# **VETERANS UPDATES**

ANNE MARIE KROMIDAS MAKELLA-ANN GEFFRARD COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## AGENDA

- CERTIFICATION PROCESS
- DEBT MANAGEMENT
- COMPLIANCE SURVEY
- PROGRAM RE-APPROVAL
- ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS
- LEGISLATIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

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#### **STATISTICS**

• FOR THE 24-25 ACADEMIC YEAR, OUR INSTITUTION, AN IHL WITH NCD, CURRENTLY HAS:

- OVER 650 SELF-IDENTIFIED MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS
- RECEIVED OVER \$26 MILLION IN FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
  - INCLUDES \$12 MILLION FROM THE POST 9/11 GI BILL®
  - INCLUDES \$14 MILLION FROM VETERANS READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E)

APPROXIMATELY 70 STUDENTS RECEIVING MONTHLY STIPENDS FOR DEA AND MONTGOMERY GI BILL

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

# CERTIFICATION PROCESS

## **CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

THE SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS WILL VERIFY THE ENROLLMENT PER TERM WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. AN EMAIL CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT TO THE STUDENT EACH TIME A CERTIFICATION IS PROCESSED AND IF A CHANGE HAS BEEN REPORTED.

STEP ONE | PRIOR TO START OF TERM

- ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION IS SUBMITTED TO VA
- THIS DIRECTS VA TO DISBURSE MONTHLY HOUSING ALLOWANCE (MHA) AND BOOK STIPEND PAYMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENT

STEP TWO | AT CONCLUSION OF ADD/DROP PERIOD

- FINALIZED ENROLLMENT SUBMITTED TO VA
- TUITION AND FEES SUBMITTED
- VA DISBURSES TUITION/FEE FUNDS



### **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION**

#### Veterans Request for Certification Form

#### Instructions

This form must be filled out and submitted for each term that military benefits are requested. You will not receive benefits for the term until after the form is submitted. The form can be completed and turned in as early as after registration.

#### New Students/Transfer Students

If you have not done so already, you must apply for and <u>submit your VA Certificate of</u> <u>Eligibility</u> **C** to show your eligibility for education benefits. This document may also be called your "award letter" or "benefit summary." You cannot receive your benefits until the CoE/award letter is submitted.

**Continuing Students** 

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IT IS NOT REQUIRED BY THE VA FOR INSTITUTIONS TO KEEP A RECORD OF STUDENTS REQUESTING CERTIFICATION, BUT IT CAN BE USEFUL FOR COMPLIANCE SURVEYS, PAYMENT TRACKING AND OTHER STUDENT INQUIRIES.

STUDENTS NOTIFY OUR OFFICE EACH SEMESTER THAT THEY WANT TO BE CERTIFIED AND FOR WHICH BENEFIT.

#### **CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

- ENROLLMENT MANAGER IS USED TO PROCESS CERTIFICATIONS FOR STUDENTS
- WILL SHOW UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT'S BENEFITS
- TWO STEP (\$0) CERTIFICATION CAN BE VERY HELPFUL FOR REDUCING OVERAWARDS

Enrollments	Student Info Programs Benefits Notes	History	LAST BENEFIT PAID
∓ Filter ∨	Showing 1-5 of 14 > Add multiple enrollments	Add enrollment	Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits remaining 03-12
		CHAPTER 33	Benefit level
	at COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK 937132 May 27, 2025 - August 15, 2025	Amend	100
3			Contact information
ENROLLMENT -	PROCESSED Total credit hours 7	~	Email address mooncsw@gmail.com
		CHAPTER 33	Home phone
Spring 2025 at	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK	Amend	6507734466
Facility code: 319	937132 January 21, 2025 - May 16, 2025	Amena	Mobile phone 6507734466
AMENDMENT - F	PROCESSED Total credit hours 9	<u>×</u> ×	Mailing address 533 Hazel Ave San Bruno, CA, US 94066-4227
		CHAPTER 33	4 <b></b> >
Fall 2024 at CO	LUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK	Amend	
Facility code: 319	937132 September 03, 2024 - December 20, 2024		
AMENDMENT - F	PROCESSED Total credit hours 8	~	

12.00

## **CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

#### **GRAD** enrollment details

Status	Processed	
Objective	Master of Science	
Program	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MS	
	• Begin Date: 9/3/2024	
Enrollment Period	<ul> <li>End Date: 12/20/2024</li> </ul>	
en onnener en oa	Name: Fall 2024	
Residence Credits	0	
Online Credits	6	
Full Time Modifier	12	
Clock Hours	0	
Tuition Fees Amount	\$0.00	
Yellow Ribbon Amount	None	
Out of State tuition and fees	None	
Remarks	None	
Notes	None	
Created Date	Aug 5, 2024	
Submitted Date	Aug 5, 2024	
Submitted By	MAKELLA-ANN GEFFRARD	
Enrollment ID	10008302888	

#### **GRAD** amendment details

Status	Processed	
Objective	Master of Science	
Program	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MS	
	• Begin Date: 9/3/2024	
Enrollment Period	<ul> <li>End Date: 12/20/2024</li> <li>Name: Fall 2024</li> </ul>	
Residence Credits	0	
Online Credits	3	
Full Time Modifier	12	
Clock Hours	0	
Tuition Fees Amount	\$8,147.00	
Yellow Ribbon Amount	None	
Out of State tuition and fees	None	
Remarks	None	
Notes	None	
Amendment Detail	<ul> <li>Reason: Pre-registered but reduced prior to first day of term</li> <li>Effective Date: Sep 2, 2024</li> </ul>	
Created Date	ated Date Sep 17, 2024	
Submitted Date	Sep 17, 2024	
Submitted By	MAKELLA-ANN GEFFRARD	



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ALC: NO

### **RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REPORTING**

- ACADEMIC PROGRAM/DEGREE
- DATES OF ENROLLMENT
- NUMBER OF CREDITS
- IN-PERSON OR ONLINE INSTRUCTION
- RATE OF PURSUIT AND TRAINING TIME
- TUITION AND FEES MINUS GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS
- WITHDRAWALS
- MIGRATING CIRCUMSTANCES
- GRADUATION OUTCOMES



# DEBT MANAGEMENT CENTER (DMC)

# **DEBT MANAGEMENT CENTER (DMC)**



- STUDENT NEVER ATTENDED CLASSES
- STUDENT COMPLETELY WITHDREW ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF THE TERM
- STUDENT PASSED AWAY DURING OR BEFORE THE TERM STARTED
- SCHOOL RECEIVED A PAYMENT FOR THE WRONG STUDENT
- SCHOOL RECEIVED A DUPLICATE PAYMENT
- SCHOOL SUBMITTED AN AMENDED CERTIFICATION TO REPORT REDUCED TUITION AND FEE CHARGES AND/OR YELLOW RIBBON
- VA ISSUED PAYMENT ABOVE THE AMOUNT CERTIFIED

## **COLLECTION PROCESS**

TIMELINE

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#### **PAYMENTS TO DMC**

- MAKE SURE A DEBT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BEFORE SENDING FUNDS TO DMC
- ALWAYS INCLUDE THE ORIGINAL DMC PAYMENT STUB FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE LETTER WITH YOUR PAYMENT

SENDING A PAYMENT WITHOUT VERIFYING THAT A DEBT EXISTS OR EXCLUDING THE PAYMENT STUB FROM THE DMC LETTER, WILL DELAY APPLICATION OF YOUR PAYMENT

## **COLLECTION PROCESS**

- Review to ensure debt is valid
- Schools can dispute debts askva.gov or call 1-833-720-2574
  - CATEGORY: "VETERAN AFFAIRS DEBT"
  - TOPIC: "A SCHOOL OFFICIAL"
  - RELATIONSHIP: "ON BEHALF OF A VETERAN"
  - ONLY ONE TICKET PER STUDENT INQUIRY
- Collection action on the account is suspended until the inquiry is resolved, unless that account has already been referred to TOP
- If the payment details are not enclosed DMC may return the check or portion of the payment back to the school



## TREASURY OFFSET PROGRAM (TOP)

- A CENTRALIZED OFFSET PROGRAM MANAGED AND OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES (FMS)
- FEDERAL AGENCIES ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO SUBMIT DELINQUENT DEBTS TO TOP
- TOP OFFSET PAYMENTS BASED ON A PAYEE'S TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) AND NAME
- PURSUANT TO REGULATIONS GOVERNING TOP, ALL SUBDIVISIONS OR ORGANIZATIONS SHARING A SINGLE TIN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE DEBTS ASSOCIATED WITH THAT TIN
- BEFORE SUBMITTING A DEBT TO TOP, A CREDITOR AGENCY MUST CERTIFY THAT THE AGENCY COMPLIED WITH ALL THE DUE PROCESS PREREQUISITES PRIOR TO OFFSET



# **COMPLIANCE SURVEYS**

<b>COMPLIANCE SURVERYS</b>	VA randomly selects the records	
• THE PURPOSE OF A COMPLIANCE SURVEY IS TO PREVENT DEFICIENCIES AND	VA Student Population	Records to Review
VIOLATIONS, AS WELL AS TO IDENTIFY AND CORRECT THEM WHEN THEY ARE	0-99	10
FOUND.	100-199	15
• SURVEYS ARE CONDUCTED ANNUALLY FOR INSTITUTIONS:	200-299	20
<ul> <li>WITH 300 OR MORE VETERAN STUDENTS</li> <li>OFFERING NON-COLLEGE DEGREES</li> </ul>	300-399	25
• THE INSTITUTION WILL RECEIVE A CALL AND WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF AN UPCOMING REVIEW	400-499	30
• SURVEYS CAN BE CONDUCTED REMOTELY OR ONSITE	500-599	35
• NUMBER OF RECORDS SELECTED ARE BASED ON THE FACILITY'S OVERALL VETERAN POPULATION	600-699	40
	700 or more	45

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### **COMPLIANCE SURVEYS**

- SURVEYOR WILL CONDUCT AN INITIAL INTERVIEW TO GO OVER THE PROCESS OF THE SURVEY AND WHAT THEY ARE REVIEWING
- ALL DOCUMENTATION MUST BE READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE SURVEYOR AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY
  - UPLOADED TO THE VA'S FILE UPLOAD PORTAL: MY.VA.GOV/EDUCATIONFILEUPLOADS/S/
- SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL (SCO) SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE INSTANCE IF SURVEYOR HAS ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES
- EXIT INTERVIEW WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE END OF THE PROCESS TO GO OVER ANY FINDINGS
  - FINDINGS MUST BE CORRECTED BY THE SCO IN A TIMELY MANNER

## **COMPLIANCE SURVEYS**

#### DOCUMENTATION INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

- TRANSCRIPTS
- ADMISSIONS APPLICATION
- COURSE SCHEDULE
- SCHOOL CATALOGUE
- PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
- 85/15 CALCULATIONS OR THE 35% WAIVER
- TRANSFER CREDIT REVIEW
- TRADEMARK
- NON-VETERAN ACCOUNT FOR A COMPARISON
- ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- STATE APPROVING AGENCIES (SAA) ARE GENERALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPROVAL OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE STATES. THEY ARE THE PATHWAY INTO VA FOR A PROGRAM'S RECOGNITION AND IDENTIFICATION AS BEING ELIGIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF VA EDUCATION BENEFITS.
- RE-APPROVAL ENSURES THAT PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO MEET THE STANDARDS SET BY THE VA FOR GI BILL ELIGIBILITY. THIS INCLUDES VERIFYING CURRICULUM, GRADUATION RATES, AND ADHERENCE TO OTHER REQUIREMENTS
- AN INSTITUTION'S PROGRAMS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE VA AT LEAST EVERY TWO YEARS
- **REVIEW TIME DEPENDS ON SAA**

### POLICY INFORMATION

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

### INSTITUTION INFORMATION







#### UPDATED VA FORM 22-1998

1/20/2022

#### ALL APPROVED PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND ON WEAMS WEBSITE

#### WEAMS INSTITUTION SEARCH

For updated school information, please visit us at <u>https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool</u>

Program Type: Institution of Higher Learning	

Description	
ACCELERATED EPIDEMIOLOGY MPH	
ACCELERATED HEALTH POLICY MGMT MPH	
ACCELERATED POPULATION FAMILY HLTH MPH	
ACCELERATED SOCIOMEDICAL SCIENCES MPH	
ACCOUNTING AND FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS MS	
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE CERT	
ACTURIAL SCIENCE MS	
ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NP DNP	
ADULT-GERONTOLOGY PRIMARY CARE NP DNP	
ADV ED IN GENERAL DENTISTRY CERTIFICATE	
ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN MS	
ADVANCED CLINICAL MANAGEMENT - LDR MS	
ADVANCED STANDING DDS	
AFRICAN AMERS-AFRICAN DIASPORA STDS BA	
AFRICAN AMERS-AFRIDIASPORA STDS CONC BA	
AFRICAN STUDIES CERT	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES BA	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES MA	
AMERICAN STUDIES BA	
AMERICAN STUDIES MA	
AMERICAN STUDIES-CONCENTRATION BA	
AMOTENT CTUDIES DA	

# ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

## **ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**



## **ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

- REMEMBER TO CERTIFY ALL TRAININGS COMPLETED THROUGH THE VA TRAINING PORTAL
- THE AMOUNT OF TRAINING MODULES COMPLETED VARIES DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF INSTITUTION
- VA OFFICE HOURS DO COUNT TOWARDS COMPLETED HOURS
- SAVE COMPLETION DOCUMENTS FOR REFERENCE
- NTT-S SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND HERE: HTTPS://BENEFITS.VA.GOV/GIBILL/RESOURCES/EDUCATION RESOURC ES/SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS/PRESENTATIONS.ASP

Department of Veterans Affairs School Certifying Official Training 2025

#### Your Completion Status

Completed hours: 7.50 Completed modules: 6

Online hours: 4.50 Conference hours: 3.00

#### **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 in the Education File Upload portal (https://www.my.va.gov/EducationFileUploads/s/). Existing SCOs are required to complete training every year beginning October 1 through August 31 of the following year. For more information on SCO training requirements, please visit the SCO Training webpage (https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education\_resources/school\_certit

#### Instructions

After you select the level of training (New or Existing), a list of modules will be displayed. Select a module to begin your training. After completing the training, you will receive a certificate of completion which should be kept in your records. To review previously completed training, please review the "Review Only" sections. Note: Completed training can only be reviewed for the current FY.

Welcome 🤿

Welcome to the Department of Veterans Affairs School Certifying Official (SCO) Online Training Portal. Annual Training is mandated for SCOs at covered institutions by the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. Additionally, all New SCOs must complete required online training based on their facility or program type. This portal provides access to and tracks completion of mandated SCO annual training.

#### Enrollment Manager Training - Click Here O

Please note the Enrollment Manager system is undergoing testing and the screens you will see during training are subject to change. This training series will provide New and Existing SCOs with instructions on how to use Enrollment Manager, the replacement system for VA-ONCE. SCOs will use Enrollment Manager to review student information, add students to their facilities, submit enrollment certifications to VA, and manage their student enrollments. Existing SCOs will need to take the Enrollment Manager courses in advance of the system roll-out, and New SCOs will be able to take these courses at any time after go-live. Please make sure to take the course(s) applicable to your facility type (IHL, NCD, OJT and Apprenticeship, and/or Flight.

# LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

#### VETERANS READINESS & EMPLOYMENT (VR&E)

#### **48-MONTH RULE**

- ELIGIBLE STUDENTS THAT WERE DISCHARGED FROM SERVICE ON OR AFTER 1/1/2013 NO LONGER HAVE ONLY 12 MONTHS TO UTILIZE THE BENEFIT UNDER TITLE 38 U.S.C SECTION 3695
- THEY WILL IN THE PROGRAM UNTIL THEY GRADUATE FROM THEIR CHOSEN PROGRAM.
- AS OF 4/1/2021, THE VA NO LONGER CONSIDERS USE OF VR&E TOWARDS THE TOTAL 48 MONTHS OF ALLOWABLE BENEFITS
  - HOWEVER, USE OF POST 9/11 GI BILL DOES GO TOWARDS TOTAL MONTHS. THEREFORE, IT IS BEST FOR A STUDENT TO USE VR&E FIRST BEFORE CH33.

#### **RETROACTIVE INDUCTIONS**

- SOME STUDENTS MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE TO USE VR&E FOR A PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED SEMESTER UNDER TITLE 38 CFR SECTION 21.282 (C)
- THIS INCLUDES:
  - THE PERIOD OF WHICH A SERVICEMEMBER OR VETERAN WAS AWAITING DISCHARGE
  - INDIVIDUAL ENTITLED FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION
  - EDUCATIONAL TRAINING RECEIVED PREVIOUSLY WAS USED TO COMPLETE THEIR CAREER PLAN
  - VA RECOUPED ANY BENEFITS IT PAID FOR EDUCATIONAL TRAINING
  - INITIAL DISABILITY EVALUTION COMPLETED

#### VETERANS READINESS & EMPLOYMENT (VR&E)

#### **HIGH TUITION COST JUSTIFICATIONS**

- A STUDENT'S CLAIM MAY BE DENIED DUE TO "HIGH COST". COUNSELORS WILL COMPARE THE PRICE OF YOUR INSTITUTION'S PROGRAM WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE AREA.
- COUNSELORS CONSIDER COA FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
  - COUNSELOR APPROVAL: <\$50,000
  - SUPERVISORY APPROVAL: \$50,000-\$75,000
  - DIRECTORY APPROVAL: \$75,000-\$100,000
  - EXECUTIVE APPROVAL (WASHINGTON D.C.): >\$100,000

- VR&E COUNSELORS MAY REQUIRE INSTITUITION TO COMPLETE AN "ACADEMIC WORKSHEET" TO NOTATE THE LENGTH AND COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR A PROGRAM
- COUNSELORS MAY ALSO REQUIRE GRADUATION RATES, JOB PLACEMENT NUMBERS AND OTHER ALUMNI INFORMATION TO JUSTIFY A STUDENT'S FILE
- ANY OTHER GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS A STUDENT RECIEVES WILL ALSO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN A COUNSELOR'S DECISION

#### VETERANS READINESS & EMPLOYMENT (VR&E)

#### **OTHER NOTES**

REGIONAL OFFICES HAVE HAD MANY COUNSELORS LEAVE THEIR POSITIONS

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SOME STUDENTS UTILIZING THE BENEFIT HAVE NOT BEEN NOTIFIED OF A CHANGE OF COUNSELOR OR FILE RELOCATION

DELAY OF APPLICATION PROCESSING

INTERESTED APPLICANTS CAN APPLY AT USAJOBS.GOV

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HARTFORD, CT REGIONAL OFFICE HOSTS A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION THAT GOES OVER BEST PRACTICES, PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR VR&E BENEFITS ANY QUESTIONS THAT CANNOT BE ANSWERED BY A REGIONAL OFFICE, CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VR&E, NICK PAMPERIN

ALWAYS CHECK THE VR&E HANDBOOK

## **RUDISILL DECISION**



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ON APRIL 16, 2024, THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES DECIDED THAT IF VETERANS SERVED AT LEAST TWO PERIODS OF SERVICE-ONE THAT QUALIFIES FOR THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL (MGIB) AND ANOTHER THAT QUALIFIES FOR THE POST-9/11 GI BILL (PGIB)-THEY MAY BE ABLE TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL GI BILL BENEFITS.

STUDENTS THAT RECEIVED AN EDUCATION CLAIM AFTER AUGUST 15, 2018 DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING ADDITIONAL

STUDENTS THAT RECEIVED AN EDUCATION CLAIM PRIOR TO AUGUST 15, 2018 WILL NEED TO SUBMIT VA FORM 22-1995 AND INDICATE THE RUDISILL REVIEW

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MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT: HTTPS://BENEFITS.VA.GOV/GIBILL/RUDISILL.ASP

#### VA EMPLOYEES NATIONWIDE RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORK

FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PHASE OUT TELEWORK AND RESUME OFFICE-BASED OPERATIONS, REINFORCING THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION AND EFFICIENCY IN DELIVERING SERVICES TO VETERANS.

VA EMPLOYEES ARE EXPECTED TO BE BACK IN OFFICE BY JULY

HTTPS://NEWS.VA.GOV/138595/VA-SECRETARY-DOUG-COLLINS-IN-PERSON-WORK/

# QUESTIONS

