JULY OFFICE HOURS AGENDA

- Rounding Out Policy Update – Chelsea Jackson
- Tuition & Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021 – Sharon Seidl
- Section 3 REMOTE Act Update & Section 1009 – Marit Solem
- DGIB Updates – Traveon Ward Sr.
- SCO Annual Training Requirements – Marit Solem

This Event is SCO Approved Training.....Portal

Knowledge Checks Today!
ROUNDING OUT
Policy Update

Chelsea Jackson
Training Specialist
National Training Team-Schools
EDU’s policy states a student may round out with any additional class(es) included within their program, even if it’s not required for the specific beneficiary to graduate. Such classes must be specified by name in the approved program curriculum, and not previously completed.

Additionally, if the student has taken (or is enrolled in) every class offered as part of the program, the student may round out with classes not offered as a part of their program of education (i.e., any class offered by the educational institution).

### Historical practice of “Rounding Out”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior to Aug 1, 2021</td>
<td>VA EDU published the Policy Advisory entitled “Revision of the VA Education Service Practice of Rounding Out”. Policy effective Aug 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 1, 2021</td>
<td>“Rounding Out” courses certified are included within the program and count toward the student’s graduation requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 1, 2021</td>
<td>Section 4 of the REMOTE Act codifies VA practice of “rounding out”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 21, 2021</td>
<td>If the student has taken every class offered as part of the program, the student may round out with any class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 5, 2022</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
COURSE OPTIONS ON A DEGREE AUDIT REPORT (DAR)

Courses shown will satisfy the degree requirement

Student has taken:
- ENGL 2358, 2359
- ENVR 2000
- GEOG 1400, 2200
- GER 1111, 1112
- HIST 1304, 1305, 2580

To Round-out, the student has available:
- ENGL 2410
- GEOG 3820
- GER 2211, 2212, 3311, 3312
- HIST 2660, 2700

If no other options were available, the student could take a course outside of their degree plan.
Public Law 117-68, Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021

Sharon Seidl
Training Specialist
National Training team - Schools
Section 702 of the Choice Act requires VA to disapprove programs of education for everyone training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill® and the Montgomery GI Bill® - Active Duty (MGIB-AD) programs, if resident tuition and fees are not charged to all covered individuals.
COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED: (PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

- Transferred benefits who lives in the state where IHL is located
- The above listed statements continuously enrolled
  - Anyone using transferred benefits living in the state where IHL is located, and the transferor is a member of the uniformed service serving on active duty
  - Fry Scholarship recipients living in the state where the IHL is located

GI Bill Resident Rate Requirements - Education and Training (va.gov)

Title 38, US Code § 3679 (c) (2)
PUBLIC LAW 117-68, COLONEL JOHN M. MCHUGH
TUITION FAIRNESS FOR SURVIVORS ACT OF 2021 –
effective date

Signed into law November 30, 2021

Allows VA to disapprove courses at an IHL facility which does not charge in-state tuition rates for chapter 35 beneficiaries for enrollments beginning on or after August 1, 2022.
At this time, all states are either in compliance, or had a waiver for compliance approved by VA
SCO RECOMMENDATIONS - SCHOOL

- Chapter 35 beneficiaries’ tuition and fees normally don’t get a review by the SCO unless the student is half-time or less
  - How are CH 35 students tracked in student systems?
  - Are they coded the same as other Chapter beneficiaries?
- Communicate this change with the Business/Billing/Financial Aid offices, as applicable

ONE MORE THING—Section 103 of the Veterans Benefit and Transition Act of 2018, PL 115-407:
- CH 35 was not initially included when that law was signed, but it is in there now because of PL 117-68

Effective August 1, 2019, schools are not allowed to penalize or prohibit a GI Bill® student from attending or participating in courses while awaiting VA payment (for up to 90 days)

**Please stand by for more information from VA Policies Team**
SCO RECOMMENDATIONS - SAA

Contact your SAA for:

**Approval issues**
- Compliance conducted by SAA

Contact your ELR for:
- Advisory Questions
- Certification questions
- VA-ONCE technical questions
- Compliance conducted by VA
SECTION 3 REMOTE ACT

Policy Update

Marit Solem
Training Specialist
National Training Team-Schools
Section 3: Amends 38 U.S.C. § 3679(f)(2)(B), to now allow schools to pay incentives to recruit foreign students not eligible for Federal financial student aid; exempts all foreign schools from the requirements of 38 U.S.C. § 3679(f) and amends 38 USC 3689(c) and 3690(c) to exempt certain foreign students and foreign schools from certain reporting requirements; exempts schools that provide their students with financial disclosure information required by the Secretary of Education (e.g., schools that provide students with a College Financial Plan as part of participation in Federal financial student aid) from any of the requirements of § 3697(f); and delays enforcement of § 3679(f) until August 1, 2022, and any school seeking a waiver may apply for one starting on June 15, 2022.
OPTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE

A school may satisfy the requirements of § 3679(f) by either:

Continuing to provide covered individuals with a CFP [such schools are exempt by virtue of § 3679(f)(7)]; or,

Begin providing students with a CFP by August 1, 2022; or,

Financial Aid Shopping Sheet (ed.gov)
OPTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE - CONTINUED

Continuing to provide covered individual with the information required by § 3679(f); or,

If the school intends to provide students with the CFP but cannot begin doing so by August 1, 2022, and likewise has not yet begun to provide covered individual with the information required by § 3679(f) by virtue of a waiver granted until August 1, 2022, (a waiver that was granted to give schools sufficient time to be able to provide the information required in § 3679(f)(1) by August 1, 2022), the school must begin providing covered individual with the information required by § 3679(f) by August 1, 2022 (having successfully implemented its plan to provide such information no later than August 1, 2022), and then, once the school is able to provide covered individuals with a CFP, begin providing the CFP thereby gaining exemption from the requirements of § 3679(f); once the school is providing the CFP, it may cease providing the information required by § 3679(f)(1).
WHAT ABOUT THAT WAIVER OPTION?

Apply for a waiver

SECTION1018.VBACO@VA.GOV

NOTE: WAIVERS BEING GRANTED ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELY
SECTION 1009
Policy Update

Marit Solem
Training Specialist
National Training Team-Schools
Section 1009. Clarification MHA assistance for individuals who attend school while on active duty Clarifies that individuals pursuing a program of education while on active duty must be serving at least 30 days on active duty to no longer be eligible to receive a monthly housing allowance while using their GI Bill® benefits since they will receive a housing allowance through the Department of Defense (DoD). Effective: August 1, 2022.
DIGITAL GI BILL® (DGIB) UPDATES

Traveon D. Ward, Sr.
Training Specialist
National Training Team - Schools
A new Post-9/11 GI Bill® application experience will soon be live for Veterans and Service members as part of the Digital GI Bill® effort.

The VA is taking steps to simplify the GI Bill® application process and to make it easier to apply for Post-9/11 education benefits. The new application process will include some pre-filled information about the Veterans or Service members as he or she completes the GI Bill® application.

Upon completion of the GI Bill® application there will be faster, electronic responses in eligibility decision times; important documents will be accessible online.

Visit website: www.VA.gov for the new enhanced Post-9/11 GI Bill® Application.
DGIB UPDATES

@GIBillEducation

@VA Vet Benefits

Veterans Benefits @Messages.VA.gov

Stakeholder Engagement

VA EDU leaders recently provided responses to all GI Bill students and SCO's questions posted on the 2022 GI Bill Summit RallyPoint page.

GI Bill Utilization Research

Our GI Bill utilization research is informing data-driven communications to Veterans, service members, and their families to encourage benefits usage.

Usability Testing Sessions and Focus Groups

Social Media “Quick Definitions”

Modernization Updates

GI Bill Comparison Tool Videos
FY22 SCO Annual Training Requirements

Please remember, if you don’t complete your annual training requirements, VA has the authority to remove your access from VA-ONCE and the SAA has the authority to disapprove your school’s programs.

- **Annual Training Window Opened.** Updated training requirements for all new SCOs and continuing education requirements for existing SCOs are effective: **October 1, 2021**
- **60-Day Training Alert!** Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill® website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice: **July 1, 2022**
- **15-Day Training Alert!** Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill® website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice: **August 15, 2022**
- **Existing SCOs - No training in progress**
  - New SCOs – Training is continuous throughout the year: **September 1-30, 2022**
- **June 1, 2022**
  - 90-Day Training Alert! 90-Day Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill® website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice
- **August 1, 2022**
  - 30-Day Training Alert! Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill® website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice
- **August 31, 2022**
  - Annual Training Window Closes! Continuing education requirements for existing SCOs completed
SCO ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENT COUNT DOWN
DATE AUGUST 31, 2022

Education and Training

School Certifying Official (SCO) Training

School Certifying Official Training Countdown!
October 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022

My countdown

42 : 07 : 52 : 48
DAYS  HOURS  MINUTES  SECONDS

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education_resources/school_certifying_officials/online_sco_training.asp
SCO ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENT

On this page:

- School Certifying Official Training Overview
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact – SCO Training
- School Certifying Official Training Countdown
- SCO Online Training Portal
- SCO Annual Training Schedule
- Education Service Webinars and Training Events
- SCO Training FAQs

SCO Annual Training – Get Started!

- Existing - School Certifying Officials
- New - School Certifying Officials
- Read Only - School Certifying Officials
- Transferring - School Certifying Officials

Existing SCO Training by Facility Type

- Existing SCOs - Institution of Higher Learning (IHL)
- Existing SCOs - Non-College Degree (NCD)
- Existing SCOs - Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) with Non-College Degree (NCD) Programs
- Existing SCOs - Institution of Higher Learning with Flight Programs
- Existing SCOs - On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- Existing SCOs - Apprenticeship Programs
- Existing SCOs - Vocational Flight Programs
- Existing SCOs - High School Programs
- Existing SCOs - Residency Programs

- Consequences for Non-Compliance (Existing SCOs Only)
SCO PORTAL CHECK COMPLETION STATUS

FY22 SCO Annual Training Requirements

Department of Veterans Affairs
School Certifying Official Training 2022

Welcome
Welcome to the Department of Veterans Affairs Training for School Certifying Officials (SCO). This training is mandated by the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, the Colmery Act (Public Law 114-48) for both new and existing SCOs. Please read the descriptions carefully to ensure you are taking training that corresponds with your faculty schedule so you can meet the annual training requirement. To track your training progress, please see the Year to Date (YTD) summary. The YTD summary lists the number of modules or training events you have completed toward your annual training requirement. Also, check the information listed in your profile to ensure it is correct. Each school is responsible for ensuring that their SCOs meet the mandatory training requirement and document in accordance with compliance regulations. This training is designed to assist you in performing the tasks required of SCOs. If you have questions about what training to take, contact your local ELR. Thank you for helping our nation's Veterans Affairs complete their educational goals.

Your Completion Status

- Completed hours: 0
- Completed modules: 0
- Online hours: 0
- Conference hours: 0

Getting Started

To begin, select a level of training (New or Existing) based upon your experience level. New SCOs must complete the training prior to being authorized to certify enrollments to VA and must submit a copy of their training completion certificate along with the VA 2284 form to the ELR of their jurisdiction. Existing SCOs are required to complete training every year beginning October 1 through August 31 of the following year.

Instructions

After you select the level of training (New or Existing), a list of courses will be displayed. Select a course to begin your training. Your Education Liaison Representative (ELR) of jurisdiction can assist if you have any questions about the material covered in the training. After completing, you
SUNSET OF INTERNET EXPLORER

Internet Explorer was the preferred web browser for VA-ONCE and was officially “Sunsetted” Last Month

Usability testing has found that Microsoft Edge is now the preferred web browser

VA-ONCE & Edge Browser Compatibility
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>ELR</th>
<th>Certifying Official Hotline</th>
<th>SAA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Updating Certifying Officials; VA Form 22-8794</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical assistance with reporting enrollments</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to VA-ONCE and related technical guidance</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>85/15 reporting matters</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarification on WEAMS 1998 reports</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Status of Tuition &amp; Fee or Yellow Ribbon payments</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation of school debt creation</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual student benefit information and hardship cases</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program revisions; new/suspended/cancelled programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updated catalogs and related publications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School address updates – including branch/extension</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in accreditation status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of ownership and change of address</td>
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<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
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RESOURCES FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIALS

- Find ELR Contact Information [here](#)
- Find SAA Contact Information [here](#)

Contact your ELR for the Certifying Official Hotline phone number.
DEBT MANAGEMENT CENTER
Ask VA (AVA) School Inquiries

- All school inquiries and disputes should be submitted using AVA https://ask.va.gov/

- Select “Veterans Affairs- Debt” as the category and “A School Official” as the topic
  - Selecting these options is critical to ensure routing to DMC

- Under “My inquiry is” select “On behalf of a Veteran”- this enables you to select School Certifying Official or Other (Business) under “relationship to Veteran”
  - Selecting on behalf of a Veteran and then a business relationship will ensure the inquiries show up in a business dashboard

- You must log in to receive a response that receives specific debt information
DEBT MANAGEMENT CENTER
Tips for Submissions via AVA

When submitting disputes and inquiries via AVA

- One inquiry per student
- Identifying information for the student (not in the subject line)
- School name and facility code
- Debt amount
- Supporting details (front and back of cashed check, when was updated certification sent, etc.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERTIFYING OFFICIAL RESOURCE LINKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VBA Education Service Monthly Office Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Certifying Official Handbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI Bill® Website – School Resources Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI Bill® Website – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Certifying Official Training Portal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Management Center (DMC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veteran Readiness &amp; Employment (VRE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VRE Certifying Official Handbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85/15 FAQs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL ANNUAL TRAINING RESOURCES

National Training Mailbox: edutraining.vbaco@va.gov
  - Certifying Official training portal access and use
  - Certifying Official approved training credit and progress tracking
  - Adobe Connect registration and access

VBA Support: support@VBATraining.org
  - Certifying Official training portal functionality

All webinars and training sessions are announced via GovDelivery
Be sure to register and update your information as needed
GovDelivery Support can be found here
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL TRAINING SELF-CERTIFICATION
STEP-BY-STEP

1. Click on the URL below or Copy and Paste in your web browser
   https://vba-tpss.vbatraining.org/assess/trkSignIn?refid=XSCO

2. Enter your email address and eight (8) digit facility code, then click Next

3. Scroll down and click the Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training tab

4. Select the applicable training session from the list of topics that appears on the right side of the screen by clicking Begin

5. To enter Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training Title, click the dropdown arrow, select SCO Virtual Training Session and click Submit

6. Enter the start date and the end date

7. Enter your Facility Name, City and State (Main Campus) and click Submit

8. Certify your attendance by clicking Agree and then submit

9. Print your training certificate and keep for your records
August Office Hours
Education Staff = August 23rd
State Approving Agencies = August 23rd
School Certifying Officials = August 24th & 25th

Self-Certify for your Annual Training Credit in the SCO Portal