Agenda

• Certifying Chapter 33 Graduate Credits
• Harry W. Colmery Section 305 Update
• Polling Questions
Housekeeping

• Participants may submit questions and feedback during the webinar in the QA box. We want this to be beneficial for you.

• Answers to questions will be provided when a copy of the webinar is uploaded to www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

• To find the webinars, visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill
  – Click on “For School Administrators”
    • Select “School Training Resources”
      – Select “Education Benefit Presentations” under the Certifications and Training header

• For any specific or situational questions you may have, please contact your ELR or call the School Certifying Official Hotline
Welcome
Certifying Chapter 33 Graduate Training For School Certifying Officials (SCOs)
Topics

- Standard Terms
- Non-Standard Terms
- Identifying Chapter 33 IHL Graduates in VA-ONCE
- Credit hours taken and Credit hours considered full-time
- VBA Standard Remarks
When certifying graduate training under Chapter 33, School Certifying Officials (SCOs) must report the minimum number of credit hours their academic regulations require to be considered full-time. VA will divide the number of credit hours certified by the number of credit hours required to be considered full-time to determine rate of pursuit.

The Long Term Solution (LTS) automatically performs credit hour equivalent calculations for all non-standard terms. These automatic adjustments distort the expected rate of training for students enrolled less than full-time and under values training for terms longer than standard length.

Until LTS is reprogrammed, School Certifying Officials (SCO) must add the VBA Standard Remarks; “Graduate non-standard term” in the remarks with all non-standard length periods certified to off ramp for processing review.
A standard length semester is 15 to 19 weeks and a standard length quarter is 10 to 13 weeks.

SCOs must enter the number of credit hours that his/her school considers to be full time for a standard length semester or quarter for the program the student is pursuing in the TT/FT box.

Note: Do not enter remarks in the remarks section for standard terms.
Non-standard Terms

A non-standard length semester is shorter or longer than 15 to 19 weeks and a non-standard length quarter is shorter or longer than 10 to 13 weeks.

SCO's must enter the minimum number of hours required for full time in the TT/FT box. Additionally, he/she must enter the following VBA Standard Remark in VA-ONCE “Graduate non-standard term”, to off ramp the enrollment for manual processing.
Certifying Chapter 33 Standard Terms
Certifying Chapter 33 Standard Terms

Step 1:

Review the student’s Bio data screen to confirm:

- The benefit type is Chapter 33
- The training type is an IHL GRAD
Certifying Chapter 33 Standard Terms

Step 2:
Open the Certs screen by clicking on the Certs tab
Certifying Chapter 33 Standard Terms

Step 3: Activate the edit enrollment field by clicking on certs at the top of the screen. Click on “New” from the drop down menu.
Certifying Chapter 33 Standard Terms

Step 4:
In the edit enrollment field, enter the number of credit hours the student is pursuing in the residence/distance field.

Enter the number of credit hours your school considers to be full-time for a normal semester or quarter in the TT/FT field.

Note: The number of credit hours can vary by programs or enrollment period.

Remember: Do not enter remarks for standard terms or standard quarters.
Certifying Chapter 33 Non-Standard Terms
Certifying Chapter 33 Non-Standard Terms

Step 1:
Review the student’s Bio data screen to confirm:
- The benefit type is Chapter 33
- The training type is an IHL GRAD
Certifying Chapter 33 Non-Standard Terms

Step 2:
Click on the Certs tab to open the Certs screen
Certifying Chapter 33 Non-Standard Terms

Step 3:
Activate the edit enrollment field by clicking on certs at the top of the screen.
Click on “New” from the drop down menu.
Certifying Chapter 33 Non-Standard Terms

Step 4:
In the edit enrollment field, enter the number of credit hours the student is pursuing in the residence/distance field.

Enter the number of credit hours your school considers to be full-time for a normal semester or quarter in the TT/FT field.

Note: The number of credit hours can vary by programs or enrollment period.

Remember: You must enter the VBA Standard remarks for non-standard terms or non-standard quarters.
Step 5:
Enter “Graduate Non-Standard Term” in the remarks field for all non-standard terms by:

- Clicking on the Modify Remarks List tab.
Certifying Chapter 33 Non-Standard Terms

Step 6:
- Click the VBA Standard Remarks drop down arrow
Certifying Chapter 33 Non-Standard Terms

Step 7:

- Select Graduate Non-Standard Term from the list of VBA Standard Remarks
Certifying Chapter 33 Non-Standard Terms

Step 8
After selecting the VBA Standard remark, Click save and done
Certifying Chapter 33 Non-Standard Terms

Graduate Non-Standard Term will populate in the remarks section

VA will determine the rate of pursuit by dividing the number of credits taken by the number of credits your school considers full-time for the program.
Examples of Certifying Chapter 33
Standard and Non-standard Terms
Certifying Chapter 33 Graduate Credits

Example 1 – Standard Term

Student takes 6 credit hours in the fall semester. Your academic regulations state 9 credits or more is full-time.

Certify 6 credit hours and enter 9 in the TT/FT box.

VA will divide credits taken by credits considered full-time to determine the rate of pursuit (6 ÷ 9 = .66).

The student’s rate of pursuit is 66%

Remember: Do not add remarks for standard terms
Certifying Chapter 33 Graduate Credits

Example 2 – Non-Standard Term

Student takes 3 quarter hours in a non-standard term. Your school considers that to be full-time for the period.

Certify 3 quarter hours and enter 3 in the TT/FT box.

Click the Modify Remarks List and select VBA Standards Remarks; then select “Graduate Non-Standard Term” from the VBA Standard Remarks.

VA will divide credits taken by credits considered full-time to determine the rate of pursuit (3 ÷ 3 = 1).

The student’s rate of pursuit is 100%
Certifying Chapter 33 Graduate Credits

Example 3 – Non-Standard Term

Student takes 3 quarter hours in a non-standard term. Your school considers 6 quarter hours to be full-time for the period.

Certify 3 quarter hours and enter 6 in the TT/FT box.

Click the Modify Remarks List and select VBA Standards Remarks; then select “Graduate Non-Standard Term” from the VBA Standard Remarks.

VA will divide credits taken by credits considered full-time to determine the rate of pursuit (3 ÷ 6 = .50).

The student’s rate of pursuit is 50% or exactly halftime.

Remember: A student’s rate of pursuit must be greater than 50% to be entitled the Monthly Housing Allowance.
Summary

Today you:

• Learned the difference between standard terms and non-standard terms
• Identified Chapter 33 IHL Graduates on the VA-ONCE Bio Data Screen
• Learned how to enter the number of credit hours taken and the number of credit hours considered full-time in the appropriate VA-ONCE fields.
• Learned how to enter the VBA Standard Remarks “Graduate non-standard term” in VA-ONCE to Off ramp non-standard enrollments for manual processing
Lesson References

SCO Handbook
Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance
Act of 2017
Public Law (PL) 115-48, Section 305
School Certifying Official (SCO) Webinar - March 26, 2019
Debra J. Morgan, Chief
Compliance & Liaison National Training Team
Section 305 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, authorizes VA to establish training requirements for SCOs at “covered institutions”

- Training requirements are being developed in consultation with the State approving agencies (SAAs)
- VA may disapprove any course of education offered by an educational institution, or revoke certification ability of a training establishment if training requirements are not met
- This section was effective on August 1, 2018
A "covered educational institution" refers to an educational institution that has enrolled 20 or more individuals using VA educational assistance under chapter 36 of title 38 U.S.C.

Includes IHLs, NCDs, flight schools, and apprenticeship/OJT facilities, etc., offering any type of training under approved programs.
Legislation Summary and Definitions

• A “SCO” is defined as an employee of an educational institution with the primary responsibility for certifying Veteran enrollment at the educational institution.

• VA Form 22-8794, ”Designation of School Certifying Official”, is required to designate individuals authorized to certify enrollment information to VA.

• VA Form 22-8794 has been revised to include designation of SCOs with “Read Only” access to VA information.
Implementation Plan

Employee Development and Training (ED&T) Support

- Partnership to develop value added learning opportunities to include online training modules, Instructure led training and training metrics

- Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) identified to validate content based on most current procedures, policies and regulations

- Learning Performance Consultants (LPCs) engaged to design and develop tailored training programs
Implementation Plan

- Training requirements must be met on an annual basis
- Training will be deployed in 2 phases
- New SCOs must complete training on specific topics.
- Existing SCOs will be required to complete a combination of required training topics, and topics of their choosing based on individual needs
- Individuals not subject to training requirements will have access to online training
Phase 1

• New SCOs designated on or after August 1, 2018
• 10 online training modules which provide a basic overview of VA education benefits and SCO responsibilities
• New SCOs given 14 days to complete the training from the date of designation as a SCO
  – Initial notice of 14-day time limit
  – 7-day reminder notice
  – Notice of non-compliance to SCO and ELR
# Phase I Training Online Training Modules

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Phase II Implementation Plan

**Phase 2**
- Available August 1, 2019, and applies to experienced SCOs (those designated prior to August 1, 2018) who are continuing employment after August 1, 2019
- New SCOs will not be permitted to submit enrollment information until Phase I training is completed
- Each year, requirements must be met between August 1 and July 31 of the following year
- Multiple options for meeting training requirements
  - Online training
  - Conference training attendance
  - VA Identified Training
Phase II Implementation Plan

Phase 2 – Online Training

- Online will include modules on a variety of topics
- VA will mandate specific training modules as required refresher training for all SCOs. Unless otherwise designated, SCOs may choose any combination of training topics in order to meet the training requirements
- Specialized training for specific types of facilities (i.e. NCD only, flight only, OJT/Apprenticeship, etc.)
- Training credit will be granted upon training completion
## Phase II Online Modules/Conference Training

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<td>•  Compliance Survey Guidelines</td>
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Phase II Implementation Plan

Phase 2 – Conference Attendance

- Specific topics to be covered at all SCO conferences based on existing best practices
- Training developed nationally
- VA is currently collaborating with Employee Development and Training (ED&T) to establish a tracking mechanism
Phase II Implementation Plan

Phase 2 – Compliance Survey Mandated Training

• VA/SAA may mandate training based on issues or discrepancies identified during compliance surveys

• SCOs will be advised of additional required training topic(s)

• SCOs will be given 30 calendar days to complete the training
VA has developed a multi-faceted communication strategy to keep SCO community abreast of implementation updates

- Webinars
- National and Regional SCO Conferences
- SCO Page/GI Bill website
- VA Once News flash
- Electronic Mail Delivery
Questions
Contact Us

Website: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill
Facebook: www.facebook.com/gibilleducation

GI Bill Hotline: 1-888-442-4551