

# AVECO 2017 Advanced Training

You are here

We are here  
to help you  
achieve  
your goals



# Overview

- Basics
- Programs
- Responsibilities
- Miscellaneous and New
- Challenges
- Getting Assistance Assistance



# Updates

**Calendar week**

**Deemed Approved**



**ACICS**

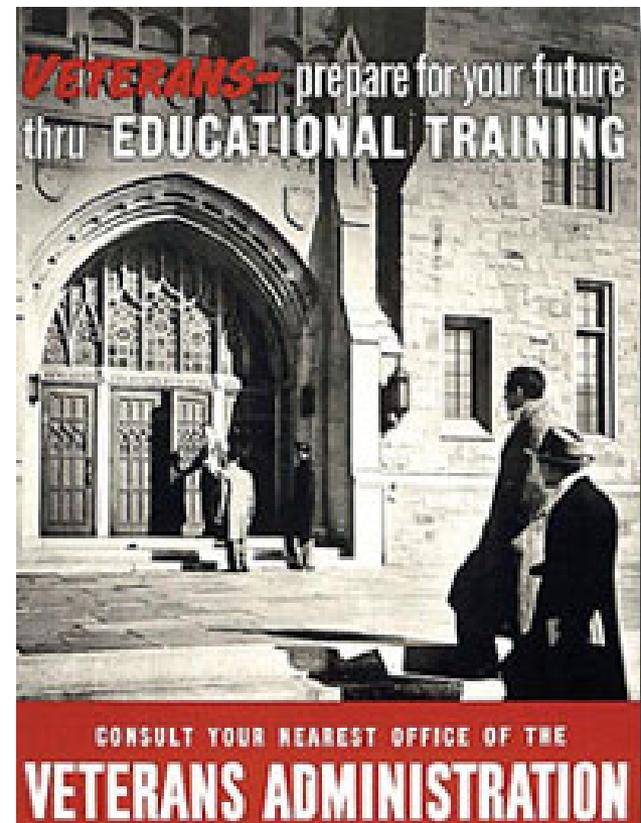
**PL 114-315**

**Returning Funds**

# A little history...

- (GI Bill)
- Provided 4 years of education or training
- Tuition, fees, books, supplies, and monthly stipend
- Guaranteed home, farm, or business loan
- Unemployment compensation
  - Weekly payment for up to 52 weeks
- GI Bill term usually only used today for education programs

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944



# Education Programs

- Chapter 30
- Chapter 1606
- Chapter 1607
- Chapter 35
- Chapter 33
- Chapter 33 TOE
- Fry Scholarship



# View from Above...How it works

- Veteran Services
- Application submitted from student
- VA Determines Eligibility and sends student COE
- You certify enrollment
- VA Makes payments



# Chapter 33 Yellow Ribbon

- Program to help pay some/all of unmet charges at IHLs
- School must enter into agreement with VA
- School can contribute up to half of unmet charges and VA matches amount
- Only available to 100% tier
- AD, Spouses of AD, & Fry Scholarship Not eligible
- All Yellow Ribbon Debt is considered student debt
- Works on Academic YR 08/01 – 07/31



# Fry Scholarship

- Provides Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits to the children and surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10, 2001
- **Children** of active duty members of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, are eligible for this benefit.
  - A child may begin an approved program of education before the age of 18.
  - Eligibility ends on the child's 33rd birthday.
  - A child's marital status has no effect on eligibility.
- **Surviving spouses** of active duty members of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, are also eligible for this benefit.
  - A surviving spouse can receive benefits for terms beginning on or after January 1, 2015.
  - A surviving spouse's eligibility generally ends 15 years after the Servicemember's death.
  - A spouse will lose eligibility to this benefit upon remarriage if this occurs during the 15 year period.
- More information about eligibility and rules
  - [http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/factsheets/Fry\\_Scholarship.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/factsheets/Fry_Scholarship.pdf)

# Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation)

This program assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs.

The Vocational Rehab program is **NOT a t VA Educational Benefit**

Does count against the 48 months Educational Benefits

Does use the same certification process as VA Education

Pays the student a monthly stipend based on dependents or BAH rates

**Requires communication between the Case worker and the SCO**

Pays the school directly for tuition/books/supplies

# Release of Records

## **Exceptions to Student Consent for Release of Educational Records**

FERPA allows the institution the right to disclose student records or identifiable information without the student's consent under the following circumstances:

- To authorized representatives for audit of Federal or State supported programs.
- To university employees who are in the process of carrying out their specifically assigned educational or administrative responsibilities...
- Veteran's Administration officials

## **§ 21.4209 Examination of records (Approval)**

Please allow your VR&E Caseworkers access to their veterans transcripts and grades; these are needed in the rehabilitation of the veteran. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

# Roles and Responsibilities

- SAA State Approving Agency
- ELR Education Liaison Representative
- You Schools Certifying Official

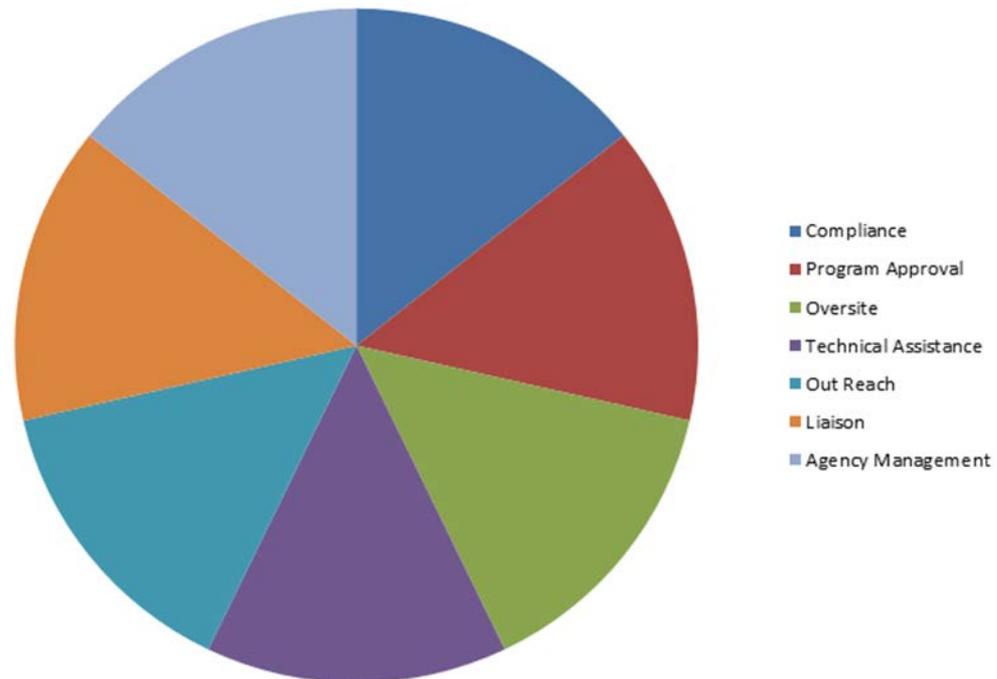


# State Approving Agency

Congress recognized that it was the responsibility of the State to determine the education of its citizens. It was decided that each state would establish a “State Approving Agency” and that the governor of each state would designate a state bureau or department within which the SAA would operate. The SAA would be supported through funding, under contract, from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This originated as part of the compromise that facilitated the passage of the original World War II GI Bill<sup>®</sup> and which has evolved into a truly cooperative federal-state effort that maintains states’ rights for education while monitoring and protecting a federally sponsored program administered under the terms and conditions of federal laws.

# SAA Responsibilities

SAs engage in six core functions: program approval; compliance and oversight; technical assistance; outreach; liaison; and agency management and contract compliance.



# What can be Approved

## Program of Education

Is a combination of subjects or unit courses pursued at an educational institution. The combination generally is accepted as necessary to meet the requirements for a predetermined educational, professional or vocational objective. It may consist of subjects or courses which fulfill requirements for more than one objective, if all objectives pursued are generally recognized as being related to a single career field.

**Educational**      **Vocational**  
**Professional**

# Educational

An educational objective leads to the awarding of a diploma, degree, or certificate which reflects educational attainment as distinguished from a certificate or a license to practice a profession or trade. The objective will be the name of the highest degree, diploma, or certificate included in the program, such as a GED (General Educational Development) certificate, high school diploma, bachelor degree, master degree, or Ph.D. degree.



# Vocational

A vocational objective leads to an occupation ordinarily attained after completion of a business, technical, trade, or other vocational school course, or an apprenticeship or other on-the-job training program and which leads to entry level employment. Approval of continuing education and career enhancement programs is generally not allowed.

A vocational objective must be a recognized employment objective.

It should be of the type listed in the DOL (Department of Labor) Dictionary of Occupational Titles found in the DOL "O\*NET" database

Examples of vocational objectives are barber, secretary, machinist, computer programmer, automobile mechanic, and practical nurse. With respect to non-degree certificate programs, an undergraduate level certificate from an accredited college or university may be accepted as leading to a vocational objective.

# Professional

A professional objective leads to an occupation after an individual completes an extended academic program of study.

The program must be at the college level and be generally accepted as necessary to satisfy the educational requirements for licensing or certification to practice the identified profession.

Typical examples of professional objectives are lawyer, physician (M.D.), teacher, physical therapist, medical technologist, and medical record librarian.

A program leading to a professional objective may include courses also leading to an educational objective. In this situation, the student may specify either the educational objective or the professional objective on his or her application. Examples are B.S. (Bachelor of Science) degree in secondary education or high school teacher, and J.D. (Juris Doctor) degree or lawyer.

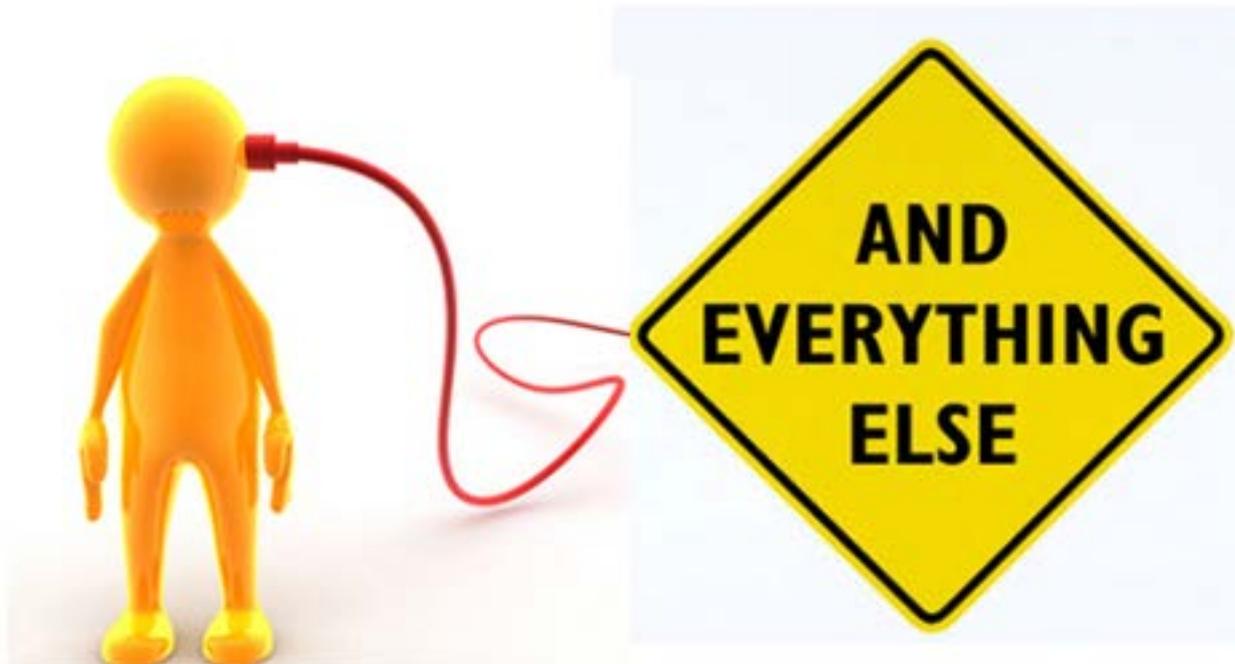
# What Does the SAA Need From You?

- Catalogs (Disk)...not website URLs
- Calendars
- Schedules
- Enrollment agreements
- Student handbooks
- Addendums and changes
- Statement of True and Correct

# Education Liaison Representative

- Receiving, reviewing, and taking appropriate actions on all approval notices submitted by SAAs and ensuring that VA only pays for programs that are approved in accordance with 38 U.S.C. Chapter 36.
- Updating the Web Automated Approval System (WEAMS) with program approval and other information about an approved facility.
- Disseminating approval information to all concerned elements within VA and approved schools.
- Acting as a liaison between the Regional Processing Offices and schools regarding issues of program approval.
- **Training the SCO on their certification processes.**
- Providing information to SCOs regarding the proper interpretation of all VA education rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. This includes giving presentations at education conferences and workshops.
- Conduct random liaison visits or as requested
- Conducts EO and Risk Based Compliance as needed

# School Certifying Official (SCO)



# Responsibilities for Reporting

Keep VA informed of the enrollment status of Veterans and other eligible persons. Use basic forms to keep VA informed, such as:

- Enrollment Certification (VA Form 22-1999) to report required enrollment information
- Notice of Change in Student Status (VA Form 22-1999b) to report changes to enrollment information
- Monitor the subjects pursued by a student to certify to VA only those subjects that apply to the student's program
- Monitor student's grades to ensure s/he is making satisfactory progress; report when a Student was terminated due to unsatisfactory progress
- Monitor student's conduct and report when student is suspended or dismissed for unsatisfactory conduct

# Responsibilities for SCO's

- Retain file of VA papers submitted & records of academic progress, program pursuit, etc.
- Maintain records for at least three years following the student's last date of attendance
- Ensure that records are kept in a safe place and that the privacy of VA students is protected
- Attend VA training opportunities

# Certification Responsibilities

- Courses Approved by the SAA/VA
- Meets Students' Learning Objectives
- Not a Repeat of Previously Passed Courses
- Promptly Report any Changes
- Noncredit R/D classes Required
- Meets 85/15 Rule

# Certification Term Dates

- Standard Terms (Semesters-15 to 19 weeks, Quarters-10 to 13 weeks)
  - Classes that begin and end in the same calendar week can be certified as the term start in end date
- Non Standard Terms -If a school offers training on a nonstandard term basis, or if there are nonstandard 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



# Calendar Week Defined

Prior to **April 25, 2016**, if a class began after the initial calendar week then the school would report the actual date those classes began. (Sunday-Saturday)

If the standard term is after **April 25, 2016** and a course begins within 7 calendar days then the school should certify the course using the first day of the term. If a standard term is taken concurrently with a nonstandard term, the two must still be certified separately.

- If a student enrolls in a course and the actual first day that the student attends class is no later than the seventh calendar day of the term, then the beginning date of the certification will be the first day of the term, quarter, or semester in which the student is enrolled.
- If a student enrolls in a course and the actual first day that the student attends class is after the seventh calendar day of the term, then the beginning date of the award will be the actual date of the first class scheduled for that particular course.

# Modality

- If a course does not meet the definition of residence training it must be considered independent study.
- Courses offered in whole or part by independent study cannot be approved at non-accredited schools.
- On the enrollment certification, resident training should be identified as “res”. Independent study, on-line and hybrid courses should be identified as “dist”. Do not add these hours together in VA-ONCE.

## **Resident or Distance**

The total number of hours of classroom instruction must equal, or be greater than, the number of credit hours awarded for the course multiplied by the number of weeks in the term.

10 X 3 = 30 classroom hours to be resident training.

Weeks X Credit hours ≤ to classroom instruction

# Certification - Hours

- Schools with multiple consecutive sessions
  - Do not lump hours together
  - Certify each non-standard term separately
- Resident, Distant, Remedial, and clock hours are reported separately for all chapters

The screenshot shows a web form titled "View Current Status" with a green header. The header contains the following information: Facility: 11956135, Trng Type: IHL\_UNDERGRAD, Prgm: AABMTACCTG, and Prior Credit: 5E. Below the header, there are several input fields: Term Name (FALL 2013), Begin Date\* (08/26/2013), End Date\* (12/15/2013), Res (12), Dist\* (0), R/D, Clock (3078.32), and T & F\*. There are also two checkboxes: "Advance Pay" and "Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only)". At the bottom, there is an empty input field for "LDA/EFF Date". The form has "Save" and "Cancel" buttons in the top right corner.

- Graduate Students number of hours considered fulltime by your school (for that term)

# Certification Yellow Ribbon

- Report up to half of the unmet charges per your Yellow Ribbon agreement.
- Student must be at 100% level
- Public School:
  - Difference between In-State Net Costs and Out-of-State Net Costs
- Private School:
  - School Year 2016/2017 **\$21,970.46**
  - School Year 2017/2018 **\$22,805.34**



# Certification Changes

- Adjustment
  - To report an increase or decrease in credit hours. If tuition, fees, or Yellow Ribbon were reported, they must also be changed to correspond to the adjusted hours
- Amendment
  - To change begin date, end date, tuition and fees, Yellow Ribbon, add a remark, and advance pay and accelerated pay requests on a certification already submitted
- Termination
  - To report a complete withdrawal from an enrollment period, or to report graduation or program completion

# Certification Changes

- Non-33s
  - A change in dates, ROP-rate of pursuit, or reportable costs
- 33s
  - Any change in dates, hours (number or type), or costs



# Certification Changes

- Within 30 days (Of action or Notification)
- Reduction in Hours
  - Report new costs as if student were enrolled in reduced hours from beginning of term
  - VA will Prorate
- LDA/EFF
  - Last date of Attendance
  - Effective Date

# Certification Miscellaneous

- Undeclared Major
  - By Junior Year
- Matriculation
  - By Third Term
- Guest Student
  - Parent Letter on File
- Active Duty T/A (Now must certify fees for Chapter 30)
  - Top Up

# Certification Miscellaneous

- Unsatisfactory Progress, Conduct, or Attendance
  - LDA/EFF
- Probation
  - Right Now Web
- Graduation
  - Termination

# Prohibited Payments

- Non-Punitive Grades (New Policy)
- Non-Attendance (Attendance policy)
- Audited Classes
- Repeat of Previously Passed Courses
- Classes outside program requirements
- Previously Qualified
- On-Line Remedial
- Leave of Absence



# What to do if a student repeats a course

Classes that are successfully completed may not be certified for again for VA purposes if they are repeated. However, if a student fails a class, or if a program requires a higher grade than the one achieved in a particular class for successful completion, that course class may be repeated and certified to VA again.

Example 1, if a Nursing program requires a “B” or better in Biology, then that class may be repeated if a “B” or better was not earned. That requirement must be in the school catalog.

**Example 2. If a course is required for graduation, a student may repeat the course and be certified for it until it is successfully completed. No further information needs to be provided to VA regarding those courses.**

Example 3. If a student chooses to repeat a course that was successfully completed, just to improve their GPA, that course cannot be certified to VA.