

Education Service Quarterly Webinar

March 14, 2018

Questions and Answers

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Section 107-

1. **Multiple Attendees: How does that affect online classes- is it based on the zip code of institution, zip code of the administrative offices or the zip code of where the student resides?**
 - If a student is only taking distance credits, the zip code in WEAMS will be reported and the student will be paid at the [“Exclusively Online Training” rate](#).
 - If a student is eligible for MHA and is physically attending at least one credit, then the MHA rate will be based off the zip code of where the student is physically attending the majority of their classes. [Slide 20 of the webinar](#) shows an example of this situation.
2. **Multiple Attendees: How will the MHA rate be paid if the student takes an equal amount of hours at each site? If a student is enrolled on 2 different campuses and is registered for 12 credits (6&6), will the BAH be based on the campus zip code with the higher BAH?**
 - When a student is taking an equal number of classes at two locations, VA will pay the higher MHA rate. [Slide 18 of the webinar](#) shows an example of this situation.
3. **Multiple Attendees: where do we report the zip code mentioned? Will VA Once have a box that we can check to reflect what zip code they're taking classes in?**
 - VA-ONCE will be updated to allow for the reporting of zip codes. [Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of how this may look. Once our systems team has completed the final version of the VA-ONCE update, we will release training and example cases of how to submit enrollments in the updated VA-ONCE system.
4. **Multiple Attendees: Where/ how do we report the zip code of training /studying location? Via VA Once? Will the site be updated to have a zip code field on the certification tab?**
 - VA-ONCE will be updated to allow for the reporting of zip codes. [Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of this may look. Once our systems team has completed the final version of the VA-ONCE update, we will release training and example cases of how to submit enrollments in the updated VA-ONCE system.
5. **Multiple Attendees: What if internships/externships are completed at multiple sites/locations?**
 - This would depend on how, specifically, the course is structured. After the July 2018 training has been released, if a school still has concerns about a specific internship/externship/practicum site, they should contact their ELR for precise guidance on certifying that course.
 - The guidance provided on [slide 24 of the webinar](#) can be applied in most instances.

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- In other situations, schools may have to report each part of the internship/externship/practicum as its own “mini-mester” term.
6. **Multiple Attendees: Internships or Practicum sites do not have school codes, but may have different zip codes. What kind of documentation are we going to need to keep on file to prove students are doing internships in various ZIP codes when it comes time for our VA/SAA audits? Do I need to list all zip codes?**
 - Documentation requirements are still under review for final determination.
 - Additional information pertaining to what documentation will be required for Compliance Surveys in regards to documenting the zip code(s) for internship/externship/practicum site(s) will be released in the near future.
 7. **Are we responsible for contacting students to find out the zip codes of their internships/practicums?**
 - The school will be responsible for determining the process to obtain and maintain formal documentation on where a student is attending their internship/externship/practicum.
 - Additional information pertaining to what documentation, specifically, will be required for Compliance Surveys in regards to documenting the zip code(s) for internship/externship/practicum site(s) will be released in the near future.
 8. **Our students are sent to different clinical sites all the time. Do we have to get the zip code of every clinical site in all 11 counties?**
 - Yes.
 9. **If a student is taking mostly online courses, but doesn't have reliable internet at home, and has to travel into the county seat town to use a computer lab on campus/at public library, then we use the ZIP of the location of the computer lab?**
 - Section 107 of the Colmery Act does not change how a school determines if a course is considered to be taken “in residence” or “distance”. [Page 54 of the SCO Handbook](#) outlines how schools should determine how a particular course should be classified.
 - In the example given above, the use of a computer lab or public library computer is irrelevant. The course would be considered “distance” training and the school would use the zip code of their main campus (the one to which their facility code is tied).

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10. **Under 107 will students that are on a study abroad get the BAH at the local of the US school location or other US identified on the BAH page?**
 - No. If a student is physically attending their course in a foreign county, then they will receive the [foreign school MHA rate](#).
11. **Slide 13: We have students who attend semester abroad locations - if we have a VA student attending that experience we would need an international code for that school?**
 - A special zip code will be created for foreign schools to be used in VA-ONCE. Schools will use that code when certifying foreign schools classes or study abroad programs.
12. **When did Blended courses change from "Distant Learning" to now counting as "Onground"**
 - Section 107 of the Colmery Act does not change how a school determines if a course is considered to be taken "in residence" or "distance". [Page 54 of the SCO Handbook](#) outlines how schools should determine how a particular course should be classified. If you have a question about how a specific course should be classified, you should contact your ELR.
13. **The DOD BAH Calculator no longer matches the amount being paid for the housing allowance. Where can we look up what the previous payments should have been?**
 - For State Approving Agencies and Education Liaison Representatives this information can be pulled from WEAMS.
 - After logging into WEAMS, select "CH 33" from the top of the toolbar, you will then be able to input the zip code of a site and WEAMs will generate the MHA rate of that site for previous years back to 2009. This will table will also be expanded to show both the VA and DOD rates.
14. **RE: Definition of Campus: We have two different locations that have different zip codes, however their both in the same City, State. Will that have to be reported separately?**
 - Yes.
15. **Does defining "campus" mean in person?**
 - The definition of campus includes:
 - The individual campus of a school where the student is taking classes (i.e. the school's science center, humanities building, or athletic center)
 - The physical location where a student is learning in a study abroad program [Top](#)

- Any internship, externship, practicum or student teaching site
- For “distance” courses schools would use the zip code of their main campus (the one to which their facility code is tied).

16. For schools with multiple facility codes. Will there be a requirement for Guest enrollment at the secondary campus?

- Section 107 of the Colmery Act only affects how the VA pays housing. [Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE. There is no change in Parent/Guest letters. If you are unsure if a Parent/Guest school letter is needed, contact your SAA and ELR for additional guidance.

17. A school with multiple locations and facility codes, would that work under the Parent Letter process or will that change

- Section 107 of the Colmery Act only affects how the VA pays housing. [Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE. There is no change in Parent/Guest letters. If you are unsure if a Parent/Guest school letter is needed, contact your SAA and ELR for additional guidance.

18. If we have multiple campuses, will we need to have multiple facility codes? If so, how do we set up additional codes?

- VA-ONCE will be updated to allow for the submission of zip codes ([Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE), you will not need additional facility codes for these sites. It should be noted though, that all the normal rules for establishing a facility code must still be followed. If you are unsure if a specific site needs a facility code, contact your SAA for additional guidance.

19. Is it the location of the majority of their classes, or the location of the majority of their in- person classes?

- It is the location where the student is physically attending the majority of their classes. Schools will report the zip code(s) of where the student is attending and VA and will determine where they are taking the majority of their classes.

20. If the housing rate is not different from our other locations will it matter if we enter the zip code?

- From a payment perspective, there will be no difference in the MHA rate. However, schools will still be obligated to provide the individual zip codes for each site the student is physically attending, as VA must confirm that there is no difference in MHA between the zip codes, properly issue payment if there is a difference in MHA rate, and track the different locations from a reporting standpoint.

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21. **Will we be given instruction or a table that tells us what the rates are for the zip codes?**
- The [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) will be updated to allow individuals to input a zip code and see the MHA Rate for that zip code.
22. **Will there be a standard remark added to VA Once to add the zip code? What if a student is attending 100% online for a semester and may have a different zip code because of that. Do we still need to report the zip code? Or does it not matter because the online rate is always the same?**
- A standard remark will not be added to VA-ONCE at this time. VA-ONCE will be updated to allow for the inclusion of zip code information ([Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE).
 - If a student was 100% online all the “distance” courses would be certified using the zip code of the main campus (the one to which the facility code is tied).
 - A standard remark will be added to VA-ONCE for ONLINE ONLY schools.
23. **The MHA in the NCR (national capital region) is the same for the branches that we have here: for Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.... would I have to report this differently?**
- Yes. You would still certify using the facility code the student is attending, but for each certification you would also have to supply the zip code information for each class ([Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE).
24. **Is it your suggestions that we hold off on certifying fall enrollments until this update is completed?**
- A letter will be released in early June that addresses this topic in more detail.
25. **Will this cause an update to the Public WEAMS site?**
- There may be minimal changes to the Public WEAMS site. The more extensive changes will be made to VA-ONCE, LTS and the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#).
26. **Is "majority of classes" defined as simple majority (51% or more of their enrolled credits)? Or some other definition?**
- Majority of classes usually means simple majority (50.00001% or greater). The exception to this is when equivalent credit hours are used. [Slide 21 of the webinar](#) shows an example of this situation.

27. **Just to confirm - if our program is online but a student takes one face to face class at a local campus, they will get the online BAH rate?**
- Incorrect. If a student physically attends one class (and meets all the necessary rules to receive housing), they will receive the MHA rate for the zip code of where they are attending. [Slide 20 of the webinar](#) shows an example of this situation.
28. **So the new BAH rate in Forever GI Bill will impact all currently enrolling and new students**
- Section 107 of the Colmery Act impacts all students attending a term beginning on or after August 1, 2018.
29. **Students attending an institution as a guest student and taking most or all of their classes at the guest school, will they be paid based on the guest school zip code?**
- Students will be paid the MHA rate of where they are physically attending the majority of their classes. In the example given above, the Guest School would have to provide zip codes for each class the student is taking, and the student would be paid housing based on the zip code where they are taking the most classes.
30. **Does the "campus" determination have to be done each enrollment period? For instance, a student takes the majority of their program, four semesters, in NYC but spends one semester abroad. Would we use the NYC zip code for all semesters OR would the NYC code apply only for the courses taken in NYC and a foreign zip code for the foreign semester?**
- Yes. The campus determination must be done for each enrollment period.
 - In the example given above, for the term the student studies abroad, the school would have to report a foreign school zip code. [Slides 23 and 24 of the webinar](#) show examples of these types of situation.
31. **How frequently can we update a student's location? For example, we have 1 summer semester broken into 3 terms, there would be potential for 3 changes throughout 1 semester**
- Schools will supply the zip code information for each course, for each enrollment submitted. [Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE.
32. **We currently have 2 facility codes one for DE and one for NJ. Will we need multiple facility codes for each state after Aug 1st for each individual site in the state?**
- VA-ONCE will be updated to allow for the submission of zip codes ([Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE). You will not need additional facility codes for these sites. [Top](#)

It should be noted though, that all the normal rules for establishing a facility code must still be followed. If you are unsure if a specific site needs a facility code, contact your SAA for additional guidance.

33. When will this letter come out?

- The letter discussing holding certifications will be released in the next 1-2 weeks.

34. What time period should be expect the letters detailing the August 1st changes?

- The letter discussing holding certifications will be released in the next 1-2 weeks.

35. I see that the language in the law is "majority of classes" rather than "majority of credits". Does this mean that we would certify the zip code for housing based on where the most courses are taken, even if the student might be enrolled in more credits at a different site?

- Schools will provide the number of credits and the zip codes of all sites the student is physically attending through VA-ONCE ([Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE). VA will make the determination of where the student is taking the majority of their classes and will pay MHA based on that determination.

36. Do we only delay certifications for students who are attending resident courses after August 1st? Or does this apply to online only registration as well?

- A letter will be released in the near future that address this topic in more detail.

37. Just to clarify, will the new BAH rate in Forever GI Bill (pay based on the student's class zip code) impact all continuing students and new students?

- Section 107 of the Colmery Act impacts all students (continuing or new) attending a new term beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

38. RE: MHA based on location. The law indicated initial enrollment in a program starting on or after August 1, 2018. Would that apply to students continuing in a program or new admits to a program?

- Section 107 of the Colmery Act impacts all students (continuing or new) attending a term beginning on or after August 1, 2018.
- Section 501 of HR 3819 provided an edit to the law language which clarified that this provision applied to all enrollments commencing on or after August 1, 2018.

39. What zip code would you use if the student is taking online only classes

- If a student is only taking online courses, the school would certify the courses using the zip code of the main campus (the one to which the facility code is tied).

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40. **As for student teaching, is that zip code the zip code of the school they are teaching at and how is this reported??**
- Yes, for student teaching it would be the zip code of the school where the student is student teaching. [Slides 22 of the webinar](#) shows an example of this type of situation. It will be reported through VA-ONCE ([Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE).
41. **What about satellite locations/campuses?**
- Any location where a student is physically attending must have its zip code reported.
42. **The zip code provision begins August 1? How does that impact certs submitted before August 1?**
- Section 107 of the Colmery Act impacts all students attending a term beginning on or after August 1, 2018. When the certification is submitted is inconsequential for the purpose of this provision, what is important is the student's begin date for the term.
43. **Do the zip codes of these various campuses all have to be listed in the approval from the SAA?**
- All campus locations must be specifically listed in the school's catalog (or a catalog addendum) which specifically lists the zip code for each sites. This information must be supplied to your SAA.
 - Internship/externship/practicum sites do not need to be specifically listed in the catalog (or catalog addendum), but additional information will be needed to confirm the zip code submitted to VA for them. Additional information on what information will be needed for Compliance Surveys will be released in a later training.
44. **Will the zip code change eliminate the need for multiple facility codes?**
- No. Section 107 does not impact when a facility code is necessary; it only affects how MHA is paid to students. If you are unsure if a specific site needs a facility code, contact your SAA for additional guidance.
45. **How will the VA know which campus a student is at?**
- Schools will report the zip code of the campus the student is attending at. [Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE where schools will provide that information to VA.

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46. **How are additional facility codes going to be established for our off site campuses? Or will it be a system determination by zip code entered?**
- VA-ONCE will be updated to allow for the submission of zip codes ([Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE). You will not need additional facility codes for these sites. It should be noted though, that all the normal rules for establishing a facility code must still be followed. If you are unsure if a specific site needs a facility code, contact your SAA for additional guidance.
47. **What if we have the same facility code for 4 campuses but we have a zip code already in the system for only one campus?**
- VA-ONCE will be updated to allow for the submission of zip codes ([Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE). You will use your current facility codes and will provide the individual zip codes for each class.
48. **Does any of this apply to flight schools or is this mainly for IHLs?**
- When a student's course of study involves travel as part of the training, VA will continue to use the zip code of the facility's main campus to establish the student's MHA rate.
 - If the airport where there student leaves from is in another zip code, that zip code will be reported for that class.
 - Vocational flight schools are ineligible to receive MHA payments. Section 107 of the Colmery Act does not change that.
49. **If other training locations are only satellite campuses, they aren't eligible to be reported, correct?**
- Incorrect. Any location where a student is physically attending must have its zip code reported in VA-ONCE.
50. **WOULD A STUDENT AT AN ADMINISTRATIVELY DEPENDENT SITE STILL BE PAID MHA BASED ON THE PARENT SCHOOL'S ZIP CODE?**
- No. Any location where a student is physically attending must have its zip code reported in VA-ONCE.
51. **Please make this change a topic at our Conference this summer. Be prepared for a lot of question, etc.**
- Comment will be provided for possible inclusion in later training events.

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52. **Some courses involve travel on a class trip where instruction happens during the trip. Would we still report the main campus zip code where the class began and returns to?**
- [Slide 24 of the webinar](#) shows an example of this type of situation.
53. **Are the MHA rates for Foreign Schools the same amount or does it vary by zip code as well?**
- There is one MHA rate for Foreign Schools. That rate can be found on the [GI Bill Website](#).
54. **What notification will students receive regarding the changes in MHA calculations and how comprehensive will this be? If notification is sent out, could SCO's also be provided with a copy?**
- Students' award letters will be updated to reflect the Section 107 changes.
 - Updates will be shared on the [GI Bill Facebook page](#) and [Colmery Updates section](#) of the GI Bill website.
 - The [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) will be updated to allow students to search for MHA rates based on zip code.
55. **An aviation student has a class at our local airport which is a different zip code, so how does that get inputted into VA once?**
- [Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE where schools will provide this information to VA. Additional training will be given in July 2018 which will provide concrete examples to this type of circumstance.
56. **Can you define "mandatory" for the sake of study abroad**
- When the study abroad component a required component for all students taking the degree program (all students in the program must travel to another country in order to do coursework and complete their degree).
57. **Payment scenario 5 seems philosophically contradictory to payment scenario 2. Seems the Manhattan rate not Staten Island rate would apply inn 5, if the philosophy expressed in scenario 2 is followed.**
- Scenario two is based off of a simple majority of credit hours. Scenario five is based off of equivalent credit hours.
 - For Scenario Five:
 - $8/20/18 - 12/12/18 = 115 \text{ days} / 7 \text{ days} = 16.42 \text{ weeks}$ (standard term)
 - $9/17/18 - 10/17/18 = 31 \text{ days} / 7 \text{ days} = 4.42 \text{ weeks}$ (non-standard term) = 5 weeks per (page 58, [SCO handbook](#)) [Top](#)

- $7/12 = 58\% =$ round up to 60%
- 4 Credit hours in a 4 week term would be the equivalent of 12 credit hours, which makes the student full-time
- Since the 4 credits are weighted more heavily (they would have made the student 100% eligible for that period on their own) – they supersede the fact the student is taking another 7 credits (unweighted) for a longer period.

58. If student teaching class has 3 credits and student also taking 9 credits on regular campus, would they receive regular campus BAH?

- If the student is only physically attending one 3 credit class, then they will receive MHA based on the zip code of where they are physically attending. If they are attending at the main campus, then they will receive regular campus MHA. If they are attending a campus in a different zip code, they may receive a different MHA amount.

59. What about hybrid classes that meet on campus for the first several meeting and then finish on-line or some similar combination?

- Section 107 of the Colmery Act does not change how a school determines if a course is considered to be taken “in residence” or “distance”. [Page 54 of the SCO Handbook](#) outlines how schools should determine how a particular course should be classified. If you have a question about how a specific course should be classified, you should contact your ELR.

60. Can this chart information be incorporated into VA Once?

- The formula for reviewing Equivalent Credit Hours can be found on [page 54 of the SCO Handbook](#).

61. Will each course with a different zip code need to be certified separately?

- [Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE where schools will provide this information to VA. Based on the current proposed update, the school would only have to submit the begin date, end date, and tuition and fees once – and would then have to supply the zip codes for all certified credits.

62. If the student is taking all of their classes in the same city, but there are different zip codes within the same city, are we required to report each zip code? i.e. student taking classes on the main campus and also has classes 2 miles down the road but the zip code is different, are we reporting that?

- Yes.

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63. **If we are setup in WEAMS with Branch location do we still have to submit something for VAONCE**
- Yes. Schools will report the zip code of the campus the student is attending at. [Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE where schools will provide that information to VA.
64. **As a SCO, have one big concern: If we delay certifications due to the new requirements, or have to make adjustments based on zip codes (students change their classes a lot prior to beginning of term), this will delay the student's payments...as the SCO, I'm the first person they contact regarding their funds and I can't control that. How can you assist us with that, since truthfully we have no control over this?**
- This information will also be made publically available on the [GI Bill Facebook page](#) and [Colmery Updates section](#).
65. **The Procedural Advisory email that came out this week. Will those catalog changes also need to be added by Aug 2019?**
- For the Procedural Advisory on Priority Enrollments, Priority Enrollment is not a condition of approval, and failure to report the existence of a Priority Enrollment policy is not grounds for suspension or withdrawal of program approval.
 - Schools are encouraged to provide this information as soon as possible in order to ensure that VA can update the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) to properly reflect if a school offers Priority Enrollment to Veteran students.
66. **Another - if our aviation students are taking a required weekend course that is at another location does that specific zip code also need to be in the catalog and certified, or does that fall more under the 'travel across zip codes being required'?**
- [Slide 24 of the webinar](#) shows an example of this type of situation.
67. **Will the Zip Code Changes apply to New enrollees in the fall or all certifications entered starting Fall 2018**
- Section 107 of the Colmery Act impacts all students (continuing or new) attending a term beginning on or after August 1, 2018.
68. **Would it not make more sense to code MHA as a standard state code (an average across the board per state rates) rather than by zip codes?**
- Any change like this would have to be made legislatively before VA could implement it.

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69. **Clarification: We only have one campus; however some classes like our automotive program are at a facility approximately 10 miles away (different zip code). Even though this is not a "campus" I would need to report the zip code of this location if the majority of their classes are there**
- Correct. You would report the zip code where the student physically attends each class for the term.
70. **Would a location that the college uses nearby be considered a "Campus" if there are no offices at that location? It is only a room at maybe a bank or local library.**
- That site's zip code should be reported.
71. **We just combined our four campuses into one facility code; will we have to break out each campus (again)?**
- VA-ONCE will be updated to allow for the submission of zip codes ([Slide 16 of the webinar](#) shows a possible example of the update that will be made to VA-ONCE). You will not need additional facility codes for these sites. It should be noted though, that all the normal rules for establishing a facility code must still be followed. If you are unsure if a specific site needs a facility code, contact your SAA for additional guidance.
72. **If a student's drops one campus location course and enrolls into another location course, with the same enrollment dates, are we processing the enrollment as an amendment where we can change the zip code only or will it need to be terminated and recertified?**
- This scenario is being reviewed and will be included in the July 2018 training which will fully showcase how to process claims in VA-ONCE.
73. **Will there be more compliance reviews?(based on Section 107 being added)**
- Section 107 does not create additional Compliance Surveys. For terms beginning on or after August 1, 2018 though, Compliance Surveys will review that schools have provided correct zip codes for classes taken by students and that the school has maintained documentation to support those zip codes.
 - Additional training on changes to Compliance Surveys will be provided in a later webinar.
74. **I need to clarify my question - We are an online school and have several different clinical sites across the nation. Do those need to be listed in the catalog?**
- Section 107 of the Colmery Act does not change how a school determines if a course is considered to be taken "in residence" or "distance". [Page 54 of the SCO Handbook](#) outlines how schools should determine how a particular course should be classified.

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- If you are solely and online school (none of the classes you offer meet the requirements of “in residence” defined above), then you do not need to list the additional sites in your catalog for VA purposes.
- If any of the sites do meet the requirements of “in residence” defined above, then they would need to be listed in your catalog. These sites may also require SAA approval; you should reach out to your SAA for additional guidance.

75. We carry some residents who are not our students asking for certification of their resident hours at medical clinics other than our schools. This information will not be in our catalog, as they’re not our student. In most cases they have already graduated. How do we handle that?

- This type of scenario will be reviewed and additional information will be provided in a later training.

76. With this new complexity, will VA provide a tool or chart to help guide students around MHA?

- Updates will be shared on the [GI Bill Facebook page](#) and [Colmery Updates section](#) of the GI Bill website.
- The [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) will be updated to allow students to search for MHA rates based on zip code.

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Section 305-

1. Does the category "SCO" also fall under Work-study or Temp Employees who certify students?

- An SCO is an individual who is employed by the educational institution and is designated to provide enrollment information to the VA. Work-study students may assist with the certification process; however, since they are not employees of the educational institution, they should not actually certify information to VA. As such, they will not be required to complete the training, however, it will be available for them to complete. If a temporary employee is designated as an SCO to certify enrollment information, he/she will be subject to the training requirements.

2. When will the list be sent out on which schools need training?

- We've requested the data and hope to make that information available in a few weeks.

3. How long do institutions have to get trained?

- Specific training requirements for new and existing SCOs, to include timelines for completion, are still being defined.

4. Will this training be conducted locally?

- Training may be completed online. Additionally, we are developing evaluation and assessment tools which will allow individuals to receive training credit for attending school conferences

5. Is the WEAMS "List of Officials" the appropriate place to review our SCOs for the training requirement?

- Yes, the WEAMS List of Officials is populated with the information provided on the VA Form 22-8794. However, we are clarifying whether an individual who may need to inquire about a student's benefit, but not provide information to VA will need to complete the training requirements

6. What proof is required to show that we have met those annual training requirements?

- The online training will be tracked by VA. In person training will be tracked through registration and completion of a training assessment.

7. Just to clarify, the training has yet to be created?

- We are in the development phase. The content is based on the 40 hour course however; it will consist of micro-learning training modules which can be completed individually.

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8. **If our school does not have more than 20 individuals using VA educational benefits, are we still able to attend these training sessions? On a voluntary basis?**
 - Section 305 of Colmery *mandates* training for institutions with 20 or more students, however, the training will be available online for anyone who wishes to complete it.
9. **I have 2 co-workers that are named on the 22-8794 that are read only. I have them on there just to help in making calls into the SCO hotline for verifying a student's remaining entitlement. Will they need to be removed since they are not going to be actually certifying students?**
 - We are clarifying whether an individual who may need to inquire about a student's benefit, but not provide information to VA will need to complete the training requirements.
10. **The 40 hour training module links are broken and don't work.**
 - You may wish to contact your ELR to assist you in troubleshooting the issues with the existing training. It should be noted we are moving the training to a new platform which is easier to navigate.
11. **Our SCO list is the person who certifies and a backup "in case of emergency" if that person will not certify you want them removed? That seems a risk for if something happens and the one SCO can't certify in a timely manner.**
 - We recommend you retain anyone who may certify enrollment information to VA. However, we are clarifying whether an individual who may need to inquire about a student's benefit, but not provide information to VA will need to complete the training requirements.
12. **Can training requirement be complete or offered at WAVES?**
 - We are developing evaluation and assessment tools which will allow individuals to receive training credit for attending school conferences.
13. **If we have completed the current on line, will that be counted?**
 - The effective date for implementation of this section is August 1, 2018. The first phase will establish requirements for new SCOs designated on or after the implementation date. Training requirements will need to be met on or after this date. We are still working to further define the requirements for SCOs designated prior to August 1, 2018.
14. **Will our VA Work-Study employees be able to take this training as an overview course? Or do they have to be designated SCOs?**
 - Section 305 of Colmery *mandates* training for institutions with 20 or more students, however, the training will be available online for anyone who wishes to complete it.

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15. **Why would the assessment be yearly? If you "pass" the training, why should I have to retake the same assessment the next year?**
- The intent of the training is to ensure SCOs are kept abreast of any changes in legislation and/or policy. The assessment process will allow an SCO to receive credit for subjects for which they successfully complete the assessment, however, SCOs will need to complete training and/or an assessment each year.
16. **Will "old" certifying officials have access to the "new" SCO training as well?**
- Yes, it will be available to all SCOs and anyone who wishes to complete it.
17. **This training is for "covered institutions" correct?**
- SCO's at covered institutions
18. **Will there be any separate training for NCD schools?**
- Yes
19. **How do you get involved in a focus group?**
- Please contact your ELR and let him/her know you are interested in participating in a Focus Group
20. **Can this training be accomplished at a WAVES conference?**
- We are developing evaluation and assessment tools which will allow individuals to receive training credit for attending school conferences.
21. **Will training be specific to the type of school in which you certify? IHL vs NCD schools**
- Yes, there will be general training for an SCO and specialized training based on the type of facility.
22. **If you are not a covered institution, do you have any training requirements?**
- Section 305 of Colmery *mandates* training for institutions with 20 or more students, however, the training will be available online for anyone who wishes to complete it.
23. **For training at conferences, do you plan to be at both AVECO and NAVPA, since most of us attend only one?**
- Yes, we would like to attend as many of the large conferences as possible to provide updates on the status of the Section 305 implementation.

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24. **For the Covered Educational Inst, if the school is VA centralized as we are, will the 20 or more students be for the whole school or for each facility code?**
- Training requirements will apply to an individual institution with 20 or more and/or institutions with multiple locations with a combined total of 20 or more.
25. **What is/are the current "training requirements" that must be completed for current "new" SCO's? Those starting between now and August 1st under the current GI Bill®?**
- We are in the process of developing the new SCO training requirements for individuals designated on or after August 1, 2018. Training will be completed online
26. **When will the training requirements be implemented for current SCOs?**
- The first phase is for new SCOs and will be available August 1, 2018. We are still defining the requirements for existing SCOs, but are considering implementing those requirements beginning August 1, 2019.
27. **Will NCD SCO's be tested on IHL training or a separate NCD testing**
- Diagnostic testing will apply to the facility type of the SCO.
28. **Although covered institutions is "20+" VA students, if we have less can we still take this training?**
- Yes, section 305 of Colmery *mandates* training for institutions with 20 or more students, however, the training will be available online for anyone who wishes to complete it.
29. **Does the 20 or more count as 20 actively using the benefits, or 20 within the fiscal year?**
- A covered institution is one with 20 or more individuals who received benefits during the year.
30. **Multiple Attendees: Are the 20+ individuals determined per school location or total (if one school has multiple campuses)? If an institution has multiple facility codes is each one calculated separately for 20 or more students or is it the institution as a whole?**
- Training requirements will apply to an individual institution with 20 or more and/or institutions with multiple locations with a combined total of 20 or more
31. **Multiple Attendees - What is the implementation date for the training requirements for current experienced SCOs?**
- We are still defining the requirements for existing SCOs, but are considering implementing those requirements beginning August 1, 2019.

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32. **Can the 22-8794 also include an employee of the business office who only needs it to call the SCO Hotline?**
- We are clarifying whether an individual who may need to inquire about a student's benefit, but not provide information to VA will need to complete the training requirements.
33. **Will work-study students be required to take training if they only input data but do not submit certifications?**
- Section 305 of Colmery mandates training for institutions with 20 or more students, however, the training will be available online for anyone who wishes to complete it.
34. **One of our SCOs does only CH 31, what training requirements can be removed from her training?**
- Section 305 does not apply to SCOs who only certify Chapter 31.
35. **I have 2 co-workers that I have named on our 22-8794 as READ ONLY. They do not certify students. All they do is call into the SCO hotline to verify student's benefits as they are enrolling. With this new information will we need to remove them from the form as they will not be certifying students?**
- We are clarifying whether an individual who may need to inquire about a student's benefit, but not provide information to VA will need to complete the training requirements.
36. **I have a copy of the last 8794 submitted. There are three people listed. On WEAMS there are additional names listed as SCO's. Will you be using WEAMS to determine who needs to do training?**
- Since the WEAMS information can be obtained electronically and it should be based on your most recent VA Form 22-8794, we will use it to identify SCOs. You are encouraged to contact your ELR and notify him/her of the discrepancy in WEAMS.
37. **In regards to the training certification. Under WEAMS we might have one of the SCO's listed could be the president of our Department. That person MIGHT never log on to VA –Once. To my understanding VA would only be looking at the certs that have been signed by SCO's in the past. NOT all the people listed on WEAMS. Has that changed?**
- We are clarifying whether an individual who may need to inquire about a student's benefit, but not provide information to VA will need to complete the training requirements. You are encouraged to update your VA Form 22-8794 to remove any individual who neither certifies nor contacts the VA to inquire about a student's benefit.

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38. **22-8794 form- will it be updated to reflect the changes. Wording implies names of others.**
- We are clarifying whether an individual who may need to inquire about a student's benefit, but not provide information to VA will need to complete the training requirements. If they will not be subject to the training requirements, we will implement a process, which may include a modification to the VA Form 22-8794, to ensure they are appropriately identified.
39. **For the 'covered' number of 20 VA Students is that each semester, year, ever?**
- A covered institution is one with 20 or more individuals who received benefits during the year. Requirements will be based on enrollment during the previous year. (i.e., Requirements for new SCOs designated on or after August 1, 2018, will be based on individuals enrolled in 2017.)
40. **Regarding the Forever GI Bill and covered institutions: we fluctuate under and over the 20 student mark each year, would we also fluctuate between being a "covered" institution and not being one in accordance with our student numbers?**
- Yes, that is definitely possible. The list of covered institutions schools will be generated annually and may change depending on the number of individuals enrolled.
41. **What happens if SCO does not meet the training requirements?**
- The law states VA may disapprove any course of education if the requirements are not met. Essentially, we may be unable to award benefits. We are working with SAAs to detail the process for addressing non-compliance to ensure we do not take this course of action unless it is warranted.
42. **If we have less than 20 students annually, can we still attend the training?**
- Section 305 of Colmery mandates training for institutions with 20 or more students, however, the training will be available online for anyone who wishes to complete it.
43. **Is the definition of 20 students for a "covered institution" set in stone? I tend to hover around 18-22 students.**
- The law defines a covered institution as one having 20 or more. The list of covered institutions schools will be generated annually and may change depending on the number of individuals enrolled in any given year. Requirements will be based on enrollment during the previous year. (i.e., Requirements for new SCOs designated on or after August 1, 2018, will be based on individuals enrolled in 2017.)
44. **What was the mandatory 1st Phase start date, Aug 2015?**
- The effective date of this section is August 1, 2018. The first phase applies to new SCOs designated on or after August 1, 2018. Subsequent phases will define training requirements for SCOs designated prior to August 1, 2018. [Top](#)

45. **What is/are the current "training requirements" that must be completed for current "new" SCO's? Those starting between now and August 1st under the current GI Bill ®?**
- The effective date of this section is August 1, 2018. Currently, there are no specific training requirements. You are encouraged to contact your ELR for training options for SCOs designated prior to August 1, 2018.
46. **It sounded like if you became a SCO after Aug. 1, 2015 you weren't required to take the training?**
- The effective date of this section is August 1, 2018. The first phase applies to new SCOs designated on or after August 1, 2018. Subsequent phases will define training requirements for SCOs designated prior to August 1, 2018.
47. **Do we get any credit for completing the 40hr training?**
- The effective date for implementation of this section is August 1, 2018. The first phase will establish requirements for new SCOs designated on or after the implementation date. Training requirements will need to be met on or after this date. We are still working to further define the requirements for SCOs designated prior to August 1, 2018.
48. **For the "older" SCO who has not taken the 40 hour training, should it be completed now or wait until the new training to be roll out?**
- We are still working to further define the requirements for SCOs designated prior to August 1, 2018. Existing SCOs should wait for those training requirements.
49. **We have someone in the middle of the online training. I think you are referring to this as the 40 hour training. Are you saying that it is not available right now if she tries to log in again? If so, when will it be available again?**
- The 40-hour online training is still available; however, we have been advised some of the links may be inoperable. If the individual wishes to complete this training and is unable to access it, she should contact her ELR for assistance. It should be noted, we are moving the online training to a new platform. The new training is easier to navigate and will consist of micro-learning training modules which can be completed individually. As an existing SCO, this individual would not be subject to training requirement until that phase of training is implemented.
50. **I know that the annual reporting fees are used for training purposes. However just attending the WAVES conference eats up the whole amount. How do we afford to attend other SCO conferences?**
- Unfortunately, there is no additional funding provided by VA for SCOs to attend training. It should be noted we are working to standardize the training at all SCO conferences so SCOs will be provided similar training at any conference they are able to attend.

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51. **We are a non-college training for real estate licensing. Will this allow for the 20 hour post license requirement?**
- Question needed more clarity, unable to respond.
52. **I am in a school with less than 15 VA students but I desperately need training. I don't fall under the new training rule. What happens now?**
- Section 305 of Colmery mandates training for institutions with 20 or more students, however, the training will be available online for anyone who wishes to complete it.
53. **We have 4 SCO in our school 2 actually do the certification and the other 2 are from the Finance department the VA will not speak with them if they are not an SCO Going forward how will we put those 2 SCO the ability to speak with the VA**
- The intent of the legislation is to ensure individuals receive training if they are responsible for providing enrollment information, to include tuition and fees and other financial information, to VA. We are clarifying whether an individual who may need to inquire about a student's benefit, but not provide information to VA will need to complete the training requirements.
54. **For the Covered Educational Inst, if the school is VA centralized as we are will the 20 or more students be for the whole school or for each facility code?**
- A covered institution includes any single facility with 20 or more and/or a facility with centralized certification with a combined total of 20 or more.
55. **When will the non-covered school training take place?**
- The first phase of training for new SCOs will be available by August 1, 2018. Training is required for individuals at covered institutions, however, the training will be available online for anyone who wishes to complete it.
56. **Will this new training take the place of the original online VA-ONCE training?**
- The new training will replace the existing online SCO Training Performance Support System (TPSS), which contains VA Once components. The training will consist of micro-learning training modules which can be taken individually and will include specific modules on VA Once.

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Outcome Measures-

1. **How do we report academic progress to the VA?**

- We are currently in the process of drafting a notification letter regarding the requirements of academic progress.
- The main requirement of academic progress (PL 114-315 Section 404) is to report out on the applicable data fields in VA-Once, which are used to calculate Outcome Measures.

SCO Handbook/KM-

1. **Can the SCO Handbook versions start including the effective date?**

- Yes, there will be a date on future versions.

2. **Will the additional training include improvement of the SCO handbook, and will the training do a better job of synching with the handbook so that it can be better used as a handbook/reference?**

- That would be one of our objectives.

3. **Multiple Attendees: Will we be notified when changes occur to the handbook platform and if so, how?**

- Your ELR will be notified of any changes to the handbook and will disseminate this information to you. There will also be an announcement listed on the home page of the KnowVA KM Solution

4. **Multiple Attendees: Where is the handbook located?**

- The SCO handbook is currently located at https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_training_resources.asp. The estimated deployment of the SCO handbook to be available in the KM Solution is April 2018

5. **Are the updates to the handbook currently updated or pending the new system?**

- The updates, mentioned during the Webinar, are pending the new online platform. The updates regarding Dual Certification has been presented in prior Webinars and is effective now.

6. **Multiple Attendees: When is the roll-out date for this new platform and handbook?**

- The estimated deployment is April 2018

7. **Has the TA section been revised or is it going to be revised?**

- The Tuition Assistance is going to be revised and the revised information will be disseminated via KM solution.

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8. **Will there be some basic training modules for work-study students?**
 - Basic training modules have not been developed for work-study students. Work-study students are not required to complete annual training since they cannot be designated as designated SCOs. However, training will be online and available to anyone who would like to take and receive credit for it.
9. **Is the KM Solution available to non-SCOs?**
 - Yes, the KnowVA KM Portal is an internet site so the information is available to anyone.
10. **Will there be a change log in the new SCO KM to track changes that are made?**
 - We will maintain archived copies of all versions of the SCO handbook and when updates are made, we will ensure this information is posted to the KnowVA KM Solution page under “Announcements.”
11. **What is the current edition of the handbook? I have 5.3 /5th edition.**
 - The current edition, which is on the GI Bill website, is Revision 5.3 (5th Edition).
12. **If an SCO finds an error in the handbook will we be able to submit the information to someone for correction?**
 - If an SCO finds an error in the handbook then it should be submitted it to their ELR of jurisdiction
13. **Is the new handbook already updated on the GI Bill web site under this (KM)?**
 - Not at this time. It is still located at https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_training_resources.asp. Once in the KM Solution you will be able to access it through the GI Bill Website.
14. **In the new format of the SCO Handbook, will there still be a download/PDF version?**
 - Yes, users can print to a local or network printer or to pdf from the portal. At the bottom right of each article there are options to provide article feedback, email, add to favorites and to print.

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Dual Certification/C&L Questions

1. **This is our first term using the dual certification process. Do we report tuition and fees after the last day to drop with a “W” or the last day to drop with a full refund? When submitting a dual certification for a student who dropped a course, we only report the tuition and fees for the remaining active courses – correct?**
 - If the enrollment change occurs on or after the first day of the term-
 - An amendment should be submitted to report the tuition and fees for the original number of hours the student began the enrollment period with on the first day of the term
 - The next day, an adjustment should be submitted with the new hours and the tuition and fees associated with the new hours. (Page 46 SCO HB)
2. **If you have 9 credits at one school and 3 credits at another do you have to break up the tuition by site?**
 - In-state tuition and fees should be reported by the facility where the student is in attendance.
3. **How do you submit a catalog addendum?**
 - Updates to facility information should be submitted through the State Approving Agency for the state of Jurisdiction. [SAA Contact Information](#)
4. **We no longer have a catalog, only our website. What do we provide in place of the catalog?**
 - A CD with the catalog (not a link) is acceptable; please contact your State Approving Agency for more information on catalog approvals. [SAA Contact Information](#)
5. **How does one get access to VA Once if they have not completed the 40 hour current training & has a potential VA prospective student apply before the new training begins?**
 - Please contact your ELR for VAONCE questions, your ELR is the VAONCE administrator for your state. [ELR Contact Information](#)
6. **I was told by ELR Work Study students could not do SCO duties in VA Once. Is that correct?**
 - It is possible to grant “Read Only Access” to work-study students. It is recommended that SCO’s be employees of the facility. Please refer to [Memorandum of Understanding](#) for VA ONCE access.

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7. **I submitted the 8794 late last week. Might you know how long until I hear back, and once I do, may I begin entering the data in VA-ONCE?**
 - Turnaround time for VA Form 22-8794 should be within two weeks. However, if the process takes longer it is recommended that you talk to your ELR directly. Your ELR will determine based on received information your access/training needs. [ELR Contact Information](#)
8. **FAA's Airway Transportation Systems Special OJT program is 24 months. Can the employee be extended for a 12 month period based on the unavailability of the FAA Academy instructor-led classes? She still is NOT at a journey-level; she is currently a DEVELOPMENTAL.**
 - Please contact your ELR. [ELR Contact Information](#)
9. **Is there an SCO discussion list/board where we can post general questions/share general information?**
 - The VA does not have a SCO discussion board. The VA does have some interactive sites where information can be shared. [Ask a Question](#) (via RNW); and Facebook. There are non-VA SCO sites where this type of sharing and question asking takes place.
10. **For prior credit in the current handbook, it states that a transcript is required, but if it cannot be obtained and the student is matriculated to continue to certify. What does not being able to obtain transcript mean to the VA? If a student didn't give this info during admissions and they are matriculated is a transcript still required?**
 - Schools should make every effort to obtain transcripts to comply with the requirement to evaluate and grant credit where appropriate. However, if a transcript cannot be obtained, you may continue to certify enrollment as long as the student has matriculated. Reviews of prior credit policies will be conducted during compliance surveys and treated as approval issues if the school is not complying. SCO HB Page 50-51
11. **Will SCOs get access to the WEAMS system to monitor months of entitlement, certifications, etc.?**
 - [WEAMS Public](#) is a web based approval program that is available to everyone. WEAMS Public has available basic facility information to include: Approved Programs, SCO information, BAH rate, and POE agreement. Months of entitlement for students is not available on WEAMS. SCO's should have access to this information from the student with Award Letters and Certificates of Eligibility Letters. Some Chapter 30 and Chapter 1606 students this information is available in VAONCE.

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12. When should we plan to enter Fall certifications to ensure they receive their book stipends in a timely manner?

- For Chapter 33 students Schools should submit certifications as early as possible in order to ensure that students receive their benefit payments in a timely manner, but certifications must be submitted within 30 days of the beginning of the term.
- For Chapters: 30, 32, 35, and 1606 Certifications can be submitted 120 days before the term begins, but must be submitted within 30 days of the beginning of the term, unless training time is less than ½-time, the student is on active duty, or accelerated payment is requested. If a student is less than ½-time, on active duty, or certified for accelerated payment the Certification must be submitted on or after the first day of class and tuition and fees must be reported. SCO HB page 45

VA-ONCE Questions

- 1. VAONCE needs to have an area that the SCO can identify, by week, sun-sat how many hours per THAT week the program is scheduled for, there are many programs that the hours change from week to week and are long programs that go over holidays etc...**
 - VA-ONCE is an electronic version of VA Form 22-1999. The school should certify in VA-ONCE the same way they would on a paper 1999.
- 2. It should automatically let the SCO know if the END date and the number of hours per week do not exceed the approved hrs. for the course**
 - There is an enhancement request to prevent NCDs from certifying over the number of approved hours, but the development for that has not yet begun.
- 3. Can VA ONCE be updated so that veterans receive a confirmation email when SCOs submit certifications?**
 - This capability is in VA-ONCE now. The school can enable it on the School data page. (I wish someone on the call could have answered this question. It has been in VA-ONCE since January of 2008.)
- 4. Are these VA systems updates going to fix the inability for LTS to tell VA Once what a claimants remaining entitlement is?**
 - This is an enhancement that we have been working on for some time. Yes, we will show the remaining entitlement for chapter 33 students, but the implementation date is still TBD.
- 5. What improvements are being discussed for VAONCE?**
 - We are currently working on changes due to the Colmery Act due to zip code and other sections of the law.
- 6. So will VA Once be available for those of us who use Google Chrome rather than Outlook?**
 - The VA Test environment is Internet Explorer. We are unable to test with other browsers, so cannot guarantee they will work.
- 7. Are you accepting/soliciting input from the field for suggested improvements to VA ONCE and to the training?**
 - You may make enhancement requests at any time through your ELR, however they will be given a lower priority than any legislative changes. (Training suggestions would be handled by the training team.)

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8. Will VA once have an area to report zip code? If so, when will these changes be in effect for zip codes?

- Yes, VA-ONCE is being updated in response to the Colmery Act to include zip code fields. These changes are scheduled to be installed in July.

9. My school has been waiting for the approval for VA Once since September, any updates on how long it takes?

- ELRs are responsible for adding any School Certifying Officials to the program.

10. Will these changes mean that we can certify multiple "facility codes\zip codes under one Certification in VA-Once? Or will the multiple facility codes need to be submitted separately?

- Multiple facility codes need to be submitted on multiple certifications - one for each facility code. This is current functionality. An SCO will be able to certify multiple zip codes on a single certification, if classes taken at that facility code are offered in different zip codes.

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CH31

1. Is an invoice required for Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) to pay tuition/fees for a Veteran's school program?

- Yes. An itemized invoice is needed for each Veteran who is utilizing VR&E benefits. If VA Form 28-1905, Authorization and Certification of Entrance or Reentrance into Rehabilitation and Certification of Status, is received for a Veteran authorizing a particular semester or training period, the school needs to both certify the Veteran's enrollment and provide a separate itemized invoice. All items authorized on the 28-1905 form, including tuition/fees (T&F) and books/supplies (B&S), should be itemized on the invoice provided to VR&E. For schools who own or have business agreements with campus bookstores, the school needs to develop an internal protocol for the school VA certifying official to notify the school bookstore that B&S have been authorized and for obtaining itemized receipts for the B&S purchased.
- The enrollment certification allows VR&E to provide the appropriate subsistence allowance for the Veteran and the invoice allows for T&F and B&S, if authorized, to be paid. It is not sufficient to indicate the amount of T&F or B&S charged in a VA-Once certification as an itemized invoice needs to breakdown the exact charges and detail other financial aid the Veteran is receiving.

2. Is it a requirement to separate remedial/deficiency (R/D) hours from standard credit hours when completing a VR&E enrollment certification for a Veteran's term?

- While it is not a requirement, it is recommended that R/D hours be separated from standard credit hours. This allows for the VR&E counselor to be informed of exactly what a Veteran is pursuing.

3. Is VA-Once used to certify the enrollment for Veterans utilizing VR&E benefits?

- Yes. All schools should certify Veterans' enrollments in the VA-Once system for the VR&E program. For schools who are not able to utilize this system for some reason, certifying a Veteran's enrollment on VA Form 28-1905 is also acceptable. Please keep in mind, however, that the VA-Once enrollment certification is used to provide the appropriate subsistence allowance payments and a separate itemized invoice is needed for tuition/fees or books/supplies to be paid.

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General

1. **What is the difference between vocational training clock hours and college credits?
We are a trade school.**
 - They are both units of measurement with the most constructive difference being how approved and the requirements for certifying based upon the type of training. 38 CFR 21.4270(a) (1) covers in detail Trade and Technical courses. Generally, if training involves mostly shop practice then 22 clock hours per week is considered full-time and when theory and classroom instruction is how the majority of training is conducted then 18 clock hours is considered full-time. Similar courses offered at an institution of higher learning offered on a quarter- or semester-hour basis are measured in credit hours in the same manner as collegiate undergraduate courses.
2. **As a follow-up, if a student enrolls 6 credits in a standard term, they will receive 50% of BAH rate?**
 - Under Chapter 33, a monthly housing allowance (MHA) is not payable when the student's rate of training or (rate of pursuit) at exactly 50% or anything less than 50%.
3. **Who is responsible for the upgrade percents with the forever GI bill effective January 1, 2013?**
 - Most changes under the Forever GI Bill (Colmery Act, PL 115-48) are effective August 1, 2018 or later. Others may be much later as with Section 105 which increases some benefit percentages for some individuals, is effective August 1, 2020. Likely, the question may be concerning Section 112; Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits will not expire for individuals last discharged from a qualifying period of service on or after January 1, 2013 and spouses using transferred benefits. Likewise benefits will not expire for all Fry spouses and a Fry child that first becomes eligible for Fry on or after January 1, 2013. This provision was effective upon passage of the legislation. We are actively notifying these individuals.
4. **Will 1 or more days of Ch33 Post 911 GI Bill continue to pay the tuition/fees for the entire semester? And will the student Veteran receive the full BAH for the entire semester?**
 - Generally, that would be true provided the individual had not used other education benefits. Once an individual has used 48 months combined (or 81 months combined with Chapter 35 usage) under two or more programs, benefits are no longer payable.
5. **I know this question isn't entirely related, but I have a dual-veteran family: the husband is 100% P/T and is CH35 eligible. Can his wife who is active duty, use the CH35 under him while Active Duty? And/or can she use this in conjunction with TA?**
 - No benefits under Chapter 35 will be provided during any period the otherwise eligible person is on active duty with the Armed Forces excluding any brief periods of ACDUTRA (Active Duty for Training) ([38 CFR 21.3042\(a\)](#)). [Top](#)

If an applicant has served with the Armed Forces, his or her discharge or release from each period of service must have been under conditions other than dishonorable ([38 CFR 21.3042\(b\)](#)).

6. You will provide evidence that we attend this conference today?

- We are not monitoring or tracking attendees for this webinar. However, your question and our response will be published.

7. If a CH 33 student attends/participates the first day of class, but never again, and doesn't drop the class, and fails, it is a student debt, right?

- A student must attend more than the first day of class to be entitled to Education benefit payments. Under Chapter 33, Tuition and Fee or Yellow Ribbon overpayments occurring as a result of a reduction or termination effective on or before the first day of training will be a school liability or school debt.

8. Is the standard MAH for online classes \$840.50?

- Yes, the distance-only monthly housing allowance for eligible individuals training at full-time is \$840.50. Click: [Rate Tables](#)

9. Will the Colmery GI Bill retroactively award CH33 rates, to include tuition costs and BAH, for those National Guard/Reserve members that were previously denied entitlement to CH33 due to the types of orders for which they were called to AD?

- Sections 101 (added Title 10 Section 12301(H) service) and 401 (added Title 10 Sections 12304a and 12304b service) are not retroactive. These provisions are effective for training on or after August 1, 2018.

10. Regarding new BAH rates (based on the class zip code), is this final VA regulations? Or is there possibility for modification?

- This is based on recent legislation (Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 {Public Law 115-48, Section 107}) and final.

11. What is the new IHL Ch. 33 VA cap for private schools?

- The rate for August 1, 2017-July 31, 2018 is \$22, 805.34. The rate that begins August 1, 2018, has not been published. In the past, the updated information was announced in May.

12. This is a question off topic. Will we receive reporting fees and if so what is the amount per student? Thank you.

- The Annual Reporting Fee (ARF) amount is computed by multiplying that calendar year's ARF rate by the number of eligible VA educational beneficiaries enrolled during that calendar year (38 USC 3684(c)). \$7 (non-advance payment) and \$12 (advance payment) per student from September 26, 2017 to September 25, 2026

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13. Do you have any information on the current backlog?

- Current pending inventory is 59,765 claims.
- FYTD timeliness through EOM February: (10/01/17-02/18/18)
- Originals: 22.9 days
- Supplementals: 11.9 days

14. Please share the way for us to make changes to the G I Bill Comparison Tool when information has been changed.

- Data on the GI Bill Comparison Tool (CT) consists of source data from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), as well as external agencies, such as the Department of Education (ED) and Department of Defense (DOD). VA updates the GI Bill Comparison Tool on a weekly basis. However, source data from external agencies usually occur monthly or annually. Based on the requested data change from a school, VA may or may not be able to update the information outside of the agency’s source data. Submissions for data changes can be forwarded to the following mailboxes: 224B.VBAVACO@va.gov or 223D.VBAVACO@va.gov. In addition, please refer to the following “GI Bill Comparison Tool (CT) School Request Response” guide below for instructions to contact ED and DOD about changes to school information as well.

GI Bill Comparison Tool (CT) School Request Response

Thanks for reaching out to Education Service regarding the GI Bill Comparison Tool (CT).

If you would like to correct your institution information on the tool and it is NOT one of the below areas, please submit your changes directly on the site by clicking the lightbulb at the bottom of the page. Otherwise please contact the agency listed to update the information.

Name	Agency	Link
Eight Keys to Veteran Success	Department of Education	http://www.ed.gov/veterans-and-military-families/8-keys-success-sites
Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs	Department of Education	http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/
Heightened Cash Monitoring	Department of Education	https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/data-center/school/hcm
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System	Department of Education	http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/
Financial Aid Shopping Sheet	Department of Education	https://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN1326.html
DOD Memorandum of Understanding for Tuition Assistance	Department of Defense	https://www.dodmou.com/Home/InstitutionList
College Scorecard	Department of Education	https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/data/

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