

3rd Quarter, School Certifying Official Webinar

June 18, 2019





Executive Director, Education Service

- Charmain Bogue
- Appointed as Executive Director, VBA Education Service May 2019
- Hired by VA in 2007, VR&E Counselor at the NYC Regional Office
- Held numerous Leadership positions within VA, and has been with Education Service since 2013
- BS Psychology, Morgan State University
- MS Rehabilitation Counseling, Hofstra University
- Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt





News & Resources

- **4**th Quarter SCO Webinar September 2019 (Actual Date TBD)
- GI Bill Colmery Act
- Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC)
- SCO Training and Covered Institutions
- School Certifying Official Handbook
- □ VA-ONCE Quick Reference User Guide
- □ <u>VA-ONCE Tips</u>
- GI Bill Comparison Tool
- Education and Training SCO FAQs
- Conferences and Events
- Ask A Question (Known as Right Now Web)
- WEAMS Public
- □ <u>VA Facebook Page</u>
- Education Liaison Representative List By State

We truly hope you acquired some useful info during today's Webinar, and look forward to seeing you next Quarter.

Thank you for all you do for our Nation's finest!

Semper Fidelis



Host & Moderator

- Brendan Fitzgerald
- Management & Program Analyst; National Training Team Compliance
- Hired by the Muskogee Regional Processing Office (RPO) December 2008 Veterans Claims Examiner (VCE)
- Moved to VA Central Office (VACO) Education Service January 2010
- United States Marine Corps (Retired) 1985-2006
- Recipient of Chapters 30, 1607, 33 & 35









Thomas Alphonso

- Assistant Director for Policy & Procedures- VACO
- Hire by VA September 2009 Compensation Service and Regulations Team
- 9.75 Years with Veterans Affairs
- BS United States Military Academy, Juris Doctorate Degree Boston College Law School
- Former US Army Officer, 6 Years





Attendance and Participation While Awaiting VA Tuition and Fee Payments

Putting Veterans First

Tom Alphonso Assistant Director, Policy & Implementation Market Assistant Director, Policy & Implementation



- Effective date: August 1, 2019
- What is it:
 - Prevents a school from penalizing the student while waiting for VA to make tuition and fee payments
 - Cannot deny a student access to classrooms, libraries or other institutional facilities
 - Cannot make the student borrow money to cover the cost while waiting for payment
 - Cannot charge a student a late fee or penalty
- Who is covered: Any student using Ch31 or Ch33



- What is the covered period:
 - Protection begins when the student provides the school with a COE or a Statement of Benefit
 - The School can require the student to submit the COE or Statement of Benefits no later than the first day of the program
 - Can also require the student submit a written request to use benefits or other necessary certifications
 - Ends when VA makes payment or 90 days after the date school certifies tuition and fees



- Implementation:
 - SAAs have contacted schools and provided a standardized catalog addendum
 - Addendum is an attestation that the school's policy is in accordance with the law
 - Addendums must be complete and returned to the SAA in accordance with SAA guidance
- Waivers information on waivers will be provided by VA at a later date





Please submit Questions Regarding Section 103 PL 115 in the Q&A Pod





- Policy Analyst, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E)
- Hired by VA in 2007 as a VR&E Counselor, NYC Regional Office
- Hired by VA Central Office (VACO) in July 2016
- Master's Degree in Public Administration







Section 103, P.L. 115-407: Impact on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)

Bryan Callahan Policy Analyst, VR&E Service





- Section 103 of PL 115-407 applies to Chapter 31,(VR&E) and Chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill participants in the same manner.
- Authorization Differences:

Chapter 31 VR&E	Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill
 VA Form (VAF) 28-1905, Authorization and Certification of Entrance or Reentrance into Rehabilitation and Certification of Status VA-ONCE is used to certify enrollment only Facilities must submit a separate Tuition and Fees (T&F) invoice to VR&E for payment Note: Authorization format will be changing with e-invoicing 	 Certificate of Eligibility (COE) Certifying T&F in VA-ONCE is applicable A separate T&F invoice is not needed for payment



Additional Actions Facilities MAY Require of Servicemembers or Veterans (SM/V):

Additional Actions and the Potential Impact on VR&E:

- Provide a VAF 28-1905 no later than the first day of a course
 - This is not always possible for VR&E given the unique needs of SM/Vs with Service-Connected Disabilities
 - Application and evaluation procedures
 - Feasibility issues
 - Facilities that accept a VAF 28-1905 <u>after</u> the first day of a course(s) will increase the number of SM/Vs who can utilize VR&E benefits
- Submit a written request to utilize VA benefits
- Provide any information necessary for enrollment certification



Conclusion

Please submit Questions on Section 103 PL 115-407 VR&E within the Q&A Pod





Donna Robinson

- Management & Program Analyst VR&E National Program Implementation Team- VACO
- Hired by VA in March 2007 as a VR&E Counselor in National Capital Region Benefits Office – Former DC Regional Office (RO)
- Masters Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment George Washington University
- Daughter of Career US Air Force Officer







VR&E e-Authorization & e-Invoicing

Donna Robinson Program Analyst VR&E Service







Current Authorization and Invoice Processes

- VA Counselors provide paper 28-1905s to SCOs authorizing services. SCOs use these authorizations to certify VR&E Veterans' enrollment in VA-ONCE
- School business offices invoice the 56 VR&E Divisions for services provided to Veterans in the VR&E program in a number of ways including:
 - Via U.S. Postal Service annotating multiple students charges on one invoice
 - Emailed directly to the assigned VA Counselor
 - Emailed to a centralized email box
 - Tuition, Fees, and Bookstore charges are routinely submitted separately



E-invoicing for VR&E



As part of VR&E's modernization initiative, all authorization and invoicing will be transitioned to an electronic system to ensure standardized processing, accountability, and timely review and payments, as well as, to comply with an OMB mandate for electronic invoicing

Invoice Payment Processing System (IPPS)

- VA Counselor will authorize VR&E services that will automatically generate an email notification to the SCO
- VA will use the IPPS application to manage, review and process invoices

Tungsten Network

- SCOs will access submitted authorizations electronically through the Tungsten Network
- Bookstores and Business Offices shall input invoices directly online within the IPPS system





- **Future E-authorization and E-invoice Processes**
 - SCOs will receive an email indicating that they have a new authorization for a VR&E Veteran
 - SCOs will log into Tungsten to view, download, print all pending authorizations
 - SCOs will continue to certify enrollment in VA-ONCE
 - Schools will invoice VA for services provided in Tungsten
 - Each invoice will be for only one student Veteran and must be aligned with an authorization





Benefits of E-invoicing

- Instant Invoice Validation → Get notified of errors before you send your invoice, resulting in fewer invoice exceptions
- Expedited Payments Processing → No more manual checking means we can process your payments quickly
- Real-Time Status → Track the status of your invoice to see when you will get paid, and if there's an exception find out why and who to contact
- No installation of hardware or software required
- No Cost to Vendor → Tungsten Network electronic invoicing service includes data mapping, transaction fees, and invoice status post-delivery free of charge to VAFSC vendors



Next Steps

Soon, VA will be sending out letters to introduce the Tungsten Network, provide instructions for registering, and dates and times for upcoming training sessions.



These emailed letters will be sent to the schools business office. We ask for your assistance by:

- Advising the appropriate personnel at your school or facility to expect the communication from VA
- Communicating the importance of this initiative
- Collaborating with your colleagues to ensure you are included in the registration for your institution (Both SCOs and Business Office personnel will require access)



Implementation



- VA will conduct a pilot towards the end of Summer, 2019. The pilot will consist of <u>four</u> <u>schools</u> which have later start dates for Fall, 2019
- National implementation will be at the end of calendar year 2019, in time for Spring 2020

IMPORTANT:

• E-invoicing for VR&E will not change the current process that SCOs use for communicating tuition and fees charged for Chapter 33 in VA-ONCE





Please submit VR&E Questions within the Q&A Pod





Work Study Program

Kevin White Supervisory Veterans Claims Examiner Muskogee, Oklahoma





Topics of Discussion

- Highlights and Changes
- Work-Study Program
- Contract Extensions
- Contract Agreements
- Work-Study Payments
- Common Mistakes
- Additional Information



Highlights and Changes

"Ask a Question" Program

- All Site-Supervisors are requested to begin using the GI Bill Ask a Question website
- This is a secure system that provides an instant response and a reference number for tracking purposes
- Site-Supervisors may call the VA Work-Study Department if needing assistance setting up an account and/or navigating the program. The Work Study Site Supervisor number is:

1-855-225-1159, Option #2

- Please do not give this number to students.
- Work Study students can call 1-888-442-4551 to speak with an agent concerning their Work Study and/or Educational Benefits



Government vs State Wages

- According to the United States Department of Labor:
 - "Federal minimum wage laws supersedes state minimum wage laws where the federal minimum wage is greater than the state minimum wage. In those states where the state minimum wage is greater than the federal minimum wage, the state minimum wage prevails"
- VA Work-Study rates are based on the Federal or State minimum wage, whichever is greater, for the work-site's location
- Once a new rate has taken effect by the Department of Labor, any hours worked on or after the effective date will be paid at the higher rate



Program Eligibility

- To qualify students must be receiving a VA Education Benefit and training at a level of ³/₄ time or greater
- VA Education Benefits consist of:
 - Chapter 30: The Montgomery GI Bill
 - Chapter 31: Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
 - Chapter 32: The Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)
 - Chapter 33: The Post-9/11 GI Bill/ Fry Scholarship
 - Chapter 35: Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA)
 - Chapter 1606: The Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve



Work Study Program

Applications

- Students should complete the Application for Work-Study Allowance, WA 22-8691
- Site Supervisors must review the student's name, address, SSN and field 11 for accuracy
- If student wishes to receive Advance Payment, Box 9 must be completed
- Site Supervisors must ensure the application is signed by the student in Box 15
- Applications may be submitted 30-45 days prior to the beginning of the term through the GI Bill "Ask a Question" site



Work Study Program

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Applications Continued

Approved Application hours

Approved contract hours are based on the student's qualifying enrollment at approximately 25 hours per week, prorated for partial weeks, with consideration given as to when the request was received

Denied Application

If an application is denied, the Site Supervisor will be notified through the Ask a Question program with the denial reason. Keep in mind that if your student is denied because VA has simply not yet received the enrollment certification, the Site Supervisor should resubmit the application once the student has verified with the school the enrollment has been sent. **VA Work-Study does not monitor denied applications**



Important Information

The student cannot begin working before the contract is approved or the start date of the contract, whichever is later. RESULT:

Hours worked <u>prior</u> to the approval date or the beginning date of the contract

CANNOT BE PAID!



Contract Extensions

- •Extend the students current contract to provide new allotted hours and a new timeframe in which the student may work
- •Students must be using VA Education Benefits and enrolled 3/4 time or more
- •Extensions may begin up to 30 days before the next term starts, or right after the current contract, which ever is less
- •Contract Extension requests should be submitted via Ask a Question or by phone, no less than 15 business days before the end of current contract to be processed in a timely manner



Zero-Hour Extension

- Zero-Hour Extension is used at the end of a contract
- This extension allows additional time to work remaining hours
- Not to exceed 30 days after END DATE of previous contract, the student is not allowed to exceed allotted hours of previous contract
- Zero-Hour Extension requests may be made through the Ask a Question program, or by phone, 15 business days before the END DATE of current contract

Please do not allow students to work after their contract end date, until the zero hour extension is approved by VA



What is a contract agreement?

An agreement between the student and VA informing them of student and VA responsibilities during the allotted contract period

- Site Supervisor should obtain the Work-Study's signature on the agreement VA Form 22-8692 and return it to the VA Work-Study Department
- Agreements may be sent in with or before the first timecard, if no Advance Payment is requested
- If Advance Payment is requested the Agreement must be sent in as soon as possible
- Advance payment and any timecards received before the signed agreement cannot be processed until the VA Form 22-8692 has been returned
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Work Study Program

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Work Study Program

Time Records/Time Cards

- Time Records may be submitted every 50 hours or every two weeks, whichever comes first
- Hours to be paid should be kept cumulative and on the correct time record for the entire contract period
- The time record must be initialed by both the student and the Site Supervisor
- Time records should be completely filled out before starting a new time record



Time Records/Time Cards Continued

- Zero-Hour Time Records must continue with cumulative hours from previous time records
- Once time record has been processed, the student can usually expect a deposit within about 3-5 business days (Paper checks 7-10 business days)
- If claimant has not received payment after 15 days, the Site Supervisor may contact the VA Work-Study Department for a status of payment



Work-Study is a Benefit

Work-Study payments are a supplement to VA Educational Benefits. This is a benefit, and therefore, <u>nontaxable</u>

Payments received under this benefit program are not considered as income and should not be mentioned as such

We do not send any tax documents or W-2s.



Common Mistakes

Allowing student to work before approved.

NO Student should be allowed to work before the Site Supervisor has received the student's Work-Study Contract. Any hours worked prior to being approved will not be paid

Non-Cumulative Hours.

Students must keep a running total of hours work, starting from 0, to ensure that they do not work over the hours allotted. Hours worked over the approved amount will not be paid

Multiple Student's in 1 Ask A Question Site submission

Site Supervisors should only submit 1 student's documents/request per entry. Having multiple student's information in 1 submission is a potential privacy violation and cannot be captured into the student's file



Work Study Program

Common Mistakes Continued

Providing VA Work-Study Phone Number to Students.

The Work-Study line is for the <u>exclusive use of Site Supervisors</u> <u>ONLY</u>. Please do <u>**not**</u> share this number with your students

If the student wishes to call in they may contact the VA Education Hotline, at 1-888-442-4551 to have a representative document their request and forward it to the VA Work-Study Department



Additional Information

Site Supervisor Changes

Site Supervisors need to inform the VA Work-Study Department when a new Site Supervisor has been added or when a Site Supervisors has left the facility. Leaving Site Supervisors should fill out the Site Supervisor Change Form with the updates and submit to the VA Work-Study Department through the GI Bill "Ask a Question" program

*There is a copy of the Site Supervisor Change Form in the back of the Site Supervisor Handbook

VA Debt Relief via Work-Study Program

Work-Study may be used to repay a VA Education debt. Students may potentially use the work-study program to satisfy an Education debt. The claimant must have **no other means** to repay the debt, such as military retirement, VA disability or VA education benefit. You may contact the VA Work-Study Department if you have more questions





Please post questions on Work Study within the Q&A Pod





Shay Norton

- Management & Program Analyst, Business Process Development
- Hired by VA March 1995, Veterans Claims Examiner, Atlanta RPO
- BA in Political Science, Georgia State University







VA-ONCE Amendments vs. Adjustments

Knowing the Difference

Shay Norton Business Process Development





Topics of Discussion

At the end of this lesson, you will be familiar with:

- Difference between Amendments and Adjustments
- Know <u>when</u> and <u>how</u> to do an Amendment
- Know when and how to do an Adjustment



- <u>Amend</u> Amending the enrollment certificate allows you to edit the beginning date, ending date, or tuition and fees. For Non- Chapter 33 cases you can also add an "advance pay" or "accelerated pay" request. This feature should be used if you are correcting something, *other than hours*, on the original enrollment certification
- <u>Adjust</u> Adjusting the enrollment certificate allows you to report a decrease or increase in hours for the term



Amendment

Select the term to amend by clicking on the arrow to expand the virtual record. Highlight the term

Click the Cert menu at the top of the page

Click "Amend". The bottom ½ of the screen opens to Edit Amendment





Amendment

You can now edit all fields *except* the number of hours. A remark indicating that this is an Amended enrollment is automatically inserted. Make edits and review for accuracy.

Click "Save".

Click "Complete" NOTE: You can skip this step and click directly on Submit. Complete can be used if you are not submitting right away and would like to review and submit later.



Click "Submit".



Select the term to adjust by clicking on the arrow to expand the virtual record. Highlight the term

Click the Cert menu at the top of the page

Click "Adjust". The bottom ½ of the screen opens to Edit Adjustment

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You can now make adjustments to the following fields: Res, Dist, R/D, Clock, Tuition, Fees, Training Time or Full Time Equivalent (graduate training only), Yellow Ribbon (Ch 33)

Select the Reason for Adjustment from the drop down

Enter the LDA/EFF Date (Last Date of Attendance/Effect ive Date of the change)

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Based upon the Reason for Adjustment, a Mitigating Circumstances field may appear. If the student has provided you with one of the reasons in the list as a reason for adjustment, please select it from the drop down.

If the student has provided mitigating circumstances not on the list, or has not provided a reason for adjustment, leave the Mitigating Circumstance drop down blank.

You may enter a reason not provided in the drop down list as a free text remark.

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LDA/EFF Date	Mitigating Circumstances	n The Student's Immedi	ate Family.
Remarks			Modify Remarks List



Make edits and review for accuracy

Click "Save"

Click "Complete" NOTE: You can skip this step and click directly on Submit. Complete can be used if you are not submitting right away and would like to review and submit later

Click "Submit"





Tips for Completing Ch 33 Adjustments

You are required to adjust the tuition and fees if adjusting the credits. The adjusted tuition and fees amount will be based on the cost of the new credit load

If your adjustment includes the Yellow Ribbon amount, you must calculate the new Yellow Ribbon amount based on the adjusted credits

When filling in RES, DIST, R/D, CLOCK, the following actions must be completed in order to avoid an error message:

RES and DIST must have a number placed in each field. If no RES or DIST credits remain, place a '0' in that field. Leave the R/D and CLOCK blank if no credits remain

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LDA/EFF Date Remarks					Modify Remarks	List





- What action would I take if I entered the incorrect end date?
 *Answer within Chat Pod
- What action would I take if the student added a class?
 *Answer within Chat Pod





Please submit all VA-ONCE questions within the Q&A Pod



VA-ONCE Quick Reference User Guide: <u>https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_training_resources.asp</u>



Sarah Daughton

- Education Liaison Representative (ELR) for Delaware & District of Columbia since 2016
- Hired by VA September 2009 as a Veterans Claims Examiner (VCE) at the Buffalo Regional Processing Office (RPO)
- Promoted to Senior Veterans Claims Examiner in 2011
- Founding Member Quality Review Team in 2014
- BS in Architecture from University of Buffalo
- Masters Degree in Urban Planning from University of Buffalo





Certifying Chapter 33 Graduate Training For School Certifying Officials (SCOs)

Sarah Daughton Education Liaison Representative





Topics of Discussion

- 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



Background

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, as published in their catalog, to ensure proper entitlement is charged and appropriate payments are released for any rate of pursuit. In some scenarios, equivalent credit hours need to be calculated and used in determining Rate of Pursuit. In other scenarios, 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 alter the expected rate of pursuit for students enrolled less than full-time with individually defined full time modifiers, and under values training for terms longer than standard length

Until LTS is reprogrammed, School Certifying Officials (SCO) may have to add the VBA Standard Remarks; "*Graduate non-standard term*" in the remarks depending on the scenario



A standard length <u>Semester</u> is 15 to 19 weeks

A standard length <u>Quarter</u> is 10 to 13 weeks

SCOs must enter the number of published 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 <u>not</u> enter remarks in the remarks section for standard terms



A non-standard length <u>Semester</u> is shorter or longer than 15 to 19 weeks

A non-standard length <u>Quarter</u> is shorter or longer than 10 to 13 weeks.

SCOs must enter the minimum number of hours required for full time, as published in their catalog, in the TT/FT box.

Additionally, he/she may enter the following VBA Standard Remark in VA-ONCE "Graduate Non-Standard Term", to Off Ramp the enrollment for manual processing

- For any non-standard term that is longer (regardless of whether there is an individually defined FT modifier)
- For short non-standard terms, that have an individually defined FT modifier



When a school is approved for VA benefits as Semester/Quarter and has a calendar published in their catalog that is by VA definition a Non-Standard Term and has a full time modifier associated. This is considered an individually defined modifier

Example – A school is approved as a Semester school and the catalog shows a calendar with 5 terms (all less than 15-19 weeks each) of time with 6 credits being considered full time. This facility would certify 6 in FT/TT box and add the remark



- Enter "Graduate Non-Standard Term" in the remarks field for
 - Any non-standard term that is <u>longer</u> (regardless of whether there is an individually defined FT modifier)
 - For short non-standard terms, that have an individually defined FT modifier
- **Do Not** use "Graduate Non-Standard Term" in the remarks field for
 - Standard length terms
 - For short Non-Standard terms, that DO NOT have an individually defined FT modifier







<u>Step 1:</u>

Review the student's Bio data screen to confirm:

- The benefit type is Chapter 33—
- The training type is an IHL GRAD—

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<u>Step 2:</u>

Open the "Certs" screen by clicking on the Certs tab

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<u>Step 3:</u>

Activate the edit enrollment field by clicking on "Certs" at the top of the screen Click on "New" from the drop down menu

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<u>Step 4:</u>

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 fulltime for a normal semester or quarter in the TT/FT field

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

<u>Remember</u>: Do <u>not</u> enter remarks for standard terms or standard quarters

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Step 1:

Review the student's Bio data screen to confirm:

- The benefit type is Chapter 33
- The training type is an IHL GRAD

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<u>Step 2:</u>

Click on the "Certs" tab to open the Certs screen

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<u>Step 3:</u>

Activate the edit enrollment field by clicking on "Certs"at the top of the screen Click on "New" from the drop down menu

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<u>Step 4:</u>

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 fulltime for a normal semester or quarter in the TT/FT field

<u>Note</u>: The number of credit hours can vary by programs or enrollment period as published

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<u>Step 5:</u>

Enter "Graduate Non-Standard Term" in the remarks field for

- Any non-standard term that is longer (regardless of whether there is an individually defined FT modifier)

- For short nonstandard terms, that have an individually defined FT modifier, by:

 Clicking on the Modify Remarks List tab

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<u>Step 6:</u>

Click the "VBA Standard Remarks" drop down arrow

Add	Remove	
Remark Code	Remark	System Generated
	No Records Found	
	New Remark	Save Cancel
'BA St	New Remark andard Remarks	Save Cancel
'BA St	New Remark andard Remarks	Save Cancel
/BA St	New Remark andard Remarks Standard Remarks	Save Cancel
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<u>Step 7:</u>

 Select "Graduate Non-Standard" Term from the list of VBA Standard Remarks

https://10.205.5.30/?TERM_ID=37495038&TERM_LINE_ID=93549997&RECORD_TYPE_CD=VIRT	UAL - VA-OI
Acceleration Certification On File.	Description
Application Sent Via US Mail.	Remarks
Student Applied Using VONAPP.	
Student's Signed Request For Change Of Program/Place Of Training Is On File.	
Reporting Credit For Prior Training.	
Course(S) Being Pursued At Branch Location:	
Practical Training Course(S) Taken.	
Remedial Training Course(S) Taken.	
Concurrent Enrollment At Secondary School:	
Student Called To Active Duty.	
Reporting Ch 33 Enrollment Or Change Prior To 8-1-11. Separate Tuition And Fees Are:	
Student Eligible For Restored Rates. Separate Tuition And Fees Are:	
Correcting Tuition And Fees Only	
Correcting Previously Terminated Enrollment. Notice Of Change In Student Status(S) To Follow.	
Compliance Survey Referral. Upon Completion Of Award Send Overpayment Or Underpayment Amounts To:	
HURRICANE AFFECTED STUDENT	
Graduate Non-Standard Term	
Other	
School Standard Remarks	
\checkmark	
Other Remarks- 125 characters are allowed	
125	



<u>Step 8:</u>

After selecting the VBA Standard remark, Click "Save" and "Done"

Add	Remove Remarks								
Remark Code		Remark	System Generated						
028	Graduate non-standard terr	<u>n</u>							
		New Remark	Save Cancel						
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School	Standard Remarks								
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			105						



"Graduate Non-Standard Term" will populate in the remarks section

VA will determine the Rate of Pursuit (ROP) by dividing the number of credits taken by the number of credits your school considers full-time for the program

eshah	Cert Complete Name: CH1607MA SSN: 329-88-9000 File/Payee: 329-88	e Submit N, RICH -9000/00		Certs Progra Chapte Trainin	m: BA ARTS er: 33 ig Type: Graduate
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- W	Facility: 22222222	E Trna Type: IHL GRA	dit Enrollment	Save C	ancel
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	Remarks			Modify Remarks Li	ist
	Graduate Non-Stan	dard Term			



Examples of Certifying Chapter 33 Standard and Non-standard Terms





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 \div 9 = .66)

The student's rate of pursuit is 70%

Remember: Do not add remarks for Standard Terms





Example 2 – Non-Standard Term

Student takes 3 quarter hours in a nonstandard term. Your school has an individually defined Full-time modifier of 3 for this non standard term, as published in the school catalog

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 $(3 \div 3 = 1)$

Cert Complete Submit Print < Student Certs Program: BA ARTS Name: CH1607MAN, RICH SSN: 329-88-9000 Chapter: 33 File/Pavee: 329-88-9000/00 Training Type: Graduate VA Data History Bio Certs V All V All V Filter Facility Code Begin Date Range erm Name Status End Date Range Facility Term Name Info Begin Date End Date Res Dist R/D Clock Cert ID Date Code 4X LONG TERM 3996649 5R SUM 11A 07/01/2011 09/01/201 12206339 Edit Enrollment Save Cancel Prgrm: BA ARTS Trng Type: IHL_GRAD **Prior Credit:** 2 Facility: 22222222 Reports SUMMER 19 05/13/2019 07/15/2019 3 0 600.00 3 Term Name Begin Date* End Date* Res Dist* R/D Clock T & F* TT/FT* (i) Advance Pav Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only) Logout LDA/EFF Date Remarks Modify Remarks List Graduate Non-Standard Term

The student's rate of pursuit is 100%



Example 3 – Non-Standard Term

Student takes 3 quarter hours in a nonstandard term. Your school considers 6 quarter hours to be full-time for a standard quarter. There is not an individually defined Full-time modifier published in the catalog for non standard terms

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

VA will calculate equivalent credit hours for the Non-Standard term. The equivalent credit hours will be divided by credits considered full-time to determine the rate of pursuit $(7.2 \div 6 = 1.2)$

Certs Name: CH1607MAN, RICH Program: BA ARTS 2 SSN: 329-88-9000 Chapter: 33 File/Payee: 329-88-9000/00 Training Type: Graduate VA Data Loa History Bio Certs VAI V All to Filter Status Facility Code End Date Range erm Name Begin Date Range 2 Term Name Info Begin Date End Date Res Dist R/D Clock Cert ID Code ► 4X SUMMER 19 43738568 Admin **E** 2 SUMMER 19 05/13/2019 07/15/2019 AX LONG TERM 03/26/2012 05/12/2013 13996649 = 5R SUM 11A 07/01/2011 09/01/2011 12206339 Reports Edit Enrollment Save Cance Facility: 22222222 Trng Type: IHL_GRAD Prorm: BA ARTS **Prior Credit:** ▶ 7/21/2019 8/21/2019 3 SUM 19B 600.00 6 R/D Term Name Begin Date* End Date* Res Dist* Clock T&F : C. Advance Pay Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only) Logout Remarks Modify Remarks List Graduate Non-Standard Term

The student's rate of pursuit is over 100%

<u>Remember:</u> Do **not** add remarks for short non standard terms that <u>do not</u> have an individually defined FT modifier



Example 4 – Non-Standard Term

Student takes 3 Quarter hours in a Non-Standard Term. As published in your catalog, your school considers 6 quarter hours to be full-time for this Non Standard Quarter

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 the number of credits taken by credits considered full-time to determine the rate of pursuit $(3 \div 6 = .50)$ 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 (MHA)

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Conclusion

Please submit Questions on Certifying Graduate Credit in the Q&A Pod





Ricardo Da Silva

- Operations Lead, Education Service, Colmery Implementation Team
- Hired by VA January 2011 as a Management Analyst
- BA Political Science, American University
- BA Law & Society, American University
- MS Political Science, Suffolk University, College of Arts & Science Boston, MA
- MS Public Administration, Suffolk University, Sawyer Business School, Boston, MA





Sections 107, 501 & STEM Updates

Ricardo Da Silva Supervisory Management Analyst





Several key milestones have been reached as VA fulfills its commitment to fixing the system and making correct payments to students. Go-Live for system updates is set for December 1, 2019

			••••••	•••••
RESET ANNOUNCED	PROGRAM INTEGRATION OFFICE ESTABLISHED	INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL EVALUATION	ACCENTURE BROUGHT ON	BEGAN IMPLEMENTATION
 SecVA Wilkie announced an implementation reset for Sections 107 and 501 	• Established a program integration office to lead integration of all business, technical and functional activities of the Colmery Act to ensure the solution meets stakeholder expectations and is deployed on time	 Identify and analyzed programmatic and technical gaps Established Governance Model and supporting processes and reporting structure 	 Accenture brought on as systems integrator, coordinating planning, development and integrated testing of all systems associated with implementation 	 Conducted analysis of current state and established requirements Started Agile sprints on April 1 to begin to implement the fix within the system



Section 107: Calculation of the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program is based on the location of the campus where the majority of classes are attended



Previously submitted or processed MHA claims impacted by 107 including payments will be readjudicated The change will be effective from the date of implementation and will be **retroactive to August 1, 2018**



Section 107: VA will pay Housing Allowances based on the location of the campus where classes are attended.



BRANCH CAMPUS

A location of an educational institution that is geographically apart from and operationally independent of the main campus of the educational institution; has its own administration; and offers courses leading to a degree or other recognized education credential.



MAIN CAMPUS

A location where the primary teaching facilities of an educational institution are located.

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EXTENSION CAMPUS

VA currently defines "extension campus" as a location of an educational institution that is geographically apart from and is operationally dependent on the main campus or a branch campus of the educational institution.



Section 501: VA will pay Monthly Housing Allowances for the Post-9/11 GI Bill at the current academic year uncapped Department of Defense (DoD) Basic Housing Allowance (BAH) rates



2018 uncapped rates installed on December 8 this begins the path of **retroactive payments**



Until the IT solution is in place VA will pay students at the academic year uncapped rate For many students, the uncapped rate will be equal to or higher than their Fall 2018 payment



The change will be effective from the date of implementation and will be **retroactive to August 1, 2018** Starting in December, payments to students will be made in accordance to rates mandated by the Colmery Act



Updates will be made live on December 1, 2019 and students will be informed via letter with their adjustment status.



- All Section 107 and 501 updates will be live in processing systems **HAPPENS ON**
 - System to determine who has received a housing payment since the implementation of Colmery Act Sections 107 and 501



WHAT IS THE IMPACT TO STUDENTS?

DECEMBER 1?

- VA will send letters explaining the adjustment process
- Anyone underpaid will receive an adjustment
- Anyone overpaid will not be required to reimburse VA



WHAT

- Be in the know: Attend subsequent sessions, and keep an eye out for regular correspondence via email, blog posts and FAQ documents
- **Reach out:** Contact us if you have any questions, or suggestions on how to improve communications: FOREVERGIBILL.VBAVACO@va.gov



Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship



- Annual budget starts at \$25M (FY19), then \$75 (FY20-22), then \$100M (FY23+) giving Veterans lesser of 9 months of entitlement or \$30k of Ch. 33 benefits
- First application window opens Aug 1 VA Form 22-1995
- HR 2196 will lower credit hour requirement to standard 120 semester hours
- Website with information on STEM scholarships:

https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/fgib/stem.asp



#MyGIBillStory Campaign

On June 22, 2019, VA celebrates the 75th anniversary of the GI Bill[®]. The GI Bill established VA education programs, created VA's home loan program and greatly expanded health care resources for Veterans around the Globe!

To commemorate this milestone, VA is collecting stories that show the bill's extraordinary impact

Please:

- Encourage your Veteran audience to share their personal stories.
- Be on the lookout for a "Communications Toolkit" via email
- Share campus activities with our team. Learn more at:

www.benefits.va.gov/gibill75







Conclusion

Please submit Questions on Sections 107, 501 & STEM in the Q&A Pod





Debra Morgan

- Lead Management & Program Analyst, Stakeholder Engagement Team
- Hired by VA in 2001, VHA Health Care Education Officer
- Joined VBA Education Service April 2008
- Training & Curriculum Specialist for DoD 1991-2001
- Spouse of Retired Navy Corpsman/ Petty Officer of 24 years
- BA in Education, The College of New Jersey





Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017

Public Law (PL) 115-48, Section 305

Debra J. Morgan Lead Management Analyst Education Service





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 the institution 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
- Includes IHLs, NCDs, flight schools, and apprenticeship/OJT facilities, etc., offering any type of training under approved programs



Legislation Summary and Definitions

- A School Certifying Official (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



Legislation Summary and Definitions

Section "B" of VA Form 22-8794 has been revised to include designation of SCOs with "Read Only" access to VA information. The image below is what you will see:

MAY 2018 22-8794

WHICH WILL NOT BE USED.

B. FOR READ-ONLY SCHOOL OFFICIALS WITH LIMITED AUTHORITY - LIMITED AUTHORITY IS DEFINED AS HAVING THE PERMISSION TO PREPARE ENROLLMENT INFORMATION, REQUEST INFORMATION, SUBMIT INQUIRES, ETC. IT INCLUDES ALL PERMISSIONS EXCEPT SIGNING AND SUBMITTING CERTIFICATIONS OR OTHERWISE PROVIDING ENROLLMENT DATA TO THE VA. THIS SECTION DOES NOT NEED TO BE COMPLETED FOR VA WORK-STUDY STUDENTS. ENTER SCHOOL OFFICIALS ONLY.

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3.8	EMARKS		



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 the 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 is available in 2 phases
- New SCOs must complete training on specific topics
- Existing SCOs will be required to complete a combination of training topics, of their choosing based on individual needs



Note: SCOs who are not subject to training requirements (i.e. existing SCOs whose school has less than 20 VA eligible students enrolled) are welcome to take the training and will have access via the GI Bill Website for School Administrators



Implementation Plan

Phase 1

All New SCOs (covered and non-covered educational institutions) designated on or after August 1, 2018 are required to:

- 10 online training modules
- All 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

 New SCOs will not be authorized access to VA-ONCE until training is complete



Implementation Plan

Phase 2

- Available August 1, 2019, and applies to existing SCOs (designated prior to August 1, 2018) who are continuing employment after August 1, 2019
- Existing SCOs under covered educational institutions will have one full year in which to complete training
- Each year, requirements must be met between August 1 and July 31 of the following year
- Two options for meeting training requirements

Online trainingConference training attendance



Phase 2 – Online Training

- Online will include modules on a variety of topics
- VA may 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 Training Programs

Online Module Training

- 1. On-the-Job Training/Apprenticeship Programs
- 2. Vocational Flight
- 3. Non-College Degree (NCD) Programs Only
- 4. IHL Only
- 5. IHL with NCD Programs
- 6. IHL with Flight Programs
- 7. Compliance Survey Guidelines
- 8. VA-ONCE IHL Programs
- 9. VA-ONCE NCD Programs

School Conference Training

- 1. New School Certifying Official Training
- 2. Advance School Certifying Official Training
- **3. Flight School Program at IHLs**
- 4. Education Programs and Benefits for Family Members
- 5. Certification Process for Non-College Degree Programs
- 6. Program Approval and the State Approving Agency
- 7. VA Debt Management Center
- 8. School Liability
- 9. Yellow Ribbon
- 10. Work-Study
- 11. Study Abroad


Phase 2 – Conference Attendance

- Specific topics to be covered at all SCO conferences based on existing best practices
- Training developed nationally
- Established QR code to track completed training





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





Communication Strategy

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







Please submit Questions on Section 305, Required SCO Training within the Q&A Pod





The success of our Servicemembers, Veterans, and Beneficiaries largely depends on <u>you!</u> Your work in assisting VA Students is critical to the timely Processing and Payment of their VA Educational Benefits. <u>We</u> could not do our job without <u>you!</u>

There will be silence until 2:00pm EST

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