

Academic Year 2015-2016 Cap

WE have received information that the 2015-2016 Academic Year Cap for Private IHL's and NCD's, effective August 1, 2015, is **\$21,084.89**. This amount is for 100% Chapter 33 students. Students who receive a lesser percentage on the tier chart will be capped at the following amounts:

90%	\$18,976.40
80%	\$16,867.91
70%	\$14,759.42
60%	\$12,650.93
50%	\$10,542.44
40%	\$ 8,433.95

Note: All amounts less than 100% have been rounded down to the nearest penny.

Version 8, VA-ONCE Quick Reference User Guide, March 2015

Version 8 of the VA-ONCE Quick Reference User Guide is now available at the following website: http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_training_resources.asp.

Note: There are minor changes throughout the User Guide. Recommend you open the file as a Read-Only File and print out the entire 122 pages. As an alternative you can create a shortcut on your desktop or you can choose "Save As" and save the file to your computer under a different file name. In all cases, the User Guide is a Read-Only File and cannot be changed.

Version 8 of the Quick Reference User Guide supersedes Version 7 which was provided on our VA-ONCE Information, April 2015, however the remainder of the information on the CD remains current.

Section 702, Choice Act

Section 702 of the Choice Act required all public schools to charge in-state (resident) tuition and fees to covered individuals. The Pennsylvania Legislature passed House Bill 131 (Act 11) which was signed by the governor on June 29, 2015, effective July 1, 2015. HB 131 is fully in compliance with Section 702 of the Choice Act. HB 131 can be found at: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2015&sessInd=0&act=11>.

Note: Section 702 and HB 131 applies only to public institutions of higher learning. See page 10 of the following webinar for information on the additional "702 Compliant" column in Standard Programs of VA-ONCE.

VA Education Services Webinar, June 17, 2015

On June 17, 2015, VA Education Services conducted a webinar for schools. Many PA schools participated while others did not. The power point of the webinar has been posted on the GI Bill® web site at:

http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/presentations/SCO_Webinar_06-17-2015.pdf

The subjects covered in the webinar were:

Section 702 (Choice Act)

Mitigating Circumstances

Yellow Ribbon Update

GI Bill® Outcome Measures

Questions & Answers (More questions and answers will be added later)

We highly recommend SCO visit the website above and print out the webinar power point. The information on Section 702 is important to public schools. Mitigating Circumstances is important to all SCOs. SCOs can assist veterans by reporting mitigating circumstances if they are aware of them. Students who drop should be aware that it is their responsibility to report mitigating circumstances to the SCO if they exist. Schools participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program have been posted on the GI Bill® web site. If you notice errors or discrepancies, send an e-mail to yellow.ribbon@va.gov. As mentioned above, additional questions and answers will be provided at a later date. Please check the above link frequently.

Career Intermission Program (CIP)

The Career Intermission Program (CIP) allows for an active duty service member of the armed forces to receive pay, allowances, and benefits while transferring to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) for up to three years. CIP is classified as a pilot program and qualifying individuals may be released under this authority through December 15, 2015.

Individuals participating in CIP have been instructed by the Department of Defense to notify School Certifying Officials of program participation. If a student identifies as a CIP participant, complete an Enrollment Certification in VA-ONCE (VA Form 22-1999) and include the following in the Other Remarks field: "Career Intermission Program (CIP) Participant". VA will query the Department of Defense to verify participation and then will make the appropriate payment.

There are no special reporting requirements except for adding the remark as indicated above.

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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.