



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



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National Training Team – Schools



# Approved SCO Training

- This is approved SCO Annual Training!
- Remained logged into the online training for the duration of the session.
- Log onto the SCO Training Portal
- Self-certify they completed the conference training
- Print the certificate and keep for their records



## Ice Breaker

- Since the Post-9/11 GI Bill was implemented on Aug. 1, 2009, VA has provided educational benefits to \_\_\_\_\_ Veterans and their family members, amounting to more than \$20 billion in benefits.
- A. 773,000
- B. 500,300
- C. 250,000
- D. 675,000

# **Ice Breaker Answer**

**A. 773,000**





# Learning Objectives

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- **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
  - Recall points of contact to receive assistance with questions



# Topics

- **GI Bill History**
- **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)

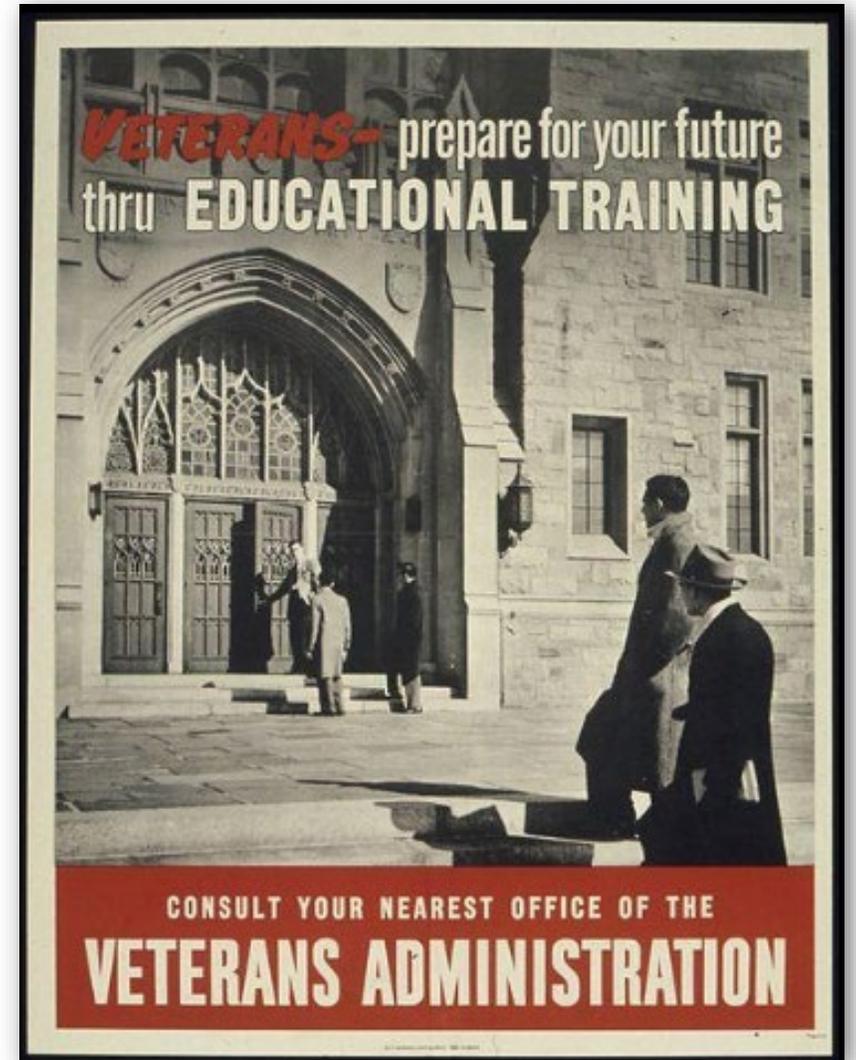
- Harry W. Colmery is credited with writing the provisions of the GI Bill
- President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act into law on June 22, 1944
- The bill provided six benefits:
  - Education and Training
  - Loan guaranty for a home, farm, or business
  - Unemployment 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

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

- True
- 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
- Chapter 31

## Benefits for Dependents

- Chapter 35
- Chapter 33 TOE
- Fry Scholarship
- Chapter 31

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

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- 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

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## Chapter 35 Dependents Education Assistance (DEA)

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- 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

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

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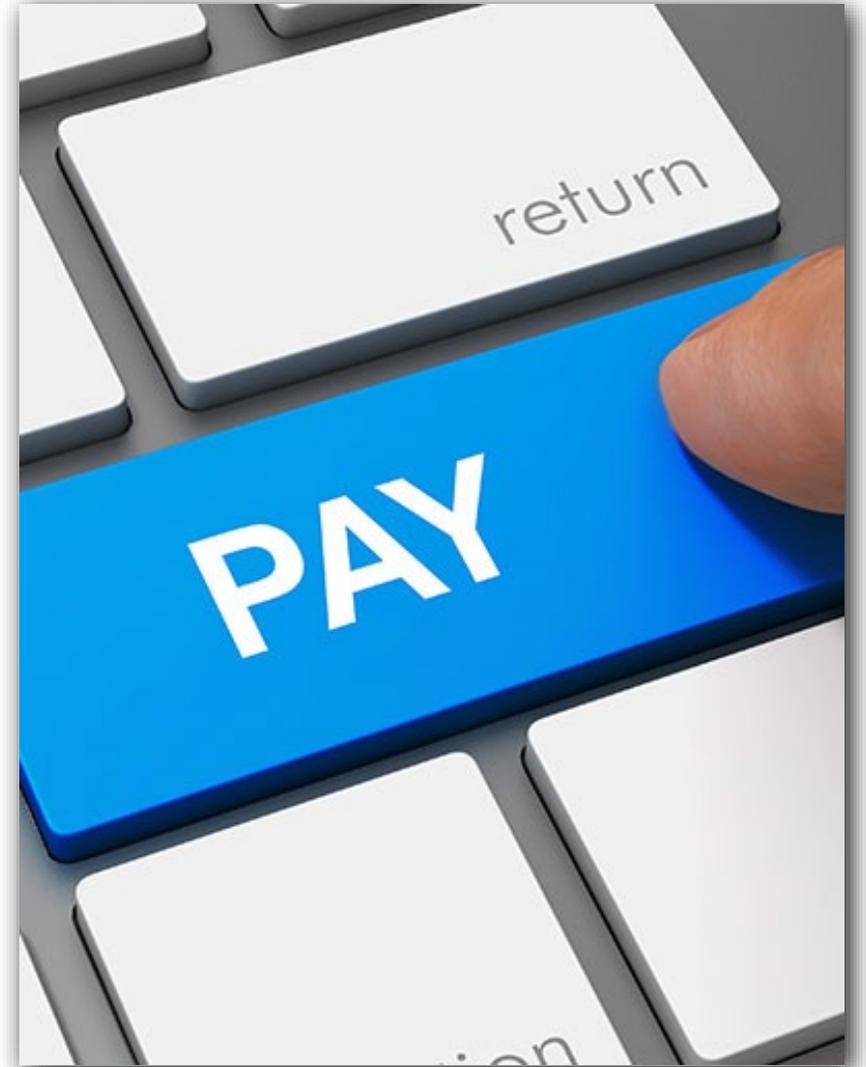
- The reservist must have:
  - Served for six years
  - A high school diploma or equivalent
  - Completed Initial Active Duty Training (IADT)



## 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, 31, 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	$\frac{3}{4}$ -time	16 – 21	$\frac{3}{4}$ -time
09 – 12	$\frac{1}{2}$ -time	11 – 15	$\frac{1}{2}$ -time
05 – 08	Less than half; more than $\frac{1}{4}$ -time	06 – 10	Less than half; more than $\frac{1}{4}$ -time
01 – 04	$\frac{1}{4}$ -time	01 – 05	$\frac{1}{4}$ -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  $\frac{1}{2}$ -time
- 1-3 credits –  $\frac{1}{4}$ -time or less



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## Chapter 33 Post 911 GI Bill

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- 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
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 6 months, but less than 18 months
50%:	At least 90 days, but less than 6 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

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## Chapter 33 Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) Program

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- An approved individual may transfer unused entitlement to any combination of spouse and dependents.
- The family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS).

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## The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

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- 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

## DEA

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.

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## Chapter 31 Veteran Readiness and Employment

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- If a Veteran has a service-connected disability that limits their ability to work or prevents them from working, Veteran Readiness and Employment (formerly called Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment) can help. This program—also known as Chapter 31 or VR&E—helps a Veteran explore employment options and address education or training needs. In some cases, family members may also qualify for certain benefits.

- <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>

# Current Special Programs

VRRAP

VET TECH

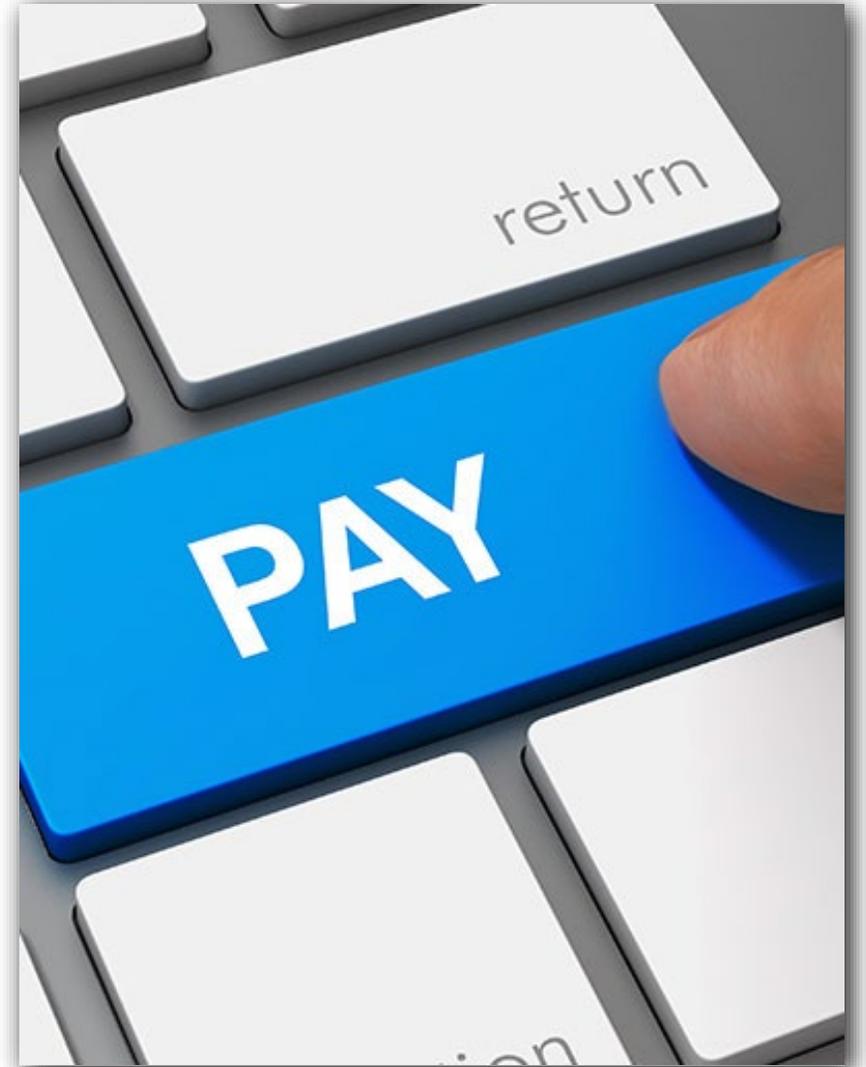
STEM

Work Study



## 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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.

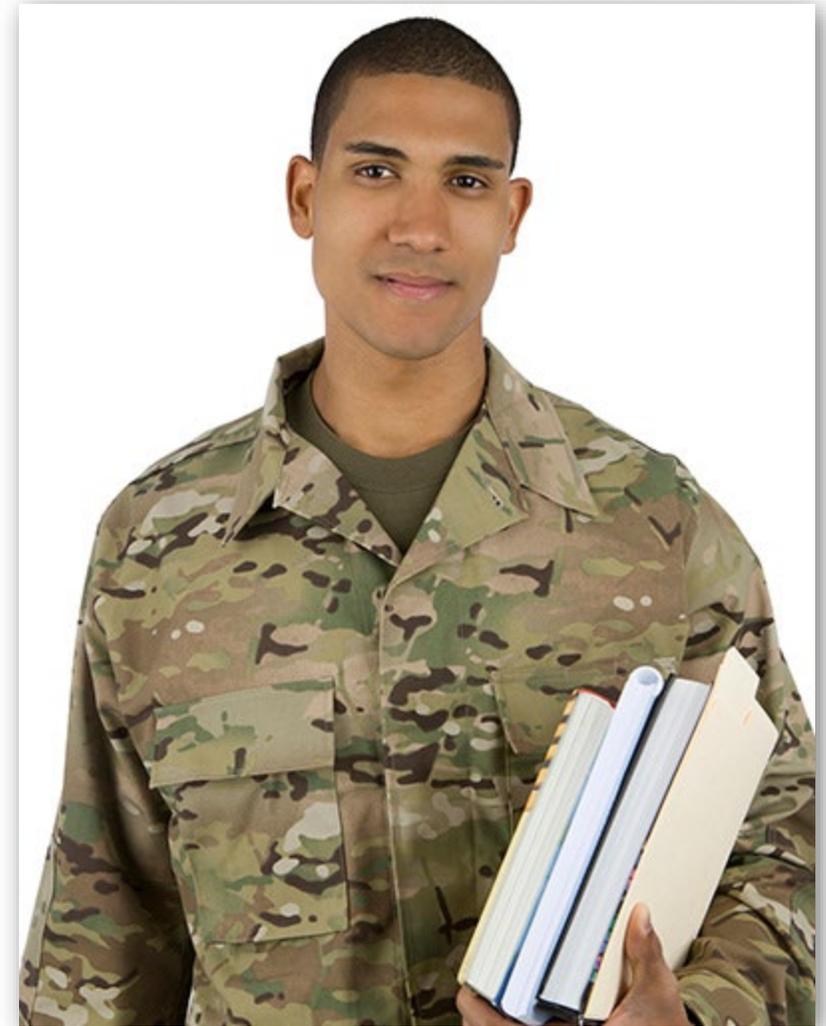




# Tuition Assistance

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

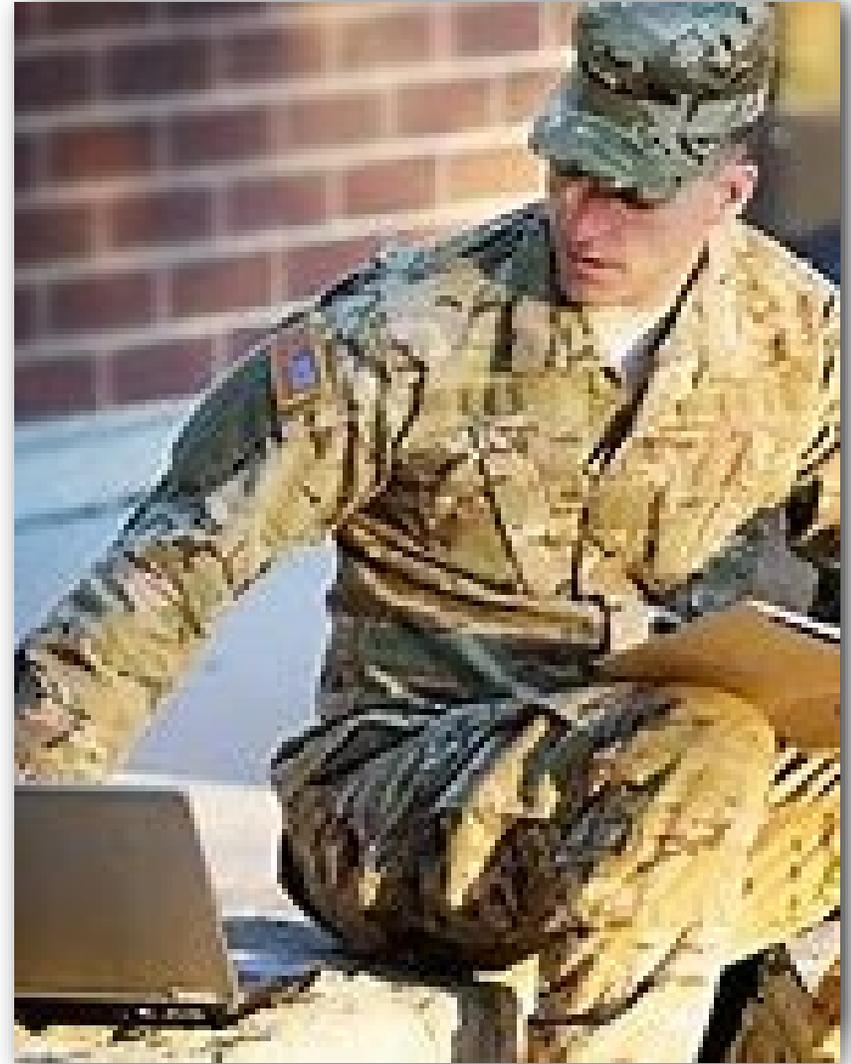
TA rules vary by branch of service and even between components within the branches. (i.e. the service member is Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard)





## 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





## Section Review

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

- True
- False



## Section Review

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

- True
- False



## Section Review

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



## Section Review

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**





## Timeliness of Certification

- As a School Certifying Official, you are responsible for submitting enrollment certifications to VA without delay. It is recommended that SCO's use VA ONCE to report enrollments.
- Enrollment certification for Chapters 30, 32, 35 and 1606 can be submitted:
  - 120 days before the term begins, but must be submitted within 30 days of the beginning of term, unless training time is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  time, the student is on active duty, or accelerated payment is requested. If any of these circumstances apply, their certification must be submitted on or after the first day of the class and tuition and fees must be reported.
- When submitted Chapter 33 (and 31) Enrollment Certifications, SCOs should submit certifications as early as possible in order to ensure that the students receiver their benefit payments in a timely manner, but certifications must be submitted within 30 days of the term





## Certifying of Enrollment Periods

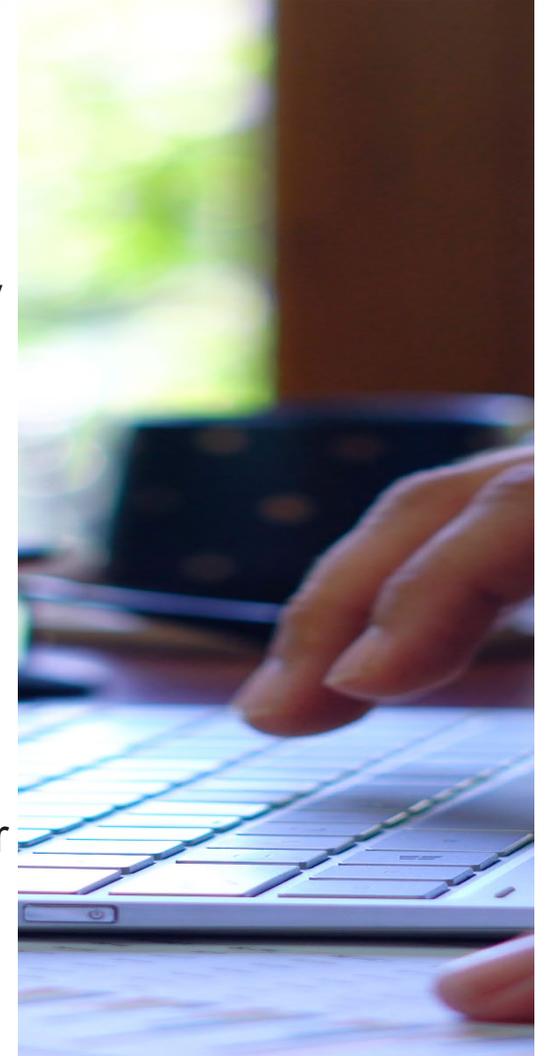
- Each quarter, semester, term, or session requires a new certification in VA ONCE
- A **standard quarter is 10-13 weeks** in length and a **standard semester is 15-19 weeks** in length with courses beginning the first week and ending the last week, the last day of final examinations. The school should report the official begin date of the academic term or the date all students were required to report in advance of the start of the term (if not more than 14 days prior to the beginning of classes) as well as the official ending date of the term.
- If a school offers training on a non standard term basis, or if there are non standard formats or sessions within standard terms, the beginning and ending dates of each term, session or course must be shown separately from the standard semester or quarter.





## Certifying Credit

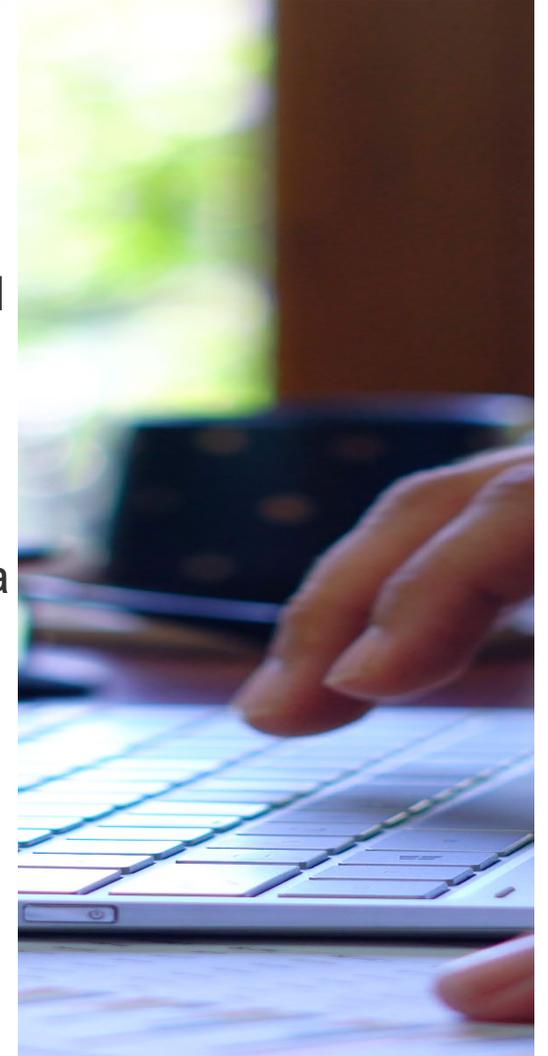
- **Chapter 33:** Tuition and Fees, Monthly Housing Allowance, book stipend, and Yellow Ribbon benefits are based in whole or in part on the number of credit hours certified. SCOs must certify the number of credit hours the student takes that apply to the students program.
- The number of resident credits (Res) and distance learning credits (Dist) must be certified. Distance credits must not be included in the “Res” field and resident credits must not be included in the “Dist” field. When combined, “Res” and “Dist” should equal the total credit taken
- **Chapters 30, 32, 35, and 1606:** SCOS must enter the number of credits hours the student takes each quarter, semester, or term.
- The Distance Learning field (Dist) in VA-ONCE is enabled for all educational benefits. Resident credit and distance learning credit is reported separately only for Chapter 33.





# Certifying Graduate Credit

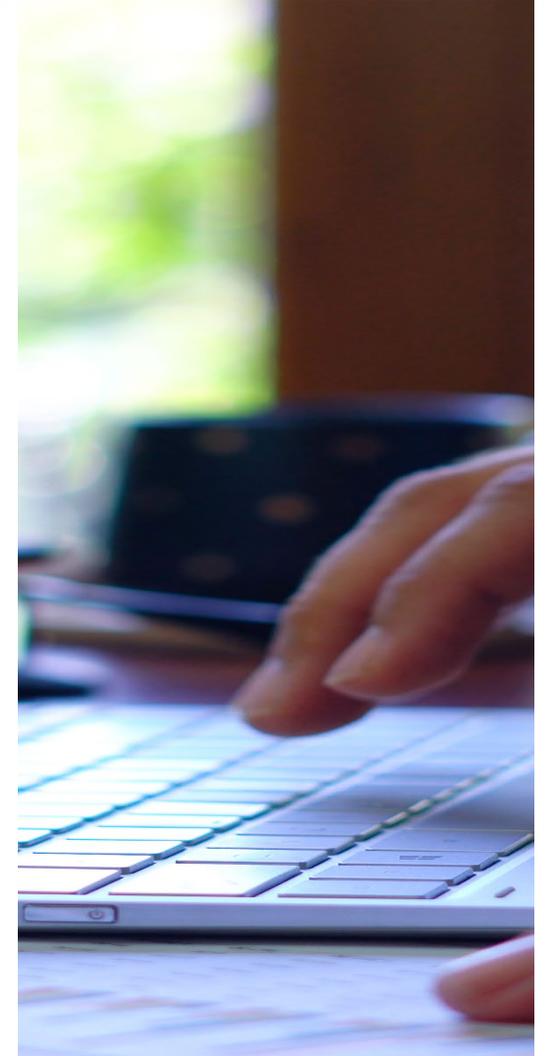
- **Graduate**
- **Standard Terms:** In addition to certifying the number of credit hours the student takes which apply to his or her program, also report the number of credit hours considered full-time for either the standard semester/quarter, or for the nonstandard semester/quarter if individually defined, by your academic regulations, as explained below. The minimum number of credit hours required to be considered full-time for a semester, quarter, or any individually defined training period, as published in your catalog, is referred to as the full-time modifier.
- If Training Type is IHL Grad on the student's Bio screen in VA-ONCE, there will be a TT/FT box on the certification page. When the term is a standard-length semester (15-19 weeks) or a standard-length quarter (10-13 weeks), enter the number of credit hours that your academic regulations require to be considered full-time for a normal semester or quarter.





# Certifying Graduate Credit

- **Graduate**
- **Nonstandard Terms:** Effective August 1, 2021, if the SCO certifies a chapter 33 graduate student for a nonstandard length term, VA will no longer convert the credit certified to an equivalent credit hour (ECH). When the term is shorter or longer in length than a standard term (semester shorter than 15 weeks/longer than 19 weeks *or* quarter shorter than 10 weeks/longer than 13 weeks), there are two potential reporting paths. Determining the correct path is dependent on whether the term in question has an **individually defined full-time modifier (IDM)**.

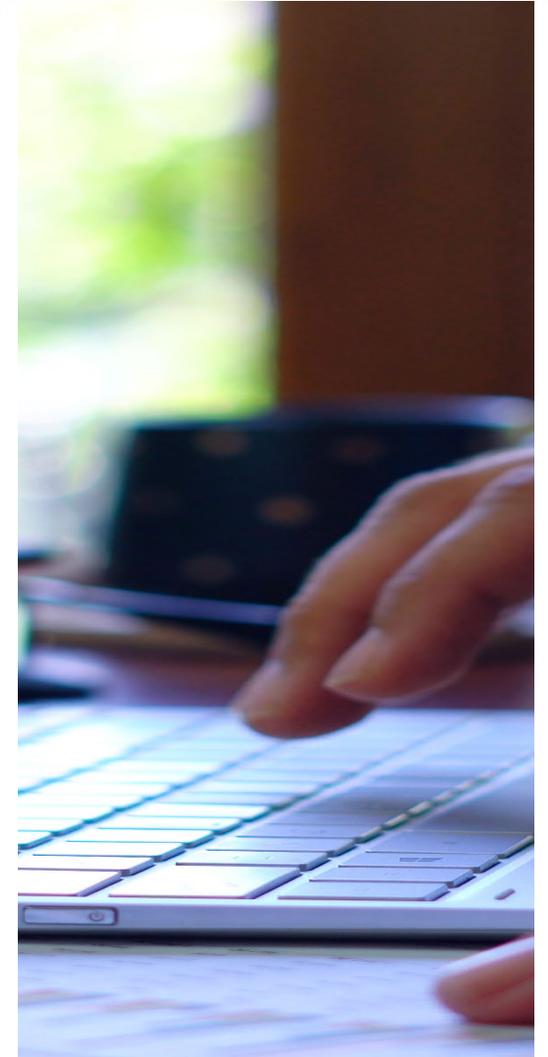




# Certifying Graduate Credit

- Use chart in SCO handbook to determine if IDM is needed

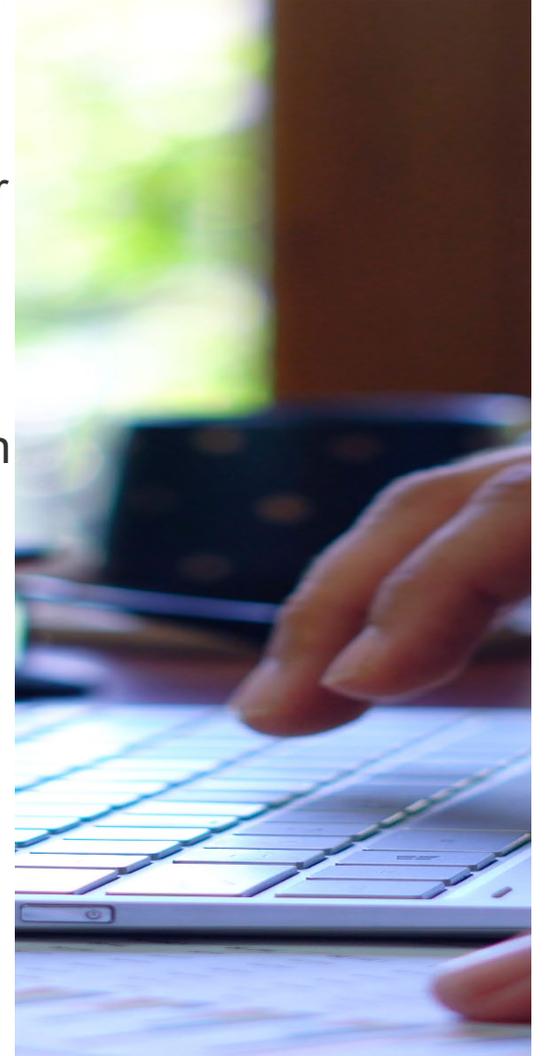
	Term Type	Duration of term	IDM	Minimum number of credit hours required to be full-time per academic regulation (Full Time modifier)	Report in the FT/TT Field in VA-Once
Semester	Standard	15-19 weeks	No	Modifier <i>is</i> defined & published in catalog	Published FT modifier
Quarter	Standard	10-13 weeks	No	Modifier <i>is</i> defined & published in catalog	Published FT modifier
Semester	Shorter	less than 15 weeks	No	Modifier <i>not</i> individually defined/published	SCO determined Adjusted FT modifier
Quarter	Shorter	less than 13 weeks	No	Modifier <i>not</i> individually defined/published	SCO determined Adjusted FT modifier
Semester	Shorter	less than 15 weeks	Yes	Modifier <i>is</i> individually defined/published	Published FT modifier
Quarter	Shorter	less than 13 weeks	Yes	Modifier <i>is</i> individually defined/published	Published FT modifier
Semester	Longer	greater than 19 weeks	No	Modifier <i>not</i> individually defined/published	SCO determined FT modifier
Quarter	Longer	greater than 13 weeks	No	Modifier <i>not</i> individually defined/published	SCO determined FT modifier
Semester	Longer	greater than 19 weeks	Yes	Modifier <i>is</i> individually defined/published	Published FT modifier
Quarter	Longer	greater than 13 weeks	Yes	Modifier <i>is</i> individually defined/published	Published FT modifier





## Certifying Graduate Credit

- **Path 1 - Nonstandard Term *with* IDM:** When the term is shorter or longer in length than a standard term (semester term shorter than 15 weeks/longer than 19 weeks *or* quarter term shorter than 10 weeks or longer than 13 weeks) and **has a published individually defined full-time modifier for the term in question**, enter the minimum number of credit hours that your academic regulations require to be considered a full-time student for the individual enrollment period being certified. The number of credit hours considered full-time can vary by program or enrollment period. VA will divide the number of credit hours certified by the number of credit hours required to be full-time to determine rate of pursuit. Enrollments submitted on or after August 1, 2021, no longer require an additional remark on the enrollment certification.
- **Path 2 - Nonstandard Term *without* IDM:** When the term is shorter or longer in length than a standard term (semester term shorter than 15 weeks/longer than 19 weeks *or* quarter term shorter than 10 weeks or longer than 13 weeks) and **does not have an individually defined full-time modifier for the term in question**, additional measures are required prior to reporting the enrollment certification.





## Certifying Graduate Credit

- When the training type is graduate, the LTS will use the entry from the TT/FT field (in VA-ONCE or paper VA Form 22-1999) as the denominator in the RoP calculation. All non-standard terms for graduate training submitted on or after August 1, 2021 will be impacted, including retroactive terms. Previously submitted terms will not be reprocessed without additional notice to VA.
- These nonstandard terms require determination of an adjusted FT modifier prior to reporting chapter 33 graduate training. This is necessary to replace the ECH calculation previously performed automatically by the LTS. Once the adjusted FT modifier is determined for a particular non-standard term, that adjusted FT modifier can be reported for all graduate students enrolled in any non-standard term of the same length. (This equation is required for each particular term length, not per individual student.)
- **New Reporting Procedures for terms/schools without IDMs:** Because LTS will no longer compute the ECH for graduate training in non-standard terms, it is necessary for the SCO to determine the FT measure for all non-standard terms, using the published full-time modifier applied to a new equation. The solution to this equation is identified as the “**Adjusted Full Time Modifier**” (**Adj FTM**). The RoP is the determining factor for the monthly housing allowance (MHA) rate. Failing to conduct this adjustment prior to reporting non-standard term graduate training could result in an incorrect RoP, which in turn may cause an over or underpayment of MHA to the student.



## Certifying Graduate Credit

- 1) First, calculate the number of weeks in the enrollment period to be certified. Count the number of days in the enrollment period (first day through the last day, including weekend days) and divide by 7. Disregard a remainder of 3 days or less. Count a remainder of 4 days or more as an additional full week.
- Example: Fall mini session begins August 24, 2021 through October 8, 2021
- Term includes: 8 days in August
  - 30 days in September
  - 8 days in October
  - 46 days in mini session  $\div 7 = 6$  weeks and 4 days
  - Round up to 7 weeks. VA considers this a 7-week term.
- 2) Using the appropriate chart below, determine the adjusted full-time modifier (Adj. FTM) for the non-standard term. Find the published full-time modifier in the school's catalog in the header row of this chart. Next, find the week in the left margin that corresponds to the non-standard term based the result from Step One. Follow both lines to a point. This will be the adjusted full-time modifier for the term in question.
- **Note:** If the published full-time modifier for standard terms is not found in either of the charts below, please contact your [Education Liaison Representative \(ELR\)](#) for additional information.



# Certifying Graduate Credit

- Semester hours chart

3) Use this **Adj. FTM** in the TT/FT field in VA-Once (or on VA Form 22-1999) when reporting grad training for all graduate students enrolled in this term. This **Adj. FTM** should be used regardless of the number of graduate credits each student is enrolled in.

SEMESTER HOURS

FT Modifier	3	6	8	9	10	12
Weeks						
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	1	1	1	1	1	2
4	1	1	1	2	2	2
5	1	1	2	2	2	3
6	1	2	2	3	3	4
7	1	2	3	3	3	4
8	1	2	3	4	4	5
9	1	3	4	4	5	6
10	1	3	4	5	5	6
11	1	3	4	5	6	7
12	2	4	5	6	6	8
13	2	4	5	6	7	8
14	2	4	6	7	7	9
15-19 (Standard)	3	6	8	9	10	12
20	3	6	9	10	11	13

This chart is intended for use by ETIs with no individual modifier for a non-standard term



# Certifying Graduate Credit

- Quarter Hours Chart

3) Use this **Adj. FTM** in the TT/FT field in VA-Once (or on VA Form 22-1999) when reporting grad training for all graduate students enrolled in this term. This **Adj. FTM** should be used regardless of the number of graduate credits each student is enrolled in.

## QUARTER HOURS

FT Hours	3	6	8	9	10	12
Weeks						
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	2
3	1	1	2	2	2	3
4	1	2	2	3	3	4
5	1	2	3	3	4	5
6	1	3	4	4	5	6
7	1	3	4	5	5	7
8	2	4	5	6	6	8
9	2	4	6	6	7	9
10-13 (Standard)	3	6	8	9	10	12
14	3	7	9	10	12	14

This chart is intended for use by ETIs with no individual modifier for a non-standard term



## Certifying Tuition and Fees

- **Chapter 33:** SCOs must certify the Tuition and Fees charged to a student after deducting any tuition only specific waivers, scholarship, aid, and assistance.
  - Tuition is the actual established charges for tuition the student is required to pay. Tuition is defined in the school's catalog or supplement and listed as tuition on the school's billing statement or invoice. Fees are mandatory charges (other than tuition, room, and board) applied by the school for pursuit of an approved program of education.
  - Fees include, but are not limited to, health premiums, freshman fees, graduation fees, and lab fees. Fees do not include study abroad course(s) unless the course(s) is a mandatory requirement for completion of the approved program of education. Fees are defined in the school's catalog or supplement and listed on the school's billing statement or invoice.
- **Chapters 30, 32, 35, and 1606:** Tuition and Fees must be reported for enrollment periods when training time is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  time when the students is on active duty, and when accelerated payment is requested. If none of these conditions apply, Tuition and Fees do not have to be reported.



## Certifying Changes in Enrollment

- When a student make a change to an enrollment period the change should be report in VA –ONCE as either and Amendment, Adjustment, or a Termination. (If the school does not utilize VA-ONCE, changes must be report to VA on a VA Form22-1999b-(Notice of Change in Student Status)
- Amend is used to change begin date, Tuition and Fees, Yellow Ribbon, add a remark, and advance pay and accelerated pay requires on a certification already submitted
- Adjust is used to report an increase or decrease in credit hours. If tuition and fees, or Yellow Ribbon were reported, they must also be changed to correspond to the adjusted number of credit hours.
- Terminate is used to report a complete withdrawal from an enrollment period, or to report graduation or program completion. If a student certified for multiple enrollment periods completely withdraws from one enrolment period, then terminate the enrollment period from which person withdrew. VA-ONCE will give you the option to terminate any subsequent enrollment periods of to leave those periods as certified



## Responsibilities for Reporting

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





# Responsibilities for Reporting

To be eligible for VA benefits, both accredited and non-accredited schools are required by law to maintain and enforce standards of progress and conduct. The law requires educational assistance benefits to Veterans and other eligible persons be discontinued when the student ceases to make satisfactory progress toward completion of his or her training objective. When a student has failed to maintain the prescribed SoP, VA must be informed promptly so benefit payments can be discontinued in accordance with the law.

## Academic Probation

Schools are no longer required to report academic probation to VA.

Note: Schools that provide a period of academic probation may not continue to certify a Veteran or eligible person (who remains in a probationary status) for an indefinite period of time. It is reasonable to expect that an institution will report a termination due to unsatisfactory progress if a student remains on academic probation beyond two terms, quarters, or semesters.



# Responsibilities for Reporting

## Academic Suspension

When a student is suspended for failing to maintain the school's prescribed SoP, you must report this to VA as a termination. Terminate the semester the student is suspended. If suspension follows the fall semester, for example, terminate fall semester.

Note: The last date of attendance during a period of enrollment does not need to be reported if a student completes the enrollment period with a failing punitive grade (e.g., an "F") and does not violate the school's standards of conduct, progress, or attendance during that term.

## Graduation

Schools are required to report graduation or program completion information to VA. Once a student graduates from a degree program, you should submit a Notice of Change in Student Status. The last date of the graduating term will be the date of termination.

Graduation should only be reported for a student who graduated while using VA benefits.



## Section Review

VA is the “Last Payor” means that your facility must apply \_\_\_\_\_ waviars, scholarships, aid, and assistance before assessing charges to VA.

- A. Housing specific
- B. Meal Plan specific
- C. Tuition specific
- D. Living expense specific



## Section Review

VA is the “Last Payor” means that your facility must apply \_\_\_\_\_ wavers, scholarships, aid, and assistance before assessing charges to VA.

- A. Housing specific
- B. Meal Plan specific
- C. Tuition specific**
- D. Living expense specific

Reasoning: VA is the “Last Payor” which means your facility must apply tuition only specific waivers, scholarships, aid, and assistance before assessing charges to VA. Remember, Title IV funds do not impact the amount of tuition and fees certified to VA, i.e., a student may be certified to VA for tuition and fees that are covered by any Title IV program



## Section Review

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

- True
- False



## Section Review

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

- 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).

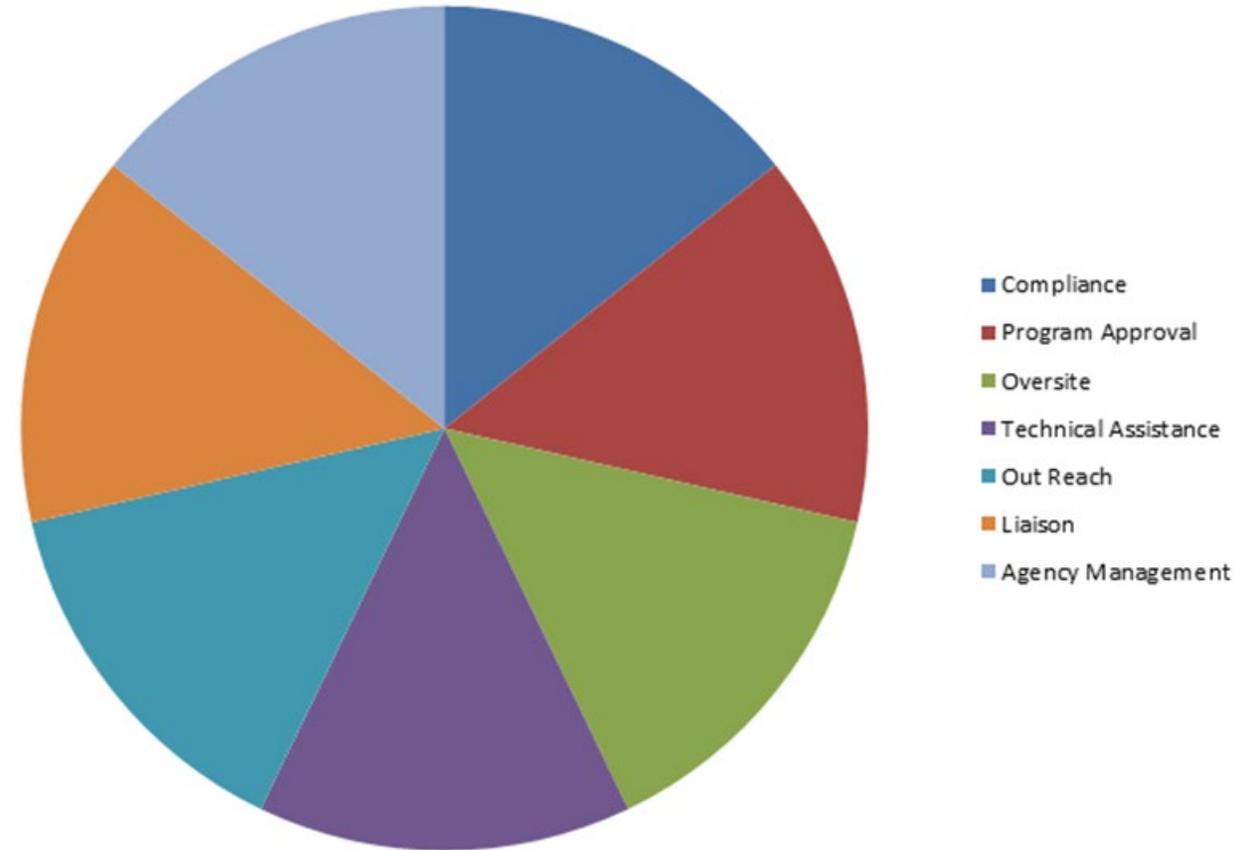




# SAA Responsibilities

SAA's engage in several core functions:

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

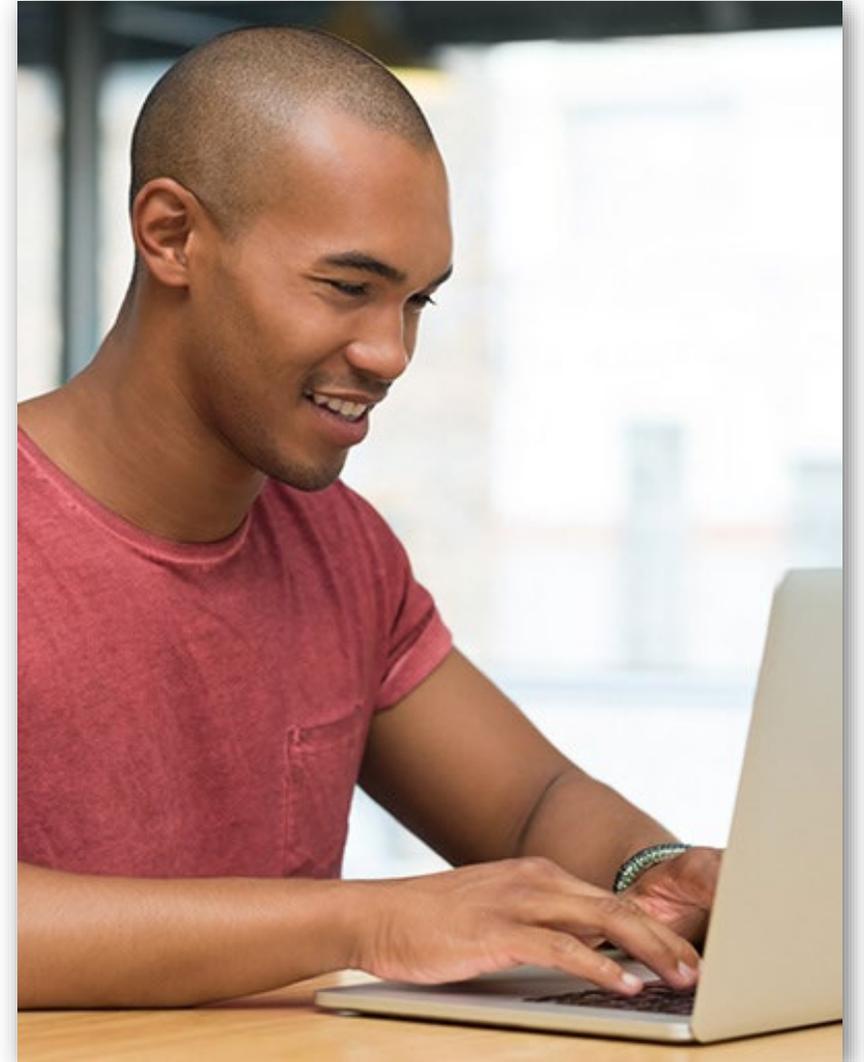




# Program of Education

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





# Vocational

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

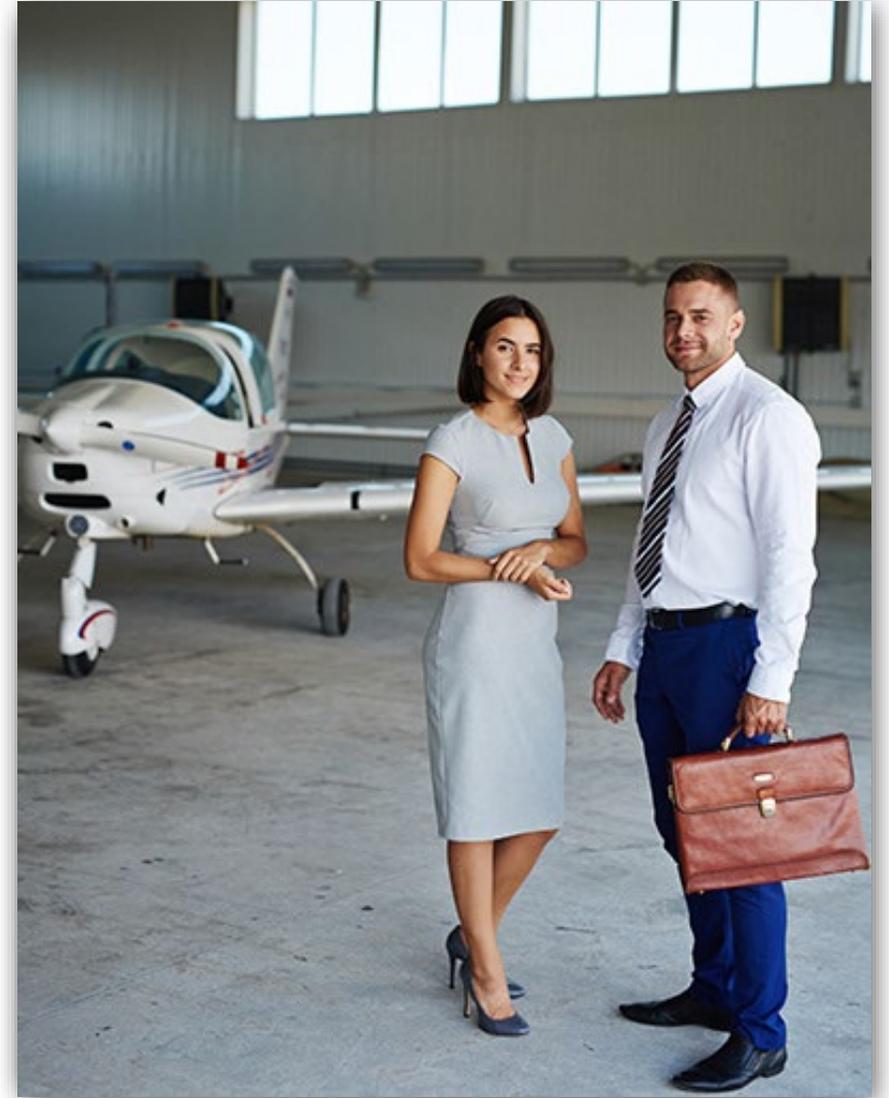
- Business
- Technical
- Trade
- Vocational school
- Apprenticeship or other on-the-job training





# Professional

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

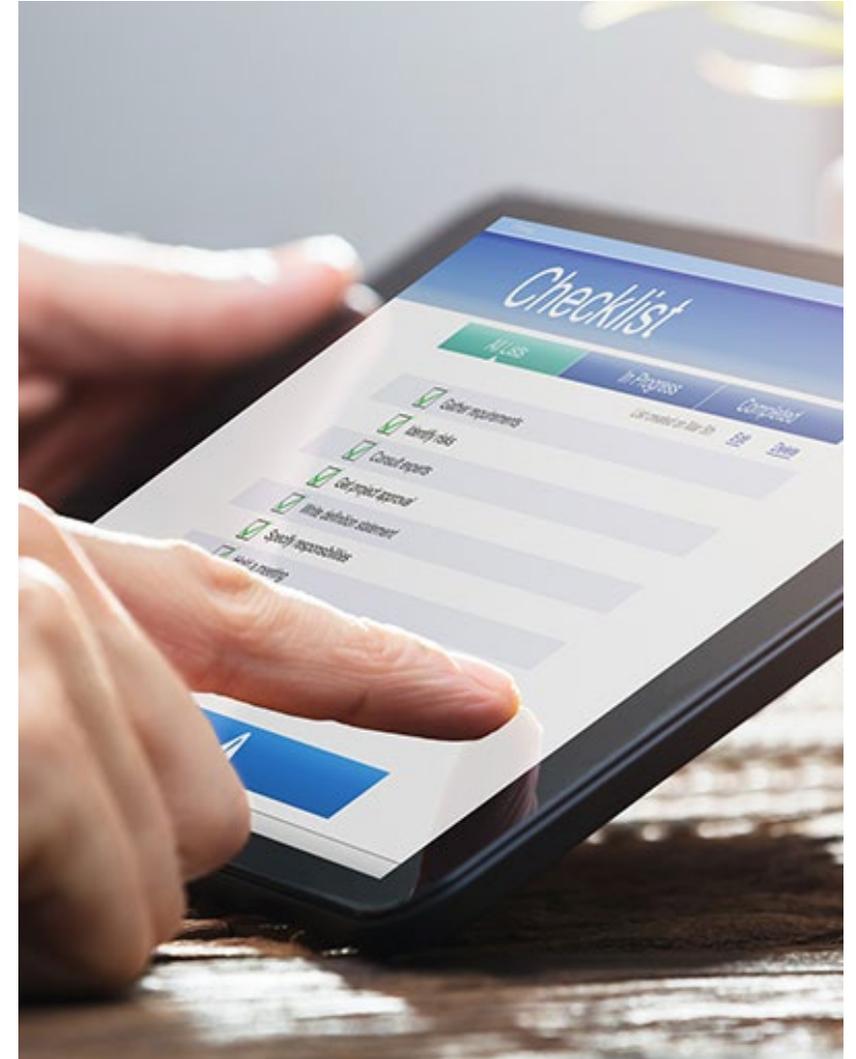




## SAA Needs

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.

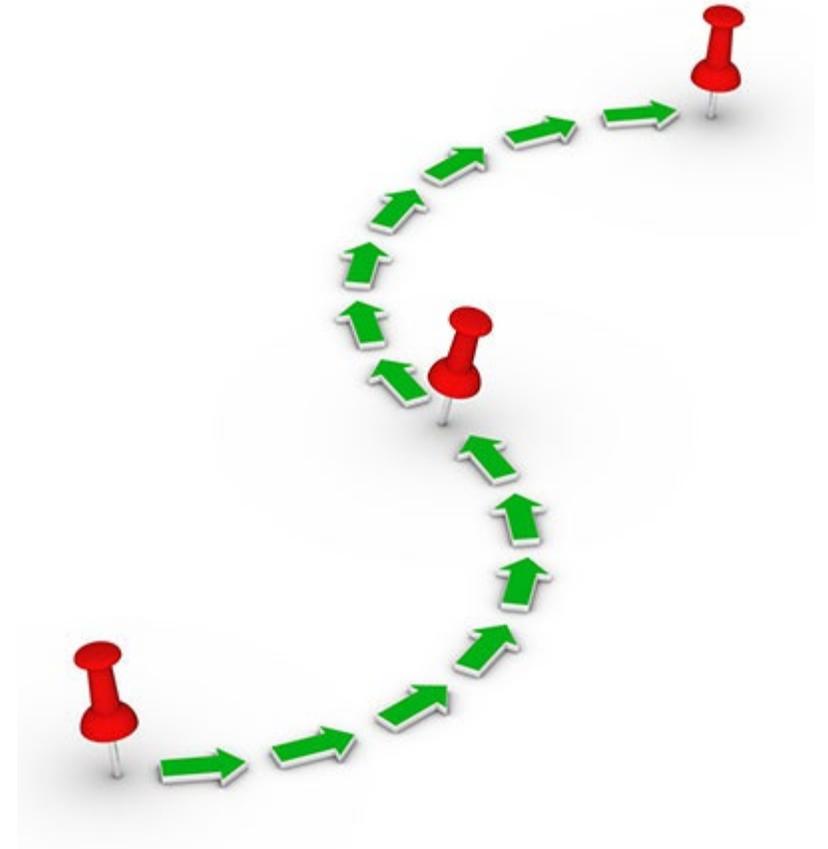
Keep in mind, they do not answer direct inquiries from Veterans or their dependents.

## **SAA:**

- Approval issues
- Compliance conducted by SAA

## **ELR:**

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

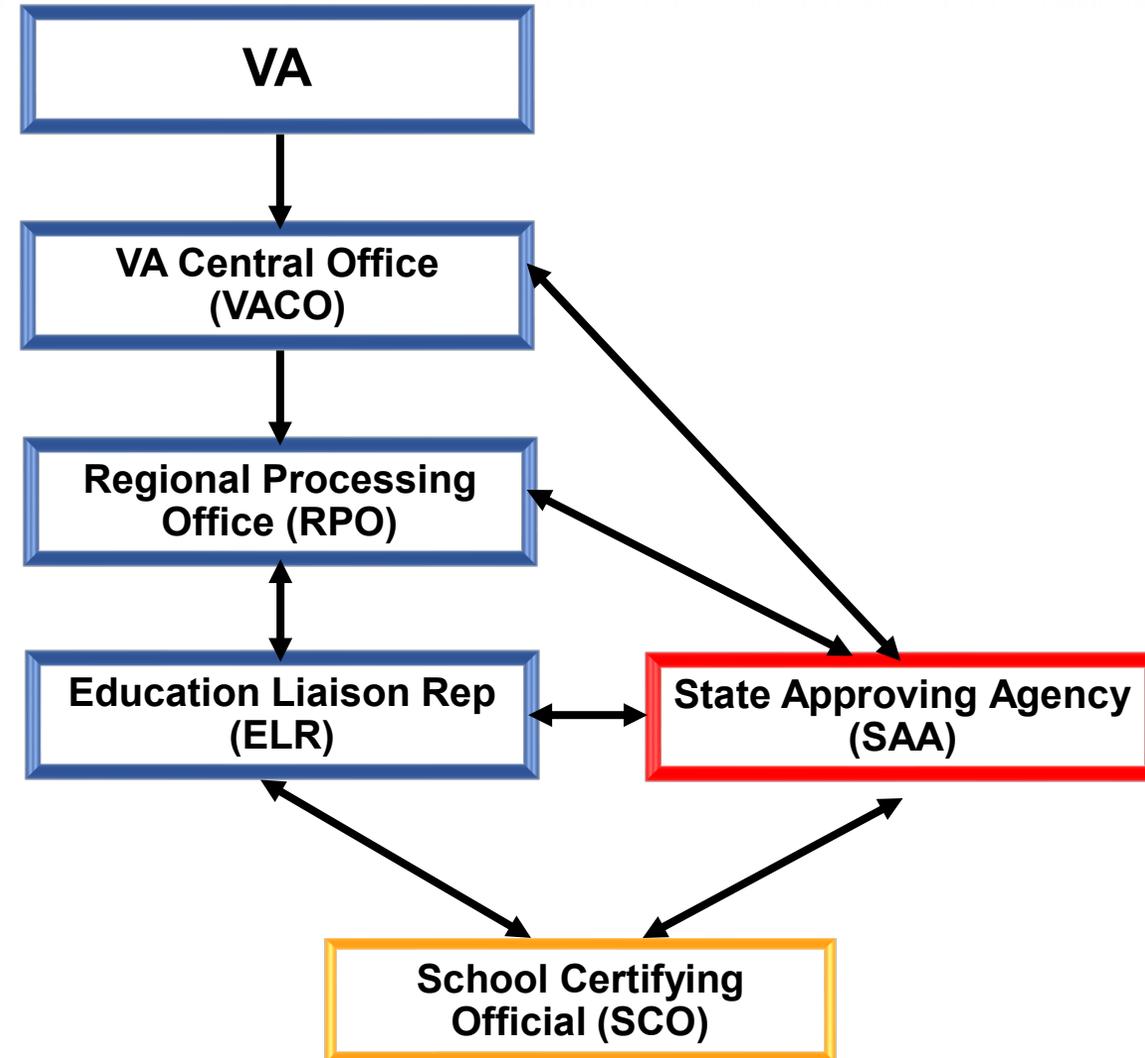




# Educational Benefits Hierarchy

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

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

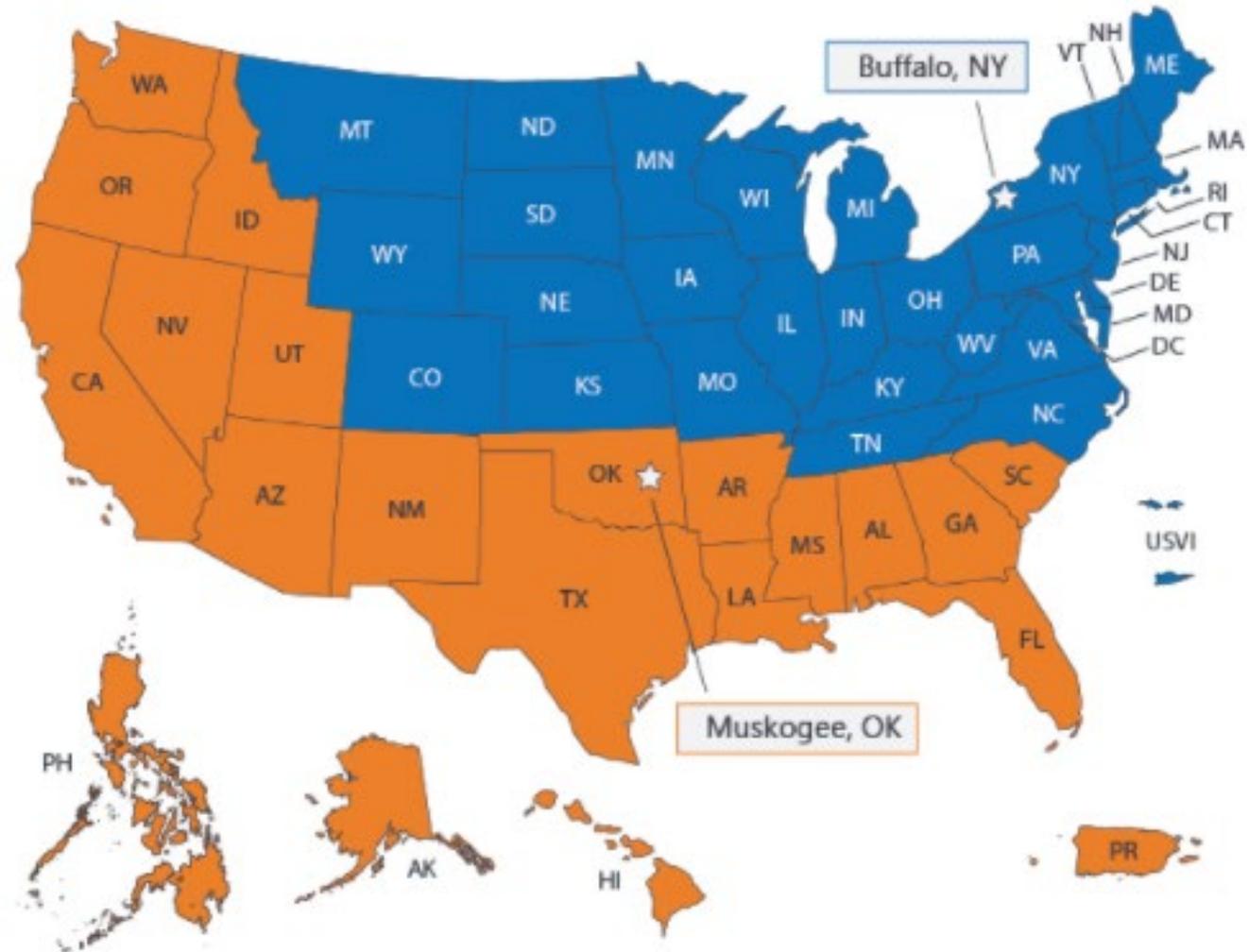
- A. Educational**
- B. Recreational
- C. Vocational**
- D. Professional**



## Contacts



# Processing Jurisdictions (1 of 2)





# Processing Jurisdictions (2 of 2)

## Buffalo RPO Jurisdiction

P.O. Box 4616  
Buffalo, NY  
14240-4616

- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland

- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota

- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- US Virgin Islands
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming
- Foreign Schools

## Muskogee RPO Jurisdiction

P.O. Box 8888  
Muskogee, OK  
74402-8888

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alabama</li><li>• Alaska</li><li>• Arizona</li><li>• Arkansas</li><li>• California</li><li>• Florida</li><li>• Georgia</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hawaii</li><li>• Idaho</li><li>• Louisiana</li><li>• Mississippi</li><li>• New Mexico</li><li>• Nevada</li><li>• Oklahoma</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oregon</li><li>• Puerto Rico</li><li>• South Carolina</li><li>• Texas</li><li>• Utah</li><li>• Washington</li><li>• Trust Territories/Philippines</li></ul> |
|--|---|---|



## 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>

Ask A Question (AVA) website – <http://ask.va.gov>

Find your ELR -

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education\\_resources/school\\_certifying\\_officials/elr.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education_resources/school_certifying_officials/elr.asp)



## 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](http://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](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](http://www.benefits.va.gov/warms/M22_4.asp)



## Section Review

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

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



## Section Review

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

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



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





# CONFERENCE/VIRTUAL TRAINING CREDIT PROCESS



## 1. ATTEND

Attend a National, Regional, Local Conference or Workshop offering eligible SCO Annual Training. Training must be taught or co-taught with an ELR or VA staff member.



## 2. CERTIFY

Go on the [SCO Training Portal](#) and certify each conference session you attended. By completing this form you are certifying that you attended this training in-person and documented your attendance at the conference training session.



## 3. PRINT

Print your certificate and keep for your records.



## 4. PROFILE

Check your profile to make sure all of your online and conference credit is properly counted.



# 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





**Thank you for your time today!**