Infographic

NCD SCO Enrollment Verification Toolkit

NCD Students: How to Verify Enrollment Infographic

Frequently Asked Questions

VAntage Point Blog
How to Use Enrollment Verification Toolkit

To use the pre-written Email/Newsletter Language:

1) Copy the pre-drafted language below and paste the text into your email/newsletter template

2) Then, right-click on the underlined text to copy the link address and re-link to the keywords in your template
Enrollment Verification Contact Information Update

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Enrollment Verification Update: Make sure to save our contact info!

Post-9/11 GI Bill Students who use text verification: After January 15th, you will begin receiving texts from (855) 933-1416, as opposed to a 202 number.

Learn more:

Note: After January 15th, students who use text verification will begin receiving texts from (855) 933-1416, instead of a 202 number.
FY’ 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Heather Cates
Training Specialist
National Training Team - Schools
FY’ 22 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

- Only designated SCOs are required to complete the annual training (22-8794 (va.gov));
  “Read Only” 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
FY’ 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Training modalities 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
FY’ 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Training Compliance
- Compliance will be determined by the number of modules completed

New SCO
- 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

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<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>Number of Training Modules Required</th>
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<td>Non-College Degree (NCD) Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Schools and Residency Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>OJT/Apprenticeship Programs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Flight</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 for compliance

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<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
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<td>Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) with Flight Courses</td>
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<td>Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) with NCDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-College Degree (NCD) Programs</td>
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<td>Vocational Flight</td>
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<tr>
<td>*High Schools and Residency Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>*OJT/Apprenticeship Programs</td>
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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.

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 will receive a certificate of completion.

Your Completion Status
- Completed hours: 0
- Online hours: 0
- Completed modules: 0
- Conference hours: 0
FY’ 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

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.

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 OJT 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 consists of 1 module specifically developed for Vocational Flight enrollment certifications. High Schools and Residency Programs, can start the training by clicking on the green button located under the heading High Schools and Residency Programs. This training consists of 1 module specifically developed for High School and Residency Program enrollment certifications.
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

You must email the **Education Service Training Mailbox** at edutraining.vbaco@va.gov if you have questions or concerns regarding:

- Issues involving SCO Approved credit & tracking your progress
- SCO Portal access and use
- Inquiries on the [Adobe Connect](https://www.adobeconnect.com/) registration & access process

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

All webinars and training sessions are announced via [GovDelivery](https://www.govdelivery.com)

You must register and update your information as needed

GovDelivery Support can be found [here](https://www.govdelivery.com/help)
1. Click on the URL below or Copy and Paste in your web browser
   https://vba-tpss.vbatraining.org/assess/trkSignIn?refid=XSCO
2. Enter your email address and eight (8) digit facility code, then 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
School Certifying Official (SCO)
Resources
## SCO Resources

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<td>Updated catalogs and related publications</td>
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SCO Resources

**ELR Contact Information:** Education Liaison Representatives - Education and Training (va.gov)

**SAA Contact Information:** NASAA - NASAA (nasaa-vetseducation.com)

**SCO Hotline:** Contact your ELR for the number

**VBA Support Team:** Support@VBATraining.org
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<td>Ask VA (AVA)</td>
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<td>VA-ONCE MOU</td>
<td>VA Once Memorandum of Understanding - (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)</td>
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<td>Debt Management Center (DMC)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dmcedu.vbaspl@va.gov">dmcedu.vbaspl@va.gov</a> and 1-800-827-0648</td>
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<td>Work Study</td>
<td>Home · Custom Portal (va.gov)</td>
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<td>Veteran Readiness and Employment (VRE) (Chapter 31)</td>
<td>Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&amp;E) Home (va.gov)</td>
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Thank You For Your Participation!

Tentative February Office Hour Dates Are

February 22 - 24

All The Best for 2022 Folks!