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# Public Law 116-315, Section 1010 Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 Two Certification Requirements



# Course Overview

On January 5, 2021, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (P.L.116-315) was signed into law. As VA continues to work through implementation of this new provision and its complexities, we are committed to providing you with regular updates through briefings, direct email campaigns and social media, along with equipping you with the necessary training/information to properly administer VA education benefits; as well as, other important Education information.

This course reviews:

- Sec 1010 - Verification of enrollment to receive Post-9/11 Educational Assistance benefits

# Training Objectives

**After completing this course, participants will:**

1. Describe the requirements of **Section 1010** of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.
2. Explain the two-step enrollment certification process
3. Recognize scenarios SCOs may encounter related to two-step enrollment certification
4. Answer Frequently Asked Questions Relating to Section 1010

PL 116-315 SECTION 1010

TWO CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT TRAINING



# What is Section 1010?



*PL 116-315 Section 1010, Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, became effective August 1, 2021.*

For chapter 33 beneficiaries, schools are required to submit both an original enrollment certification and a second enrollment verification to ensure the beneficiary is progressing in their training.

**Note:** This requirement is only for schools approved as Institutions of Higher Learning or Non-College Degree Facilities.



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# SCO Requirements for Section 1010



Schools are required to submit an initial enrollment certification for each beneficiary, and a subsequent enrollment certification (verification) after the school's drop-add period.

The end of the drop-add period is the last day when a beneficiary can withdraw from the course or program without penalty. Without penalty refers to the first consequence in the term, be it financial or academic penalty.

The second certification (verification) should be received no later than 30 days after the school's drop-add period or 60 days from the first day of the enrollment period, whichever occurs first.

**Note:** Use of VA-ONCE to submit all enrollment certifications is encouraged. Once the software solution is provided, schools that submit enrollment certifications will discover a cleaner, easier process to meet this requirement.



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# Section 1010 - Timing for Submission of Certification (Verification)

## Initial Enrollment Certification



- This certification should be submitted to VA after a beneficiary enrolls and up to 180 days before the start of the term. This initial enrollment does not have to reflect current tuition and fees.

## Second Enrollment Certification (Verification)



- *Schools with a drop-add period* - This 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.
- *Schools that do not have a drop-add period* – This certification (verification) should be submitted no less than 30 and no more than 60 days after the term begins.

**Note:** Schools with a drop/add period have 30 days after the drop-add period to submit a second certification (verification). The SCO can submit the second certification 1 day after the drop-add period.



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# Knowledge Check

1. True or False: Section 1010 requires schools to submit both an original enrollment certification, and a second enrollment verification for each term.
  - A. True
  - B. False
2. The end of the drop-add period is the last day when a beneficiary can withdraw from the course or program without penalty. What does “without penalty” refer to?
  - A. The first consequence in the term, be it financial or academic penalty.
  - B. The last financial consequence in the term.
  - C. The last point in time where a beneficiary can get in trouble for not verifying enrollment.
3. When must educational institutions submit a second certification of enrollment?
  - A. No later than 30 days after drop-add period
  - B. Within 60 days from the first day of the enrollment period
  - C. Whichever occurs first
4. When must educational institutions submit an initial certification of enrollment?
  - A. Anytime before the start of the term
  - B. 30 days before the start of the term
  - C. After a beneficiary enrolls and up to 180 days before the start of the term

# Knowledge Check

1. True or False: Section 1010 requires schools to submit both an original enrollment certification, and a second enrollment verification for each term.
  - A. True**
  - B. False
2. The end of the drop-add period is the last day when a beneficiary can withdraw from the course or program without penalty. What does “without penalty” refer to?
  - A. The first consequence in the term, be it financial or academic penalty.**
  - B. The last financial consequence in the term.
  - C. The last point in time where a beneficiary can get in trouble for not verifying enrollment.
3. When must educational institutions submit a second certification of enrollment?
  - A. No later than 30 days after drop-add period
  - B. Within 60 days from the first day of the enrollment period
  - C. Whichever occurs first**
4. When must educational institutions submit an initial certification of enrollment?
  - A. Anytime before the start of the term
  - B. 30 days before the start of the term
  - C. After a beneficiary enrolls and up to 180 days before the start of the term**

# Section 1010 – Common Questions

## Two Certification requirements apply to:

- All chapter 33 enrollments at IHLs and NCDs, including STEM.
- The 30-day reporting rule did not change for adjustments and amendments

## What happens if the school fails to submit two certifications?

- Failure to submit both enrollment certifications will not result in a halt in payments to the beneficiary, however the school will be at risk for a potential error or liability during school compliance surveys



# Second Verification Reports

Are there any reports run by VA-ONCE to identify beneficiaries that have not had the second verification completed?



**VA-ONCE does not currently have a report to aid in identifying certifications in need of the 2<sup>nd</sup> submission.**

- VA is working toward a simpler solution to satisfy this new reporting requirement.



# Knowledge Check

1. Who does the two-certification requirement apply to?
  - A. Chapter 33 enrollments at IHLs
  - B. Chapter 33 enrollments at NCDs
  - C. Chapter 33 STEM enrollments
  - D. All of the above
  
2. True or False: If a schools fails to submit two certifications, there will not be a halt in payments to the beneficiary. But the school will be at risk for a potential error or liability during school compliance surveys.
  - A. True
  - B. False



# Knowledge Check

1. Who does the two-certification requirement apply to?
  - A. Chapter 33 enrollments at IHLs
  - B. Chapter 33 enrollments at NCDs
  - C. Chapter 33 STEM enrollments
  - D. All of the above**
  
2. True or False: If a schools fails to submit two certifications, there will not be a halt in payments to the beneficiary. But the school will be at risk for a potential error or liability during school compliance surveys.
  - A. True**
  - B. False



# Section 1010 – Scenario 1

## What is the process for certification (verification) when a beneficiary is enrolled in a short term?

**Assumption:** The term is less than 30 days.

### Initial Enrollment Certification



- This certification should be submitted to VA as the beneficiary enrolls and up to 180 days before the start of the term.

### Second Enrollment Certification (Verification)



- Regardless if the term is less than 30 days, there is a need to submit a second enrollment certification.
- If the program is less than 30 days, and the student graduates or completes the program, the report of “Graduation” or “End of Term Course” can serve as second certification (verification).



# Section 1010 – Scenario 2

## How should a SCO certify when a school does not have a drop-add period?

### Initial Enrollment Certification

- This certification should be submitted to VA as the beneficiary enrolls and up to 180 days before the start of the term.

### Second Enrollment Certification (Verification)

- This certification (verification) should be submitted no sooner than 30 days and no more than 60 days after the term begins.



# Section 1010 – Scenario 3

**If beneficiary is enrolled in multiple mini terms, can a SCO submit a single certification for multiple terms?**



## **Initial Enrollment Certification**

- If you are certifying more than one term at a time, you can use the Multiple Term certification feature in VA-ONCE.

## **Second Enrollment Certification (Verification)**

- The SCO must submit separate certifications (verifications) for each mini term. This is because there is no multiple term amendment option in VA-ONCE.



# Section 1010 – Scenario 4

**How should a SCO certify when a graduate program has multiple mini sessions and various add/drop dates?**



If the school's catalog/published information indicates separate add/drop dates for non-standard terms, the SCO will be required to report the 2nd submission in accordance with the individually published dates.



# Knowledge Check

1. If the program is less than 30 days, can the report of graduation serve as the second certification of enrollment?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
2. If a beneficiary is enrolled in multiple terms, how should SCOs handle both the initial and second enrollment certification in VA-ONCE?
  - A. The SCO can use the multiple term certification feature for both the initial and second enrollment certification in VA-ONCE.
  - B. The SCO can only use the multiple term certification feature in VA-ONCE for the initial enrollment certification. The SCO must submit separate second enrollment certifications for each term.
  - C. The SCO can only use the multiple term certification feature in VA-ONCE for the second enrollment certification. The SCO must submit separate initial enrollment certifications for each term.

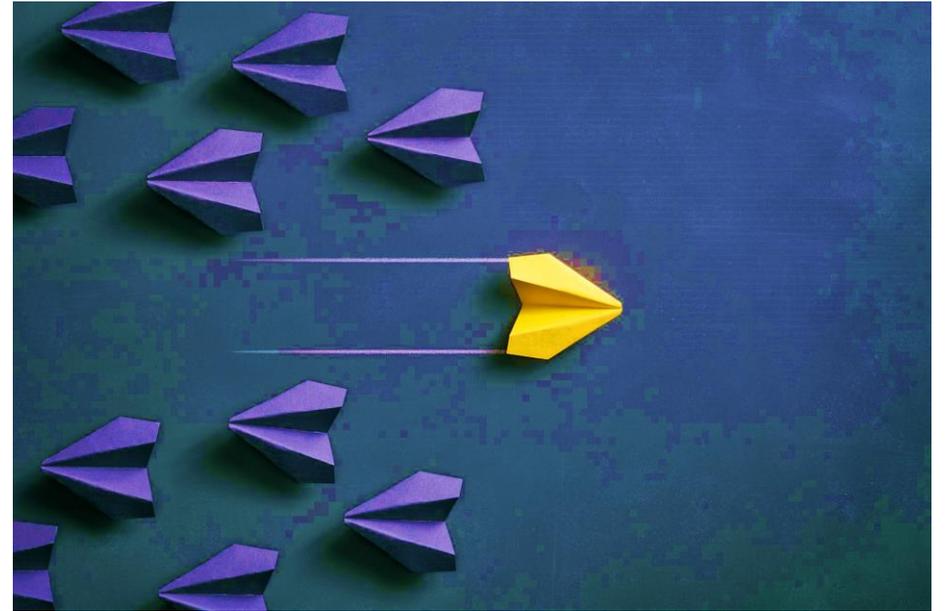
# Knowledge Check

1. If the program is less than 30 days, can the report of graduation serve as the second certification of enrollment?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
2. If a beneficiary is enrolled in multiple terms, how should SCOs handle both the initial and second enrollment certification in VA-ONCE?
  - A. The SCO can use the multiple term certification feature for both the initial and second enrollment certification in VA-ONCE.
  - B. The SCO can only use the multiple term certification feature in VA-ONCE for the initial enrollment certification. The SCO must submit separate second enrollment certifications for each term.**
  - C. The SCO can only use the multiple term certification feature in VA-ONCE for the second enrollment certification. The SCO must submit separate initial enrollment certifications for each term.

# Section 1010 – Scenario 5

**How does Section 1010 apply to other chapters?**

**The Two Certification requirement only applies to chapter 33 enrollment certification (including STEM)**



# Section 1010 – Scenario 6

**Does VA withhold payments to schools until the second verification is completed?**



**This new SCO reporting requirement for section 1010 has no bearing on VA payments made to schools or beneficiaries, payments will continue as usual with no exceptions.**

- However, chapter 33 beneficiaries must verify their enrollment status each month. Those who fail to verify enrollment for 2 months will have the following month's housing payment held until verification is received.
- Phase 1 applies only to beneficiaries enrolled at NCDs and Phase 2 (enrollments that begin on or after 12/17/2021) will include beneficiaries attending IHLs.



# Section 1010 – Scenario 7

**How should a SCO verify the enrollment of a beneficiary whose original enrollment was certified at 12 credits, but the beneficiary drops a class during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the term and is now only enrolled in 9 credits?**

**You should initially report 12 credits at \$XXX.000**



- If the beneficiary dropped to 9 credits two weeks later at \$YYY.00, the \$YYY.00 is determined based on what 9 credits would have cost at the start date as if only enrolled in 9 in the first place.



# Section 1010 – Scenario 8

**Does the beneficiary incur a debt for MHA payment or books and supplies if VA has set up payments based in the original certification of 12 credit?**

**A drop that occurs after the 1st day of the term does not create any books and supplies debt but there may be housing payment debt**

- Dependent on whether VA makes the reduction in credit hours before the affected housing payment is released.



# Knowledge Check

1. True or False: The VA withholds payments to schools until the second verification is completed.
  - A. True
  - B. False
2. If a chapter 33 beneficiary does not verify their enrollment status each month, what will happen to their MHA payments?
  - A. Those who fail to verify enrollment for two consecutive months will have the following months MHA payments withheld.
  - B. After failing to verify enrollment for one month, the following months MHA payments will be withheld.
  - C. Even if the beneficiary does not verify enrollment, they will still receive their MHA payments.

# Knowledge Check

1. True or False: The VA withholds payments to schools until the second verification is completed.

A. True

**B. False**

2. If a chapter 33 beneficiary does not verify their enrollment status each month, what will happen to their MHA payments?

**A. Those who fail to verify enrollment for two consecutive months will have the following months MHA payments withheld.**

B. After failing to verify enrollment for one month, the following months MHA payments will be withheld.

C. Even if the beneficiary does not verify enrollment, they will still receive their MHA payments.



# Section 1010 – Resources

## Websites

- [Verification of Enrollment - Education and Training \(va.gov\)](#)
- [Education Service Webinars and Training - Education and Training \(va.gov\)](#)
- [School Certifying Official \(SCO\) Training - Education and Training \(va.gov\)](#)

## Get more information

If you have questions about the monthly verification requirement or if/when it applies to you, contact a VA education representative at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) domestically or 001-918-781-5678 overseas. To learn more, please visit the following resources:

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Infographic: How to Verify Enrollment for NCD Facility Students](#)
- [Infographic: NCD vs. IHL Facilities](#)
- [Video: How to Verify Enrollment for NCD Facility Students](#)
- [Section 1010 Toolkit](#)

# Additional Questions?



For any additional questions or scenarios that require further guidance, please contact your ELR



# Thank You

**Thank you for your participation**



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