

### NEW SCO Handbook

A new SCO Handbook version 5.5 Dated August 1, 2018 is available for download on the GI Bill website:

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school\\_training\\_resources.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_training_resources.asp)

### Upcoming WEBINARS

#### . Colmery Webinar Training

All sessions are at 2 pm ET
Tuesday, August 14
Thursday, August 16
Tuesday, August 28
Thursday, August 30
Wednesday, September 12
Thursday, September 27

Where: <https://vbatraining.adobeconnect.com/colmery/>

Dial: Conference Number(s): 1-800-767-1750; Participant Code: 37639#

PowerPoint presentations from the previous webinars are available at

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

### Reporting Fees

#### Section 304 of the Colmery Act

August 1, 2018 Increases the annual fee to \$15; based on student count from Jan 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2018. School with over 100 or more veterans must have a specific account for these funds and will be part of a Compliance Survey. Schools with less than 100 students must track this information, but the funds are not required to be in a separate account.

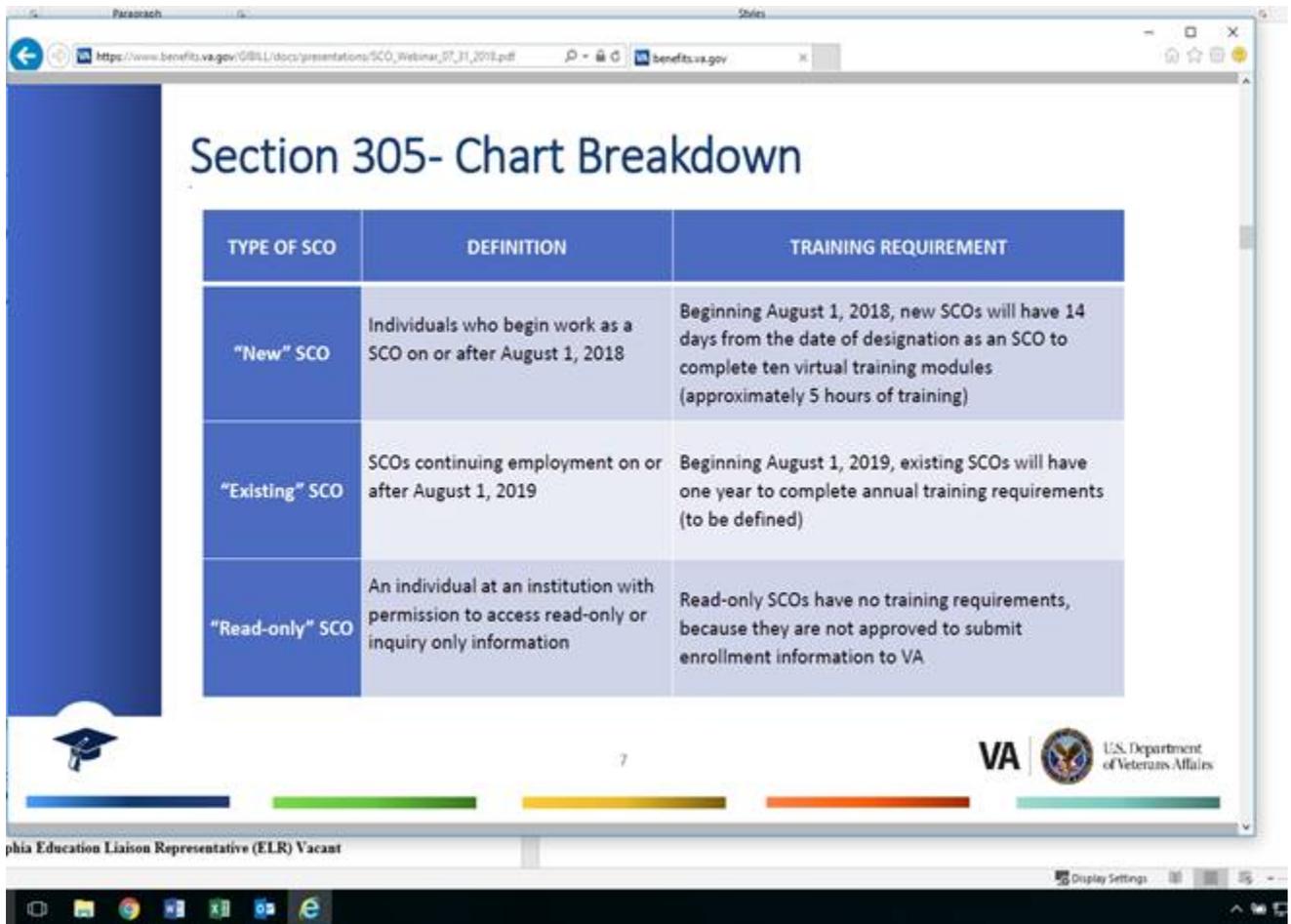
## SCO Training

The training will be provided as multiple online modules that consist of concepts and procedures necessary for a SCO to successfully perform the basic functions of his/her duties. Requires ELR assistance for registration process.

Deadline reminders/notifications will be sent to SCOs by VA.

Automated email notification to non-compliant SCOs of their impending loss of their ability to certify.

VA may disapprove any course of education offered by the educational institution if training requirements unmet.



The screenshot shows a presentation slide titled "Section 305- Chart Breakdown" from a web browser. The slide contains a table with three columns: "TYPE OF SCO", "DEFINITION", and "TRAINING REQUIREMENT". The table lists three types of SCOs: "New" SCO, "Existing" SCO, and "Read-only" SCO, each with a specific definition and training requirement. The slide also features a VA logo and the text "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs" at the bottom right. The browser address bar shows the URL "https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBLL/docs/presentations/SCO\_Webinar\_07\_31\_2018.pdf".

TYPE OF SCO	DEFINITION	TRAINING REQUIREMENT
"New" SCO	Individuals who begin work as a SCO on or after August 1, 2018	Beginning August 1, 2018, new SCOs will have 14 days from the date of designation as an SCO to complete ten virtual training modules (approximately 5 hours of training)
"Existing" SCO	SCOs continuing employment on or after August 1, 2019	Beginning August 1, 2019, existing SCOs will have one year to complete annual training requirements (to be defined)
"Read-only" SCO	An individual at an institution with permission to access read-only or inquiry only information	Read-only SCOs have no training requirements, because they are not approved to submit enrollment information to VA

## Section 308

**Entitlement Information for Schools** – August 1, 2018 Requires VA to make available to educational institutions information about the amount of educational assistance to which a Veteran or other individual is entitled. A Veteran or other individual may elect to “opt-out” of providing the information.

*VA is finalizing IT requirements for electronic opt-out through vets.gov, and amending applications for beneficiaries to request to “opt-out”*

As previously stated at our annual School Certifying Official Training sessions, it is crucial that you go to the VA GI Bill® website and look for the most current information you need to effectively carry out your responsibilities as an SCO. This will be the quickest and most efficient way to keep abreast of the latest updates.

**Share This Newsletter**

This newsletter is being e-mailed to School 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.