

Before we begin...

- The webinar will start at **10 am** (eastern daylight time)
- Please make sure to:
 - Mute your phone
 - Turn off any webcams or microphones (if applicable)
- Audio can **ONLY** be accessed by calling 1-800-767-1750
 - Conference code: 51636
- Slides are attached to this meeting; upper right-hand side of the box look for a paperclip – click it to download the PowerPoint
 - The final version will be available in 1-2 weeks on our website under the **School Training Resources** page





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It's Your Future

VBA Quarterly Education Service Webinar

June 17, 2015

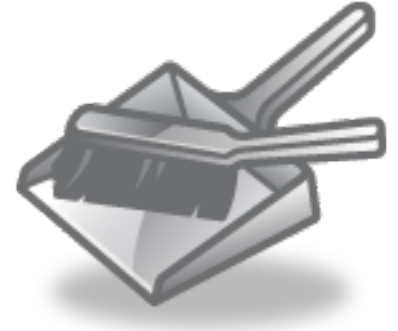
benefits.va.gov/gibill

Agenda

- Section 702 (Choice Act) – The Resident Rate Requirements
 - Overview
 - “Covered Individuals”
 - Reporting to VA
 - Compliance
 - Section 702 Resources
- Yellow Ribbon Update
- Mitigating Circumstances
- Outcome Measures
- Questions & Answers

Housekeeping

- Participants may submit questions and feedback during the webinar. 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 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



Section 702 (Choice Act) – Resident Rate Requirements



Section 702 – In-State Tuition Provision Overview

- Section 702 of the Choice Act requires that VA disapprove programs of education for payments of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty at a public IHL if the school charges qualifying individuals tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students
- To remain approved for Post-9/11 and MGIB benefits, schools must charge in-state tuition and fee amounts to “covered individuals” under those two programs



Section 702 – “Covered Individuals”

- A “covered individual” is defined in the Choice Act as:
 - A **Veteran** who lives in the state where the IHL is located (regardless of formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school **within three years of discharge** from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more
 - An individual using transferred benefits who lives in the state where the IHL is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school **within three years of the transferor’s discharge** from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more
 - An individual using benefits under the **Fry Scholarship** who lives in the state where the IHL is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school **within three years of the Servicemember’s death** in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more

Section 702 – “Covered Individuals” (cont.)

- Students maintain covered individual status as long as they are using Post-9/11 GI Bill or MGIB-AD benefits and remain continuously enrolled at the same public IHL
 - Continuity of enrollment is not broken by regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters or terms
 - Individuals do not have to enroll in summer sessions or terms to maintain continuous enrollment
 - If a student exhausts entitlement or chooses not to receive GI Bill benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill or Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty, the provisions of section 702 no longer apply, even if the student remains continuously enrolled
- Section 702 only applies after the Servicemember has been discharged
 - Does not apply to students using transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits from someone still on active duty
 - It does not apply to those currently on active duty



“Covered Individuals” Checklist

- When submitting an enrollment, answer the following questions:
 - Is the student a Veteran living in the same state as your school (regardless of formal state of residence)? Has the student enrolled in your school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more?
 - Is the student an individual using transferred benefits living in the same state as your school (regardless of formal state of residence)? Has the student enrolled in your school within three years of the transferor’s discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more?



“Covered Individuals” Checklist (cont.)

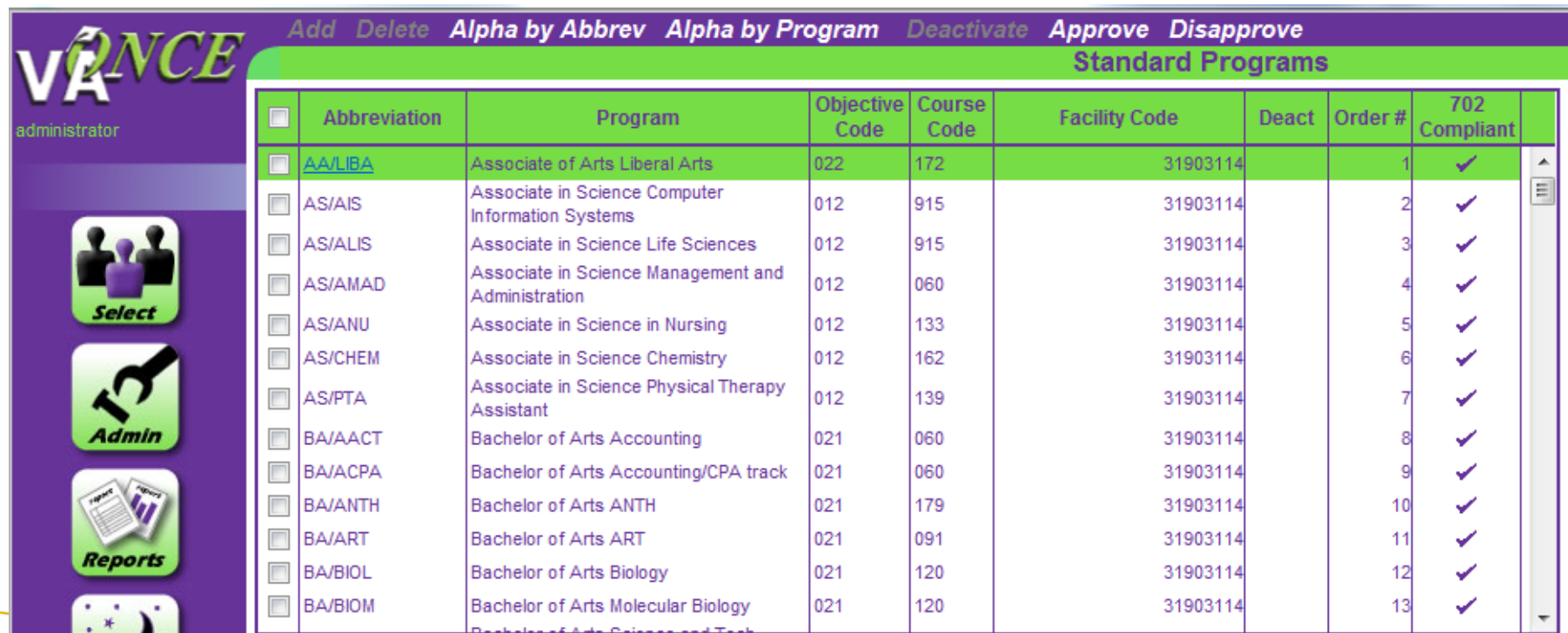
- Is the student a spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship living in the same state as your school (regardless of formal state of residence)? Has the student enrolled within three years of the Servicemember’s death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more?
- ***If you answered yes to any of the above questions, the student is a “covered individual.”***

“Covered Individuals” Checklist (cont.)

- Additional Questions:
 - Has the student met any additional requirements that the state or school requires?
- ***If the student is a “covered individual” and you answer “yes” to the question above, the student is eligible for the in-state tuition rate***
 - If the “covered individual” is outside the three year window, has the student been continuously enrolled at the institution of higher learning?
- ***If yes, student is eligible for the in-state tuition rate***

Section 702 – Reporting to VA

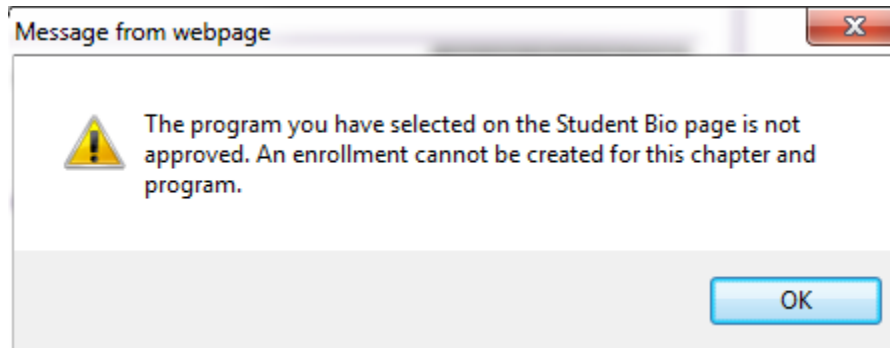
- The Standard Programs page in VA ONCE will have an additional column for 702 compliance. If the program complies, there will be a check mark in this field
- **This will be read-only for School Certifying Officials.** The ELRs will be able to check or uncheck each program



<input type="checkbox"/>	Abbreviation	Program	Objective Code	Course Code	Facility Code	Deact	Order #	702 Compliant
<input type="checkbox"/>	AA/LIBA	Associate of Arts Liberal Arts	022	172	31903114		1	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	AS/AIS	Associate in Science Computer Information Systems	012	915	31903114		2	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	AS/ALIS	Associate in Science Life Sciences	012	915	31903114		3	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	AS/AMAD	Associate in Science Management and Administration	012	060	31903114		4	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	AS/ANU	Associate in Science in Nursing	012	133	31903114		5	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	AS/CHEM	Associate in Science Chemistry	012	162	31903114		6	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	AS/PTA	Associate in Science Physical Therapy Assistant	012	139	31903114		7	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	BA/AACT	Bachelor of Arts Accounting	021	060	31903114		8	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	BA/ACPA	Bachelor of Arts Accounting/CPA track	021	060	31903114		9	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	BA/ANTH	Bachelor of Arts ANTH	021	179	31903114		10	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	BA/ART	Bachelor of Arts ART	021	091	31903114		11	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	BA/BIOL	Bachelor of Arts Biology	021	120	31903114		12	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	BA/BIOM	Bachelor of Arts Molecular Biology	021	120	31903114		13	✓

Section 702 – Reporting to VA

- If the program is not approved (not section 702 compliant), the school will not be able to create a new Enrollment Certification. You will see this message:



- The process of updating VA ONCE is ongoing; we will let you know through your ELR as changes occur

Section 702 – Compliance cont. and Waivers

- Your state law or institutional policy may require a student to demonstrate an intent to establish residency to qualify
 - Be sure to verify if he or she has done so before submitting an enrollment certification
- Compliance with Section 702 is perpetual as long as the school or state does not alter or modify the policy or law established to comply

Section 702 – Waivers

- The Secretary has used his authority grant a waiver for those states/territories/districts/schools not yet in compliance
- If your school is not in compliance, students training under the GI Bill may stay in their programs and you may continue to submit tuition and fee charges as normal. If your school is in compliance, please submit the in-state rate for your covered individuals for terms beginning after July 1
 - Noncompliant states were asked to submit their plans for compliance to VA by June 15
- The waiver is in effect for terms starting prior to January 1, 2016

Compliance – Record Requirements

- 38 U.S.C. 3690(c) and 38 C.F.R. 21.4209 require schools to maintain certain records and make those records available for examination
- All records and accounts of schools pertaining to Veterans and eligible persons, as well as the records of other students which are necessary to determine compliance with the law, must be made available for examination
- This law allows VA access to necessary records which may be restricted under laws regarding privacy of student records such as PL 93-380 (Buckley Amendment) or other provisions
 - School records relating to VA benefits fall into the “financial aid” category and are therefore exempt from the provisions of the Buckley Amendment

Compliance – Record Requirements (cont.)

- VA shall have access to the records of VA beneficiaries, as well as non-VA students without the written consent of the student in order to monitor the school's compliance with the law
- Failure to make records available may result in discontinuance of education assistance benefits

Section 702 – Resources

- Website
 - www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/702.asp
- Press Release
 - <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2700>
- FAQs (search for “702”)
 - <https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/list>
- Facebook
 - www.facebook.com/gibilleducation
- Comparison Tool
 - www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison/

Mitigating Circumstances



Mitigating Circumstances

- If a student drops a course or withdraws from school after the drop/add period and receives a non-punitive grade, VA must reduce benefits effective the first day of the term unless the student provides evidence of “mitigating circumstances”
- Mitigating Circumstances include:
 - Situations beyond the student's control that prevent the student from continuing in school or that cause the student to reduce credits.
 - Examples: Death in his or her immediate family, personal health reasons, unforeseen change in work obligation



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Mitigating Circumstances, cont.

- If a student drops hours and does not provide acceptable mitigating circumstances, instead of reducing last day of attendance, VA will reduce/terminate beginning of the term
- Please help us help students understand that if a student drops/terminates, he or she may receive a request for mitigating circumstances from VA
 - If not received/accepted, the overpayment will be much more substantial than if submitted



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Mitigating Circumstances, cont.

- The most effective way for students to provide mitigating circumstances is to submit them to their School Certifying Official, along with notification of the dropped course/s
- Report the drop via VA-ONCE, enabling VA to review the mitigating circumstances and reduce/terminate the benefits in one action



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Mitigating Circumstances, cont.

VA AONCE Cert Complete Submit

Name: BARBARINO, VINNY
SSN: 333-78-9123
File/Payee: 333-78-9123/00

Program: BSN
Chapter: 33YELLOW
Training Type: Nondegree

Bio **Certs** **VA Data** **Log** **History**

All All All to Filter

Term Name	Status	Facility Code	Begin Date Range	End Date Range	Res	Dist	R/D	Clock	LDA/Eff Date	Facility Code	Cert ID
4X SPRING 201			01/15/2015	05/15/2015	6	6				22222222	28361557
2 SPRING 201			01/15/2015	05/15/2015	6	6				22222222	
4X SPRING 201			01/15/2015	05/15/2015	6	6				22222222	28361557
3 FALL 12			09/01/2012	12/20/2012	18	0				21212121	
4X			08/01/2012	08/10/2012	1	0				21212121	15581295

Edit Termination Save Cancel

Facility: 22222222 Trng Type: NCD Prgm: BSN Prior Credit: 2

SPRING 201 01/15/2015 05/15/2015 6 6 1200.00

Term Name Begin Date* End Date* Res Dist* R/D Clock T & F*

Advance Pay Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only)

Reason for Termination

LDA/EFF Date LD Accrued Yellow Rbn* Out St Chg

Remarks Modify Remarks List

Select a reason for termination from the drop down.
(Note there is no field under the Reason for Termination.)



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Mitigating Circumstances, cont.

Edit Termination Save Cancel

Facility: 22222222 Trng Type: NCD Prgrm: BSN Prior Credit: 2

SPRING 201 01/15/2015 05/15/2015 6 6 1200.00

Term Name Begin Date* End Date* Res Dist* R/D Clock T & F*

Advance Pay Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only)

LDA/EFF Date LD Accrued Yellow Rbn* Out St Chg

Remarks

- End Of Term Or Course
- Graduation
- Unsatisfactory Attendance, Conduct, Or Progress
- Withdraw Before Beginning Of Term
- Withdrawal After Drop Period - Non-Punitive Grades Assigned
- Withdrawal After Drop Period - Punitive Grades Assigned
- Withdrawal During Drop Period
- Withdrawal Or Interruption (Noncollege Degree Programs Not On A Term Basis)
- Preregistered But Never Attended
- Other (Explain In Remarks)

Select “Withdrawal After Drop Period – Non-Punitive Grades Assigned.”



Mitigating Circumstances, cont.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Termination' form with the following details:

- Facility: 22222222
- Trng Type: NCD
- Prgm: BSN
- Prior Credit: 2
- Term Name: SPRING 201
- Begin Date*: 01/15/2015
- End Date*: 05/15/2015
- Res: 0
- Dist*: 0
- R/D: 0
- Clock: 1200.00
- T & F*: 0
- Reason for Termination: Withdrawal After Drop Period - Non-Punitive Grades Assigned
- Mitigating Circumstances: (This field is highlighted with a red box)
- Remarks: (Empty text area)

Mitigating Circumstances field is enabled.

Mitigating Circumstances, cont.

Edit Termination										Save	Cancel
Facility: 22222222	Trng Type: NCD	Prgm: BSN	Prior Credit: 2								
SPRING 201	01/15/2015	05/15/2015	0	0				1200.00			
Term Name	Begin Date*	End Date*	Res	Dist*	R/D	Clock	T & F*				
<input type="checkbox"/> Advance Pay	<input type="checkbox"/> Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only)										
			0.00	0.00						Withdrawal After Drop Period - Non-Punitive Grades Assigned	
LDA/EFF Date LD Accrued			Yellow Rbn*	Out St Chg	Reason for Termination						
Remarks			An Illness Or Death In The Student's Immediate Family. An Illness Or Injury Afflicting The Student During The Enrollment Period. An Unavoidable Change In The Student's Conditions Of Employment. An Unavoidable Geographical Transfer Resulting From The Student's Employment. Unanticipated Difficulties With Child Care Arrangements During The Enrollment Period Immediate Family Or Financial Obligations Beyond The Control Of The Claimant. Unanticipated Active Military Service, Including Active Duty For Training. Discontinuance Of The Course By The School.								

Select the appropriate reason. The selected reason will insert into “Remarks;” if none apply, leave it blank.



Yellow Ribbon Update



Yellow Ribbon & Tuition Rate Max Update

- 2015 – 2016 Yellow Ribbon updates will be posted on the GI Bill website in June
 - If you have not yet sent in your updates, please submit them *as soon as possible*
 - If you notice any errors/discrepancies, please send an email to yellow.ribbon@va.gov
- The 2015-2016 National Maximum Rates for Post-9/11 GI Bill will be updated on the website in June



GI Bill Outcome Measures



GI Bill Outcome Measures

- The following outcome measures are being collected:
 - Retention Rate
 - Persistence Rate
 - Transfer Rate
 - Graduation Rate
 - Certificate Completion Rate



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GI Bill Outcome Measures (cont.)

- VA does not have the statutory authority to require reporting
 - We ***strongly encourage participation*** to ensure that the most accurate and complete information is available to our Veterans
- School Certifying Officials should report program completion/graduation information data through the VA-ONCE system
 - Further information can be found in the SCO handbook, VA-ONCE user guide, or by contacting your Education Liaison Representative
- Outcome Measures will be posted on the GI Bill website in the next 1-2 months

GI Bill Outcome Measures (cont.)

- The American Council on Education (ACE) will be holding a webinar for member schools on June 25th
- Robert M. Worley II, Director of VA Education Service, will be presenting
- Webinar will include a presentation and question and answer session
 - Registration can be found at: <http://www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/Reporting-Post-Secondary-Veteran-Outcome-Measures-with-Institutions-of-Higher-Learning.aspx>
 - To find the registration link:
 - Google - ACE Veteran Outcome Measures

Question & Answers



Questions and Answers

Q1: Can we please change the method of payment to our Vets by us certifying per credit and not by attendance (days)? All Colleges and Universities charge by credit, no matter the length of the class. Students are paid Title IV funds by credits in an academic year. Can't we do the same for our Vets? It would simplify the process.

A1: We cannot do it this way because benefits, such as the monthly housing allowance, are paid based on rate of pursuit on a day-to-day basis such that the amount of entitlement is prorated for days where the rate of pursuit might change between one day and the next. Therefore it is essential that we know the exact days that a student is in attendance and the exact amount of credit hours being taken on each of those days which is why we have specific rules (which differ from Dept of Ed rules) concerning beginning dates, end dates, discontinuance dates, etc.).



Questions and Answers

Q2: As SCO, I would love additional tips and tricks on best methods to post enrollments in VAonce-- such as distinguishing using clock hours per week rather than complete term hours.... as far as managing enrollments for students who just don't show up to all class sessions and best practices for this-- even knowing that the expectations are established with the student in advance of class.

A2: If a program is measured in clock hours, benefits are paid based on clock hours of attendance per week. The beginning date, ending date, and number of clock hours a student is scheduled to attend each week must be reported. If clock hours per week vary and the benefit amount is affected, the variance must be reported for calendar weeks, Sunday through Saturday, between the beginning and ending dates.

Any suggestions out there for best practices?

Questions Asked During Webinar

Questions Asked During Webinar

Q1: Why should VA have access to non-VA students' records if Section 702 does not pertain to non-VA students?

A1: No difference from compliance surveys, records are reviewed for comparison.

Q2: If a Chap 33 dependent student's parent retired in May 2012, and the student has been continuously enrolled from 2012 through this upcoming school year, does that count towards the in-state tuition?

A2: Yes. If the student has been continuously enrolled, even if they pass the three year mark from discharge, they would be considered a “covered individual” for the purposes of this law.



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Questions Asked During Webinar

Q3: Will the VA once updates for 702 be complete prior to July 1 for schools that must begin to comply with it on that date? if not, will that delay any payments to students or schools until it is?

A3: The VA-ONCE updates have been postponed temporarily. However, due to the waiver, even once the installation is complete schools will continue to be able to submit enrollments that begin prior to 1/1/2016. No payments will be delayed, unless a school is not in compliance by 1/1/2016

Q4: Section 702 does not apply to private/non-profit institutions who charge the same to tuition to all students, correct?

A4: Correct, section 702 only applies to public institutions.



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Questions Asked During Webinar

Q5: Which trumps, the state law or federal law in regards to residency and intent? Our residency person read 702 as that the student does not have to meet the state requirements to be a "covered individual."?

A5: A school can impose other requirements in order for a covered individual to be charged the resident tuition and fees as long as they do not require physical presence in the state for any period of time. For example, a school can require a student to demonstrate intent to become a resident by requiring voter registration or obtaining a state I.D. or driver's license. However, a school cannot require a student to live in the state for a specified number of days to qualify for the resident rate.

Questions Asked During Webinar

Q6: are we looking at the date of discharge or the year of discharge? For example, if a veteran discharged in March 2012, but enrolls at the institution in August 2015 is he/she outside of the 3 year window?

A6: For the purposes of this law, you are looking at the complete date of discharge (MM/DD/YY) – not just the year of discharge. In the situation of a Veteran being discharged in March 2012, if they were to enroll at the institution in August 2015 they would technically no longer be covered by this law.

Q7: Continuous enrollment, does it matter if they are full time, part time. What if they take 1 class?

A7: They are still enrolled if taking one class.

Questions Asked During Webinar

Q8: Our school has an application for veterans/dependents to apply for in-state tuition. It's pretty simple and just asks service branch, date of discharge, a copy of a dd-214, and specify if they are moving to Colorado, or intending to make CO their home state. If a student chooses not to apply for in-state tuition, will we be penalized for not granting them in-state tuition?

A8: If the student is eligible for in-state tuition and your school/state is compliant (not covered by waiver), you must charge the in-state rate.

Questions Asked During Webinar

Q9: How far back are the outcome measures pulled from VA-Once?

A9: We will publish data for the Post-9/11 GI Bill only. Institutions should report graduation/completion data from August 1, 2009 - present for all recipients of Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Q10: What do we do if a student graduates/completes his/her program one or two semesters AFTER the last time they used their benefits. Should we still Terminate the last semester reported in VA-ONCE?

A10: No, Graduation must only be reported for the term the student met the requirements for the degree or certificate program. Reporting this incorrectly would create incorrect data for 150% and 200% rate calculations.



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Questions Asked During Webinar

Q11: Are we required to report graduation rates for Ch.33 and other VA programs? Is this optional?

A11: Institutions are strongly encouraged to report on an individual basis, through VA-ONCE, actual graduation/program completion for all users of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This information should be reported from August 1, 2009 (inception program) through present. Schools should only report information on students who are receiving education benefits. If a student exhaust their benefits, the school should not report any further information.

Q12: Are CH33 TEBs included in our graduation rates?

A12: All family members are removed from the published data.



Questions Asked During Webinar

Q13: How frequently will the graduation outcome measures be updated after the initial posting?

A13: Currently, the data will be updated on an annual basis.

Q14: Regarding Mitigating Circumstances - Is this for every drop a student makes or is it only for a certain number of credit hours?

A14: Mitigating circumstances come into play for any number of credit hours after drop/add and/or if a non-punitive grade will be assigned. The exception: If six credit hour exclusion can be applied.

Questions Asked During Webinar

Q15: If you drop in the middle of the term and have mitigating circumstances, what is the penalty to the student?

A15: If the mitigating circumstances are accepted, benefits may be paid until the drop. If not, benefits for those hours are retroactively stopped beginning of the term.

Q16: Yellow Ribbon: If a school's information stays the same, are schools still required to apply for Yellow Ribbon for the following year?

A16: No. The school only needs to send in a form if there are changes to the agreement – for example, number of students allowed to use Yellow Ribbon or the amount of money agreed upon per student.



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Questions Asked During Webinar

Q17: Where does the Comparison Tool pull its data from? VA Once?

A17: Please review the [About this Tool page](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison_tool/about_this_tool.asp) (http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison_tool/about_this_tool.asp) to learn where the data used in the GI Bill Comparison Tool come from.

