

Education Service
School Certifying Official Training
New School Certifying Official (SCO)



Ice Breaker



Which state in the US has the largest coastline? Here's a hint: it's not **California** or **Florida**.



Ice Breaker

Which state in the US has the largest coastline? Here's a hint: it's not **California** or **Florida**.

Alaska



Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:

- Summarize the history of the GI Bill
- Describe the current Veteran Administration (VA) educational benefit programs
- Identify the responsibilities of the State Approving Agency (SAA)
- Identify the school's responsibilities via the School Certifying Official (SCO) for certify students' courses, tuition and fees
- List points of contact to receive assistance with questions





Topics

- GI Bill History
- Current VA Education Benefit Programs
- Responsibilities of SAA
- The School's Responsibilities via the SCO
- Contacts



History of the GI Bill



In the Beginning....

- At the end of the WWI, millions of veterans were released into the job market
- Congress passed a bonus law, but it would only pay out after 20 years
- The lack of benefits led to the confrontation on The Mall in Washington, DC, between the army and veterans requesting an early payout of the bonus during the Great Depression





The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (1 of 2)

- Near the end of the WWII (1942), millions of veterans would be released into the recently recovered Great Depression job market
- Fears that the gearing down of war production and millions coming into the job market could trigger another depression
- A survey found that 56% of soldiers thought a depression would follow the war



The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (2 of 2)

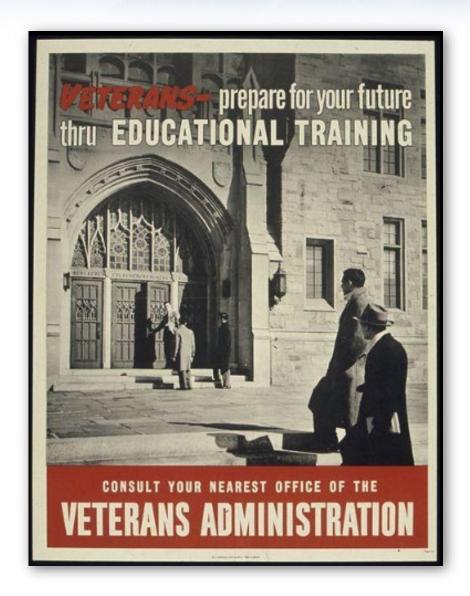
- Harry W. Colmery is credited with writing the provisions of the GI Bill
- President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act into law on June 22, 1944
- The bill provided six benefits:
 - Education and Training
 - Loan guaranty for a home, farm, or business
 - Unemployment pay
 - Job-finding assistance
 - Top priority for building materials for VA hospitals
 - Military review of dishonorable discharges





The Results of Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944

- By 1947, the peak year of the GI Bill, veterans accounted for 49% of college enrollment
- Out of a veteran population of 15,440,000, 7.8 million trained under the GI Bill
 - 2,230,000 in college
 - 3,480,000 in other schools
 - 1,400,000 in OJT
 - 690,000 in farm training
- The GI Bill is credited with creating the modern middle class





Veterans' Readjustment Act of 1952

Based on a House Report in 1952 investigating Educational Programs under the GI Bill:

- There was significant growth in private profit schools with little or no educational background
- Too much waste, inefficiency, and fraud occurring with vocational trades and technical training in public and private schools

Congress adopted rules with the following modifications:

- Require private schools to operate for two years
- The school must maintain a minimum non-veterans enrollment of 15%



Section Review

The original Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 only provided eligible veterans with funds for education and training, **not** unemployment pay.

- True
- False



Section Review

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- False



Current VA Educational Benefit Programs





Basic Education Benefit Process

Submit an application for benefits via hard copy or electronically via VETS.gov

Receives VA determination of their eligibility and entitlement via Certificate of Eligibility (COE) Submit an enrollment certification form to VA outlining their pursuit of training

Receives
payment for their
training either
directly or to the
school



Education Benefit Programs

Benefits for Veterans

- Chapter 30
- Chapter 33
- Chapter 1606

Benefits for Dependents

- Chapter 35
- Chapter 33 TOE
- Fry Scholarship



Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD)

- If enlisted less than three years, serviceperson must serve 24 continuous month. If more than three years, serviceperson must serve at least 36 months (exceptions apply)
- Must have a qualifying period of honorable service
- Must not have declined GI Bill in writing at initial entry







Chapter 35 Dependents Education Assistance (DEA)

Available to the spouse, surviving spouse, or dependent child of a veteran who:

- Is 100% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability
- Died as 100% disabled as a result of a service-connected injury or while on active duty.
- Was held as a POW or was MIA for 90 days



Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)

The reservist must have:

- Served for six years
- A high school diploma or equivalent
- Completed Initial Active Duty Training (IADT)





Payments for Chapters 30, 35 & 1606 Monthly Rates

A benefit is paid to the student monthly based on the number of days certified.

- Full month Full benefit
- Less than a month Prorated based on a 30-day month





Training Time for Chapters 30, 35 & 1606 (1 of 4)

Clock Hours

Actual hours per week a student spends attending class or other instructional activities that count toward completing a program of study.

- Complete 18 clock hours per week if the predominant portion is spent in the classroom
- Complete 22 clock hours per week if the predominant instruction is more like shop practice

Credit Hours

The number of credits a student receives for enrolling in, and successfully completing a given course.

- Students complete a certain number of credits to complete a program
- **Does not** directly reflect the total number of a student spends in class
- Reflect each course's workload



Training Time for Chapters 30, 35 & 1606 (2 of 4)

Classroom Theory:

- Clock Hour is a 60-minute time-frame
- 10 minutes to change classes each hour
- 10 minutes to change subjects if in the same classroom

Shop Practice:

- Clock Hour is a 60-minute time-frame
- Two (2) 15-minute breaks (Morning & Afternoon)
- Shorter breaks allowed for part-time enrollment





Training Time for Chapters 30, 35 & 1606 (3 of 4)

Classroom Theory vs. Shop Practice

CLASSROOM THEORY		SHOP PRACTICE	
Clock hours net instruction per week	Training Time	Clock hours net instruction per week	Training Time
18+	Full-time	22+	Full-time
13 – 17	¾-time	16 – 21	¾-time
09 – 12	½-time	11 – 15	1⁄2-time
05 – 08	Less than half; more than ¼-time	06 – 10	Less than half; more than ¼-time
01 – 04	¼-time	01 – 05	¼-time



Training Time for Chapters 30, 35 & 1606 (4 of 4)

Benefits are paid based on training time.

For undergraduates in a standard quarter or semester, training time is as follows:

- 12 credits Fulltime
- 9-11 credits $-\frac{3}{4}$ -time
- 6-8 credits $-\frac{1}{2}$ -time
- 4-5 credits less than ½-time
- 1-3 credits $-\frac{1}{4}$ -time or less





Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill (1 of 3)

The individuals on active duty after 9/10/01 must have:

- Served a minimum of 90 aggregate days
- Served a period of at least 30 days and received a disability discharge





Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill (2 of 3)

Benefit payout is based on length of service requirements.

100%: At least 36 months

100% At least 30 continuous days on active duty and

discharged due to service-connected disability or

received a Purple Heart

90%: At least 30 months, but less than 36 months

80%: At least 24 months, but less than 30 months

70%: At least 18 months, but less than 24 months

60%: At least six months, but less than 18 months

50%: At least 90 days, but less than six months





Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill (3 of 3)

Chapter 33

- Transfer of Entitlement
- Fry Scholarship
- Yellow Ribbon
- Tuition and Fees
- Monthly Housing Allowance



Chapter 33 Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) Program

An approved individual to may transfer unused entitlement to any combination of spouse and dependents.

Veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies before using the entitlement.

Dependents who received transfer of entitlement can transfer their entitlement to another eligible dependent if the Servicemember or Veteran who made the transfer subsequently dies.

The family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS).





The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

Children and spouses of Servicemembers who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10, 2001.

Eligible for up to 36 months under the Post-9/11 GI Bill® at the 100% benefit level.





Post-9/11, MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR, & DEA Entitlement Information

Post-9/11, MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR

- Eligible students can receive up to 36 months of full-time benefits under one program.
- Students eligible under 2+ benefits may have up to 48 months

<u>DEA</u>

36 months of regular benefits plus an additional five months of remedial training benefits

Exceptions

If a veteran elects Post-9/11 GI Bill and still has eligibility under MGIB, they'll receive the amount of entitlement remaining under MGIB.





Payments for Chapter 33

- Tuition & fees are paid directly to the school
- A Housing Allowance is paid to the student monthly
- A books & supplies stipend is paid to the student at the beginning of the term
- Yellow Ribbon payments are paid directly to the school





Chapter 33 Tuition and Fees (1 of 2)

- U.S. Public Schools: The actual net cost for in-state tuition and fees after the application of any waiver, scholarship, aid, or assistance
- **Private and Foreign Schools:** The actual net cost for tuition and fees after the application of any waiver, or scholarship or the annual cap





Chapter 33 Tuition and Fees (2 of 2)

If there's **one** exception, the charge isn't mandatory and therefore not reimbursable.

Example of a mandatory fee:

- A parking fee assessed to all students
- A specific kit or book purchased in full from your facility without exception

Example of a non-mandatory fee:

- Parking fee assessed to only students with cars
- A kit or book purchased from a 3rd party and given credit for the purchase





Chapter 33 Monthly Housing Allowance

Housing Allowance Rules:

- Students must attend school more than half-time
- Payment is prorated by rate of pursuit rounded to nearest tenth
- Distance learners receive ½ the national average monthly housing





Rate of Pursuit - Housing

- Rate of Pursuit (RoP) is determined by VA.
- ROP is calculated by dividing the number of credit hours taken by the number of credits considered to be full time

Example:

If full-time is 12 credits, then rate of pursuit for:

- Six credits (or credit equivalents) is 50% (6/12=50%)
- Seven credits (or credit equivalents) is 58% (7/12=58%) rounded up to 60%







Chapter 33 Books & Supplies Stipend

Up to \$1,000 per academic year:

- Lump sum for IHL schools paid to the student
- Monthly payments for NCD only schools
- Prorated based on benefit level





Chapter 33 Yellow Ribbon

Yellow Ribbon Program payment is paid directly to the school on behalf of the student to help pay some/all unmet charges at IHLs.

The school enters into an agreement with VA to contribute up to 50% of expenses and VA will match.

Recipients of the Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart are covered under the Yellow Ribbon Program.







Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance (TA) is a Department of Defense (DoD) program that **is not** administered by the VA.

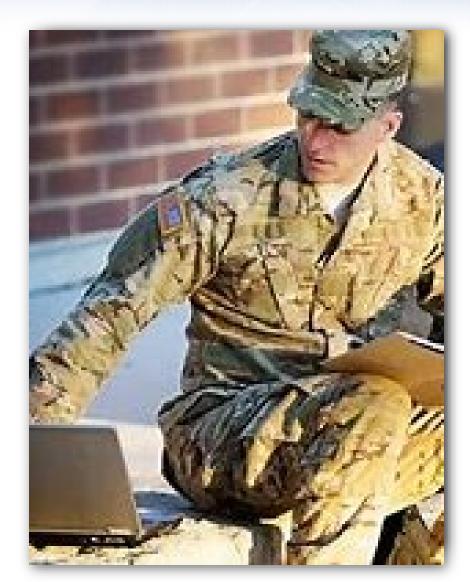
TA rules vary by branch of service and even between components within the branches. (i.e. the service member is Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard)





Tuition Assistance Top Up (TATU)

- The law prohibits Active Duty students from receiving education benefits and TA for the same course
- Active Duty recipients of Chapter 30, however, are eligible for Top-up as it allows VA to pay the difference between what TA pays and the cost of the course
- Students must be certified with the Federal and/or state TA deducted from the charges before certifying tuition and fees to VA







Comparison

Each individual's circumstances are unique and their benefits should be assessed on a case by case basis.

Remember: Benefit elections of one benefit rather than another are irrevocable.

 Do NOT counsel your students. Refer them to the VA website or to the Education Call Center for assistance





Training time used to determine benefits for both classroom theory and shop practice is 70 min.

- True
- False



Training time used to determine benefits for both classroom theory and shop practice is 70 min.

- True
- False



What payment programs fall under Chapter 33? (Select all that apply)

- A. Transfer of Entitlement (TOE)
- B. Fry Scholarship
- C. Monthly Housing Allowance
- D. Dependents Education Assistance
- E. Tuition and Fees



What payment programs fall under Chapter 33? (Select all that apply)

- A. Transfer of Entitlement (TOE)
- B. Fry Scholarship
- C. Monthly Housing Allowance
- D. Dependents Education Assistance
- E. Tuition and Fees



Responsibilities of the School via the SCO



Responsibilities for Reporting (1 of 3)

The forms used to keep VA informed are:

- Enrollment Certification (VA Form 22-1999 side B only) to report required enrollment information
- Notice of Change in Student Status (VA Form 22-1999b) to report changes to enrollment information i.e. termination, suspension or dismissal

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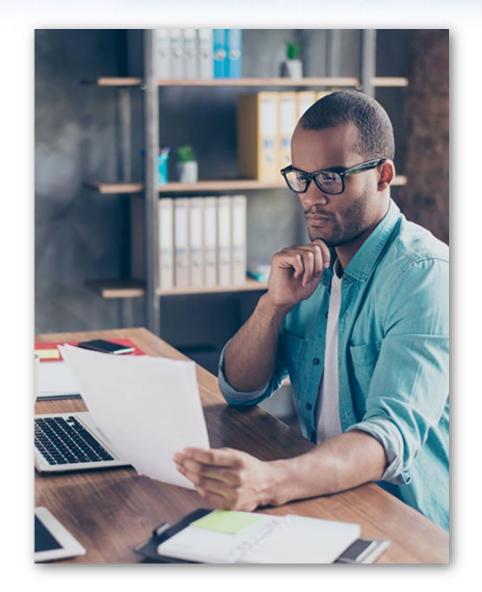
Responsibilities for Reporting (2 of 3)

Keep up-to-date on current VA rules and benefits.

- Provide a current e-mail address to your ELR
- Read/maintain VA bulletins provided by your ELR
- Attend VA training opportunities

Maintain records and make them available for inspection.

- VA papers submitted and records of training progress, program pursuit, etc.
- At least three years of records following the student's/trainee's last date of attendance





Responsibilities for Reporting (3 of 3)

Other responsibilities include ensuring:

- Courses are approved by the SAA and VA
- Courses meet the student's learning objective
- Courses are not a repeat of previously passed courses
- Any changes to a student's status is promptly reported
- Programs meet 85/15 rule

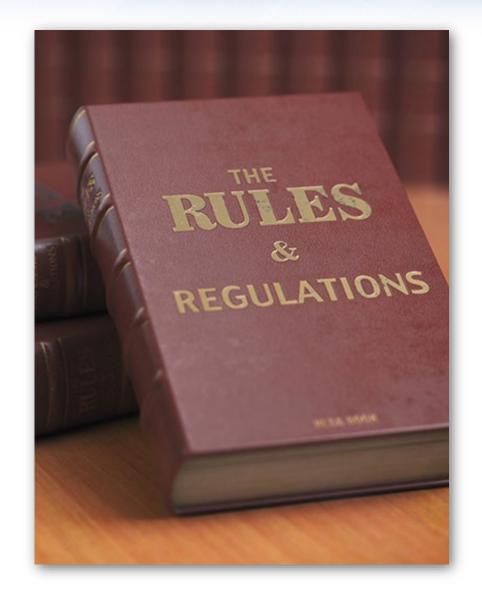






Standards of Progress (1 of 2)

- Both accredited and non-accredited schools must enforce Standards of Progress (SOP) and conduct
- Only non-accredited schools are required by federal law to have attendance standards





Standards of Progress (2 of 2)

SOP, conduct and attendance guidelines must be in the school's catalog or bulletin and define:

- The grading system
- The minimum satisfactory grade level
- Conditions for unsatisfactory grades or progress
- A description of any probationary period
- Conditions for re-entrance after dismissal for unsatisfactory progress
- Conditions for dismissal due to unsatisfactory conduct
- The attendance policy





Enrollment Periods (1 of 3)

The approved enrollment period determines the Starting and Ending Date.

Starting Date

- Standard Term Start date identified on the school's academic calendar
 - Quarter 9-13 weeks
 - Semester 15-19 weeks
- Non-term –First day the student attended class

Ending Date

- Term End date identified on the school's academic calendar
- Non-term —Last day the student attended class
- For both term and non-term:
 - If student graduate early, withdraw, or terminate enrollment, effective date is the last attendance date
 - Unsatisfactory attendance/progress terminates enrollment, effective date is the last attendance date



Enrollment Periods (2 of 3)

The beginning date will be the official begin date of the term when class starts within 7 days.

The exact ending date (month, day, year) of the enrollment period(s) must appear on the enrollment certification.

Courses with different beginning and/or ending dates must be on separate lines, listed chronologically by the beginning date.







Enrollment Periods (3 of 3)

If a program is measured in clock hours, benefits are paid based on clock hours of attendance per week.

You **may not** extend the certified end date for students due to absences.

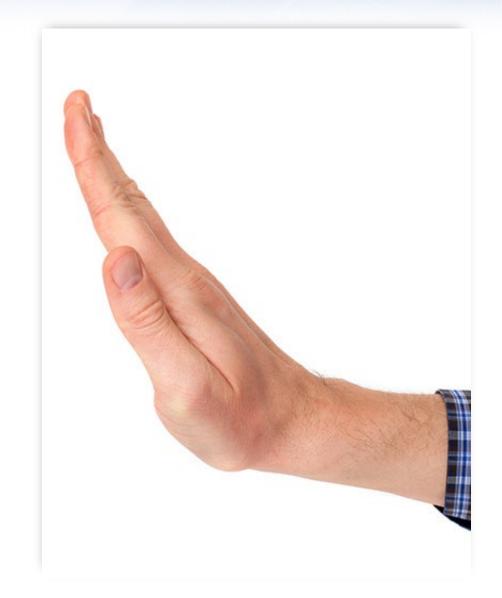






Credit Course Applicability

Only courses that satisfy requirements outlined by the curriculum guide or graduation evaluation form can be certified for VA purposes.





Credit for Prior Training & Credit Evaluation

Credit for Prior Training

- Transfer courses
- Credits
- Previous experience

Credit Evaluation

- Completed when students enroll or change programs
- Reviewed by VA during compliance surveys







Independent Study

Interaction between the student and the instructor through the use of communications technology without regularly scheduled classroom or laboratory sessions.

Independent Study courses that do not meet resident training requirements is distance learning.







Study Abroad

VA will pay:

- Home school's tuition and fees
- Books and supplies
- Monthly housing allowance

VA will not pay:

- Costs related to travel (airfare, lodging and meals
- Third party charges







Round Out

Students can round out a schedule with non-required courses in their last term to receive benefits even though fewer credits are required to complete the program.







Length of Courses

Improper certification of the length of your program can result in payments being denied.

The Exception:

Students repeating a distinct module that was formally failed.







When to Certify

Benefit Chapter	Before Term Begins	Start of Term
30	Up to 120 days	Within 30 days*
33	Up to 180 days	Within 30 days
35	Up to 120 days	Within 30 days*
1606	Up to 120 days	Within 30 days*

^{*} Unless training time is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ -time, the student is on active duty, or accelerated payment is requested.





Reporting a Drop

The following policies apply when a student drops:

- Punitive and non-punitive grade policies
- Refund policy

The contract/MOU/agreement with the school must include:

Specific financial arrangements for when students drop

V	ZNCE
Plo	ease type in your Login Name and Password Login Name: Password: LOGIN
	E-mail me my password? Show me my password hint?



Academic Probation

The probation notifications for a single student must include:

- Student's name
- VA file number
- "Academic Probation" in the subject line

If multiple students are being reported, submit a single notification using the spreadsheet in the Academic Probation section of the SCO Handbook.

School Official Completes								
Benefit Chapter	SSN/File Number	Payee Number	Last Name	First Name	Facility Code	Beginning Date Academic Probation	Zip Code Current Address	



Academic Suspension

- Terminate the last term the student is entitled to payment
- Specify reason "Unsatisfactory Attendance, Conduct or Progress"
- Ensure the end date of the term is correct
- Even if the student isn't returning, you must still complete the termination





Which statements are the most accurate about what should be outlined for standards of progress? (Select all that apply)

- A. The grading system
- B. Conditions for unsatisfactory grades or progress
- C. Price for books and supplies
- D. A description of any probationary period
- E. The attendance policy



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The VA will pay for cost related to travel for Study Abroad.

- O True
- False



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- O True
- False



Responsibilities of the SAA



State Approving Agency (SAA)

In 1944, Congress recognized the responsibility of the state to determine the education of its citizens.

Each state would establish a State Approving Agency and would be supported through funding, under contract, from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

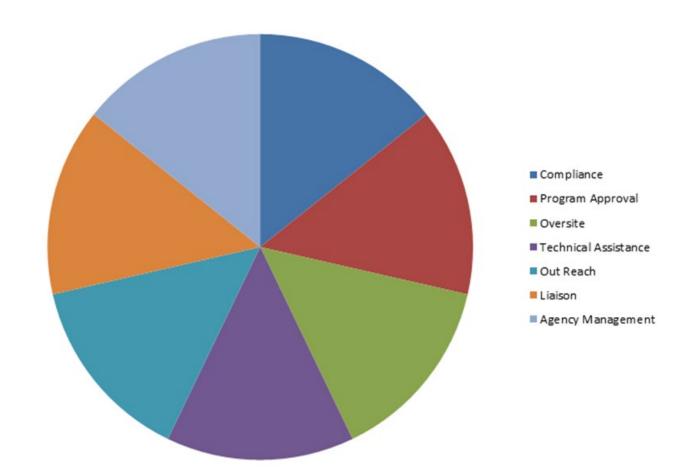




SAA Responsibilities

SAAs engage in several core functions:

- Program Approval
- Compliance and Oversight
- Technical Assistance
- Outreach
- Liaison
- Agency Management
- Contract Compliance





Program of Education

A combination of subjects or unit courses pursued at an educational institution. The three objectives are:

- Educational
- Vocational
- Professional







Educational

Educational objective leads to a diploma, degree, or certificate which reflects educational attainment such as:

- G.E.D. (General Educational Development) certificate
- High School diploma
- Bachelor, Master, or Ph.D. degree



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Vocational

Vocational objective leads to an occupation attained after completion of a particular course or program leading to entry level employment:

- Business
- Technical
- Trade
- Vocational school
- Apprenticeship or other on-the-job training







Professional

Professional objective leads to an occupation after an individual completes an extended, college-level academic program of study.







SAA Needs

The following items are what SAA needs from schools:

- School catalog and addendums
- Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS VA Form 22-1998) reflecting approved programs
- Student's application for admission & enrollment agreement
- Degree plan checklists or program audit report
- Registration and/or class schedule for the student
- Copy of current unofficial transcript
- Current financial accounts statement
- Transfer evaluation data form showing student's prior school and military credits evaluated and awarded







SAA Review

SAA ensures schools follow policies such as maintain:

- Progress records and enforces standards of progress and conduct
- Record of prior education & training that indicates appropriate credit is granted and training
- Programs consistent in quality, content, and length
- Space, equipment, instructional material, and personnel to provide good quality training
- Programs report to VA on time.
- Programs do not use deceptive advertising, sales or enrollment practices
- Programs for State board, agency licensure or certification meet the board/agency standards





SAA and **ELR**

ELRs work with schools and State Approving Agencies.

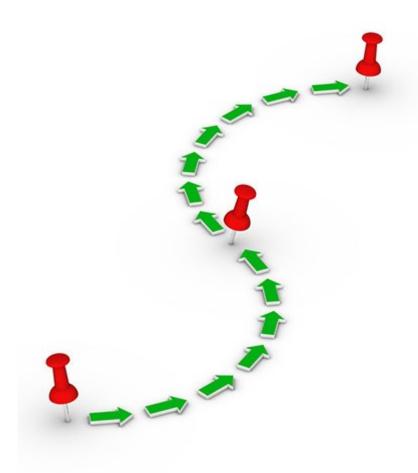
Keep in mind, they do not answer direct inquiries from Veterans or their dependents.

SAA:

- Approval issues
- Compliance conducted by SAA

ELR:

- Advisory Questions
- Certification questions
- VA-ONCE technical questions
- Compliance conducted by VA

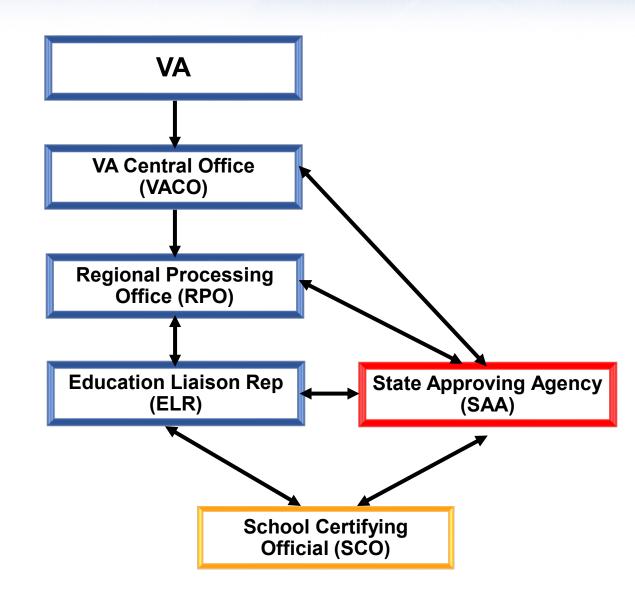




Educational Benefits Hierarchy

SAA & VA collaborate to help:

- Interpret laws and regulations
- Maintain integrity of programs
- Train the SCOs
- Encourage greater use of VA benefits
- Schools better serve veterans!





Section Review

What are the different objectives that can be approved for education benefits by SAA? (Select all that apply)

- A. Educational
- B. Recreational
- C. Vocational
- D. Professional



Section Review

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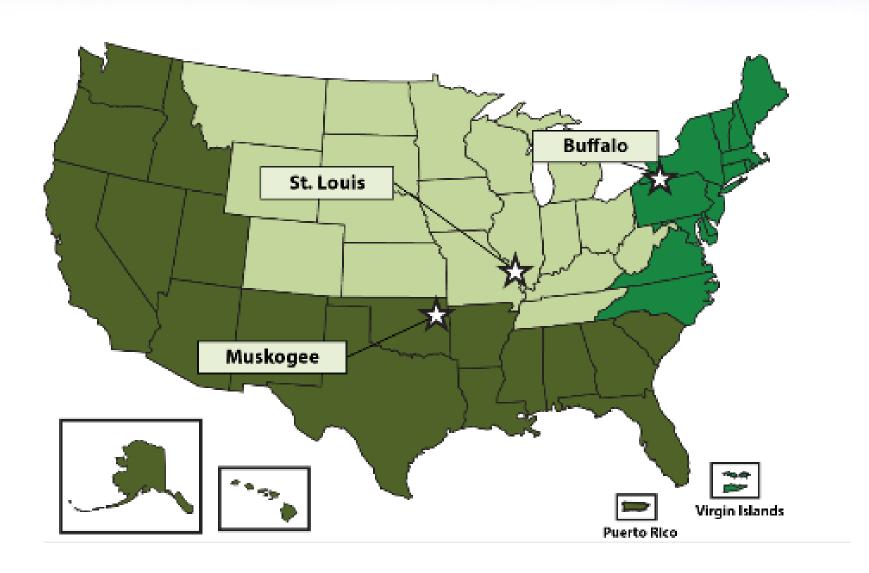
- A. Educational
- B. Recreational
- C. Vocational
- D. Professional



Contacts



Processing Jurisdictions (1 of 2)





Processing Jurisdictions (2 of 2)

RPO	Address	Fax Number	Jurisdiction
Buffalo	VA Regional Office PO Box 4616 Buffalo, NY 14240-4616	716-551-3241	Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia
			Maine Maryland Massachusetts
			New Hampshire New Jersey New York
			North Carolina Pennsylvania Rhode Island
			US Virgin Vermont Virginia
			Foreign Schools
Muskogee	VA Regional Office PO Box 8888 Muskogee, OK 74402- 8888	918-781-7863	
			Alabama Alaska Arizona
			Arkansas California Florida
			Georgia Hawaii Idaho
			Louisiana Mississippi New Mexico
			Nevada Oklahoma Oregon
			Puerto Rico South Carolina Texas
			Utah Washington Trust Territories
			Philippines
St Louis	Department of Veterans Affairs 9700 Page Avenue Suite 101 – Education St. Louis, MO 63132-1502	314-253-4131	
			Colorado Illinois Indiana
			Iowa Kansas Kentucky
			Michigan Minnesota Missouri
			Montana Nebraska North Dakota
			Ohlo South Dakota Tennessee
			Wisconsin West Virginia Wyoming



Call Centers



The Education Call Center - 888-GIBILL1 (888-442-4551). 7:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST, Monday-Friday.

School Certifying Officials Hotline - 855-225-1159.

This is only for SCOs. You will need the school's facility code and to be listed as a SCO at the school.

7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST, Monday-Friday.



Internet Inquiries

GI Bill Website – http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill



FAQs

Submit a Question

Find your ELR -

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education_resources/school_c ertifying_officials/elr.asp

Ask A Question website – https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/home





Student Inquiries



Refer students with questions to:

VA Education Phone number: **1.888.442.4551** (1.888.GI Bill 1)

or

Have them login at: www.benefits.va.gov



Other Contacts



Hardship Cases, Claims Questions or Student Payment Issues:

1-855-225-1159

Debt Management for Debt Dispute or Inquiry:

1-800 827-0648

https://www.va.gov/debtman/

RPO Work Study Questions:

(918) 781-7878



Resources



Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

https://www.ecfr.gov/

SCO Handbook & VA-Once user guide

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school training resources.asp

Web Automated Reference Material System (WARMS)

http://www.benefits.va.gov/warms/

Education Manual (M22-4)

http://www.benefits.va.gov/warms/M22 4.asp



Section Review

How many VA Educational Benefits regional processing centers are there in the US?

- O A. 4
- O B. 3
- O C. 5
- O D. 2



Section Review

How many VA Educational Benefits regional processing centers are there in the US?

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You should be able to:

- Summarize the history of the GI Bill
- Describe the current VA educational benefit programs
- Identify the responsibilities of the SAA
- Identify the school's responsibilities via SCO for certify students' courses, tuition and fees
- List points of contact to receive assistance with questions





Q&A





Thank you for your time today!