

VBA Quarterly Education Webinars

The Veterans Benefits Administration has been conducting quarterly webinars for School Certifying Officials (SCOs). Unfortunately, many SCOs are not aware of these webinars ahead of time or are unable to logon due to restrictions in the number of participants. The good news is that VBA publishes the slides from the webinars on the GI Bill web site. Please visit the web site: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill to download the slides from the previous webinars. Listed below are the dates of the webinars and the subjects covered. Make sure you read the Questions and Answers at the end of each webinar. They provide excellent information for School Certifying Officials.

- September 16, 2015
 - Update: Section 702 (Choice Act) – The Resident Rate Requirements
 - Outcome Measures
 - Communication/Best Practices with Beneficiaries
 - Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs)
 - ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)
 - Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)
 - Questions and Answers

- June 17, 2015
 - Section 702 (Choice Act) The Resident Rate Requirements
 - Yellow Ribbon Update
 - Mitigating Circumstances
 - Outcome Measures
 - Questions and Answers

- March 26, 2015
 - Section 702 (Choice Act) – The Resident Rate Requirements
 - Work Study – Buffalo Pilot Program
 - Questions and Answers

- December 3, 2014
 - Section 701 (Choice Act) – Expanded Fry Scholarship
 - Section 702 (Choice Act) – In-State Tuition Provision
 - Flight School Programs at IHLs
 - GI Bill Outcome Measures
 - Comparison Tool Update
 - SVSA Million Records Project
 - Questions and Answers

Sunset of REAP (Chapter 1607)

Effective November 25, 2016, individuals may no longer be enrolled in programs of education and utilize REAP (Chapter 1607) benefits. However, individuals enrolled in REAP (Chapter 1607) on or before November 24, 2016 may continue to use their benefits until November 24, 2019 provided they are continuously enrolled in the program of education at the same educational institution.

Individuals in receipt of REAP (Chapter 1607) benefits should be counseled to determine whether they are receiving the maximum benefit under REAP (Chapter 1607) or whether it would be more advantageous for them to make the irrevocable decision to elect the Post-9/11 GI Bill[®] (Chapter 33) based on the individual's active duty service. Remember, this is the individual student's decision and once made is irrevocable.

Sunset of REAP (Chapter 1607) was the result of Section 555 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

Prohibition of Receipt of Unemployment Insurance While Receiving Post-9/11 Education Assistance

Section 560 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 prohibits an individual receiving education assistance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill[®] to concurrently receive unemployment insurance.

This is not a certification issue. School Certifying Officials should continue to certify Post-9/11 students as in the past. However, Post-9/11 students should be advised that they are not entitled to Unemployment Insurance while receiving Post-9/11 benefits.

Tuition Assistance (Federal Tuition Assistance)

In whatever form this benefit is, TA or FTA, if the student is Chapter 33, the amount of TA or FTA must be excluded (subtracted) from gross in-state tuition and fees to determine "actual net cost." For answers to questions concerning TA, please refer to pages 86-88 of Revision 5.0 of the School Certifying Official Handbook. Not included in the handbook, as of the printing of this newsletter, is the prohibition of Chapter 1606 and Chapter 1607 receiving TA or FTA for the same course for which they receive a chapter benefit. The student may receive TA and a Chapter 1606 or Chapter 1607 benefit in the same term or semester but not for the same course (class).

Share This Newsletter

This newsletter is being e-mailed to Certifying Officials at each school. Please share this newsletter with all other Certifying Officials, the Bursar's or Comptroller's Office, **Financial Aid Office** and other interested individuals at your school. It is extremely important that the information in this newsletter receives the widest dissemination in order that veterans receive the GI Bill[®] and other educational benefits to which they are entitled.