

ABCs of VA Certification

You are here

We are here
to help you
find your way



VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

March 9, 2016
Tracey Gross GA ELR



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Original Ppt by Jodie Balder

Communication is Key

It is essential to have a good line of communication between the instructors, Bursar's/business office and School Certifying Officials ~ especially for CH33

Its also very important to have a good line of communication with your students, your ELR, your SAA, the individual who does your compliance survey and even your fellow Certifying Officials

Communication is Key!

Generally – VA educational assistance has become much more complex in recent years. There are often exceptions and/or rules frequently change so **Generally** is a very important word for VA!



VA ACRONYMS

Generally – VA educational assistance has become much more complex in recent years. There are often exceptions and/or rules frequently change so *Generally* is a very important word for VA!

- **ELR** – Education Liaison Representative. The primary VA education contact in each state – *Me!*
- **ECSS** – Education Compliance Survey Specialist. Conducts VA compliance surveys and helps you keep your records in compliance with the law – *Michael Rogers & Charles Humble*
- **SAA** – State Approving Agency. They approve programs & conduct VA compliance surveys – *Mr. Larry Edwards and Staff*
- **RPO** – Regional Processing Office. The VA office which processes VA education claims - *For GA- Atlanta/Decatur RPO*
- **DoD** – Department of Defense – *The military*
- **DMC** – Debt Management Center. Handles debt collection for VA

VA ACRONYMS

- **IHL** – **I**nstitution of **H**igher **L**earning. Colleges & universities- *Degree granting*
- **NCD** – **N**on **C**ollege **D**egree. Schools offering diplomas and certificates
- **TIMS** – **T**he **I**nformation **M**anagement **S**ystem. Basically its a student's electronic file at VA. It houses a student's application, school certs etc..
- **BDN** – **B**enefits **D**elivery **N**etwork. Computer system where non CH33 claims are processed and all payments are made.
- **LTS** – **L**ong **T**erm **S**olution. Computer system where Ch33 is processed
- **WEAMS** – **W**eb-**E**nabled **A**pproval **M**anagement **S**ystem. Our VA database of school approval information.
 - Public version available on the GI Bill Website

VA TERMINOLOGY

- **Enrollment Cert** – VA Form **22-1999** “Enrollment Certification.” Tells VA about each student’s program, pursuit, etc.. *Now sent through VA Once.*
 - **Notice of Change** – VA Form **22-1999b** “Notice of Change in Student Status.” Tells VA about any change in a student’s enrollment. *Now sent through VA Once.*
 - **VA-ONCE** - Web based program that allows schools to certify VA enrollments (1999 or 1999b) electronically.
 - **LDA/EFF Date** – Last Date of Attendance and/or effective date of the change in enrollment
 - **RES** – resident (seated) credit hours
 - **DIST** – distance learning (online, independent study and hybrid that do not qualify as resident training)
 - **R/D** – Remedial of Deficiency course credits (cannot be certified if online/indep study in whole or in part)
 - **CLOCK** – clock hours per week (only for courses approved in clock hours)
 - NEVER add credits together - All fields are separate
- TIP:** There is a very good power point for VA Once on the GI Bill Website in the School Administrators school Training Resources section

VA TERMINOLOGY

- **Drop/Add** - The period during which a student can drop a course without academic penalty
 - For VA purposes cannot exceed 30 days
 - If drop occurs within drop/add VA pays through LDA
- **Punitive Grades** - grade used in determining the student's overall progress toward completion of the school's requirements for graduation - *failing grade*
 - VA pays through LDA
- **Non-Punitive Grades** – grade that doesn't count as earned credit and isn't considered in progress standards for graduation
 - VA may require student to repay benefits for the entire class.
- **Six Credit Hour Exclusion** –VA can excuse up to 6 credits without asking the reason
 - For 1st drop only!
- **Mitigating Circumstances** – The reason for dropping a class
 - If acceptable, VA pays through LDA
 - If not acceptable student generally must repay VA for entire course

VA TERMINOLOGY

- **Entitlement** – The number of *months* of full time benefits remaining to a student.
- **Delimiting Date** – Use it or lose it date, the date on which an eligible person loses is not longer eligible to use the entitlement (s)he hasn't used.

Entitlement and Eligibility are different for each chapter & often different for individuals using the same chapter

- *Sometimes* this info is available on a student's "VA DATA" tab in VA Once.
- A student's COE and/or award letter provides this information as well as CH33 eligibility percentage. Students can also access this info in WAVE or e-benefits.
- **WAVE** – **Web Automated Verification of Enrollment**. Enables NON CH33 students to verify their enrollment on-line at the end of each month to receive payment.
Students can also call this toll-free automated phone number to verify:

1-877-823-2378

VA TERMINOLOGY

BAH/BHA/MHA/Housing – The monthly payment made to students under CH33

- Must be greater than 50% Rate of Pursuit (ROP) to qualify
- Prorated by eligibility percentage & ROP

Kicker – Also called *Army or Navy College Fund*. The Department of Defense determines eligibility

- Chapter 1606 kickers can be paid on a Chapter 30, 1607 or *33 award
- Chapter 30 kickers can only be paid under Chapter 30 or *33
- *Effective 8/1/12, kickers under a non-relinquished benefit are no longer paid under CH33

•Paid monthly under all chapters

•Prorated based on Training Time for non CH33s or Rate of Pursuit (ROP) for CH33s

Buy-Up – Additional amount (up to \$600) paid by a service person to increase their monthly rate *under Chapter 30 or REAP only*

- Buy Up is NOT payable at all under CH33

Advanced Pay – Payment of the 1st fractional month and the following full month of an enrollment.

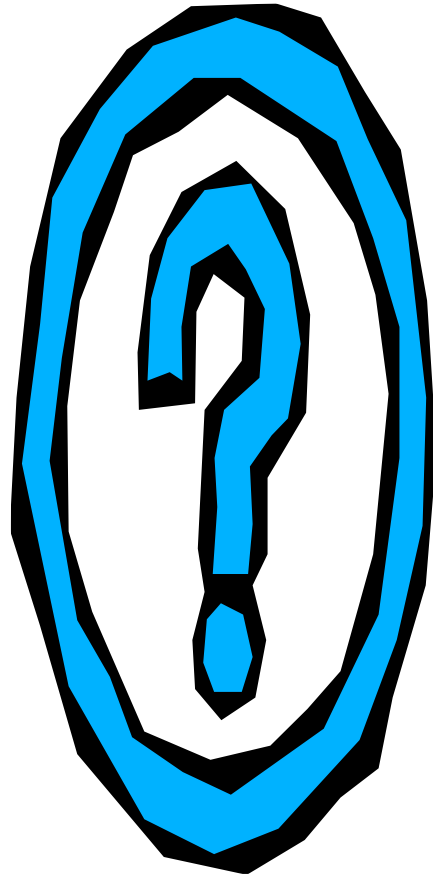
- Payment mailed to school before the beginning of classes for release to students who have completed registration
- Not available for CH33

VA TERMINOLOGY

- **Parent or Primary School** – School granting the degree
- **Secondary School** – School at which a student is taking courses to transfer back to the Parent School
 - **Must have Parent school letter from Parent School SCO before certifying student**
- **Guest Student** – A student who's not pursuing a program at the school, but is taking courses to be transferred into a program at the Parent school
- **Parent School Letter** – Lists the name & course number of each course taken at the secondary school that will receive full credit in the student's program (*sample letter can be found on page 60 of the SCO Handbook*)

NOTE: Each SCO can only certify courses taken at their school

QUESTIONS



SCO Responsibilities Overview

- Keep VA informed of the enrollment status for VA students
- Keep SAA informed of changes
- Keep Supervisors Apprised of Internal Problems
- Keep up to date on current VA rules, Policies and benefits
 - Please read and keep my bulletins
 - Become one with the SCO Handbook
 - Use the VA Once Quick Reference User Power Point
- Maintain records of VA students and make available to VA and SAA for compliance surveys
- Maintain and make available a record of Annual VA Reporting Fees
- *Assist VA students in applying for education benefits

Keep VA Informed of Each Student's Enrollment Status

- Submit enrollments within *30 days* after the start of the term
 - Unless you don't have required documentation or student makes request > 30 days into the term
- Report all enrollment changes within *30 days* of the change
- Monitor classes pursued
 - ONLY those subjects which apply to the student's program *and*
 - Which the student has not already successfully passed can be certified to VA

Exception: Can Round Out in their *last term* before graduation
- Monitor student's grades *per your school's policies & SAA/VA policies* to insure satisfactory progress and report probation & unsatisfactory progress to VA.
 - Probation is reported via Right Now Web ~ **RNW** (See page 15 in SCO Handbook)
 - *Generally*, students can be certified for 2 terms/2 months while on probation (Check SAA approval letter and/or probation addendum)
 - Suspension/unsatisfactory progress is reported via **VA Once**
 - Terminate the last term/month for which the student is *eligible for payment*

Unsatisfactory Progress, Attendance or Conduct (page 78 in SCO Handbook)

Reporting Unsatisfactory Conduct, Progress, or Attendance in VA-ONCE

- Unsatisfactory Progress (Academic Suspension) must be reported to VA as a termination.
- Terminate the last term/month for which payment is due
- **EXAMPLE:** If suspension follows the fall semester terminate fall semester and choose “*Unsatisfactory Attendance, Conduct, or Progress*” as the reason
 - LDA/EFF date = last day of the fall term

Keep SAA Informed of School Changes

- New programs and changes in current programs
 - Non Deemed approved must report changes to all programs
 - Deemed approved must report changes to NCD and *contracted* programs
- Changes to Calendars
- Changes in academic policies and procedures
- Changes of *address or* phone numbers
- CHANGES TO CERTIFYING OFFICIALS – ADDITION OR DELETION (VA & SAA) via 22-8794
- Any other information the SAA requires

Important: Keep a copy of your SAA approval handy. Many questions regarding, unsatisfactory progress, transcripts etc.. are answered in your approval.

Keep VA Informed of Each Student's Enrollment Status

- **Submit certs as early as possible (120 days prior to 30 days after the start of the term) *BUT for CH33***
 - Only certify confirmed T&F
 - If you don't have confirmed T&F, submit with \$0 so student gets books & BAH on time
 - Then “amend” to add T&F once confirmed*
- **Submit certs with actual number of credit or clock hours**
 - Do not add different types of hours together
 - Do not certify “equivalent” credits for non standard terms - VA will do the calculation
 - If certifying a clock hour program, certify the clock hours *per week*
 - Fields with an * require an entry
- **Remember to submit!**
 - If the status code is a 3 or lower, you have not submitted anything to VA
 - Click on the purple status code box near the VA icon in the upper right corner of your screen for a flow chart that tells you what each status code means

Keep Supervisors Apprised of Internal Problems

- Failure of records office to inform you of grades, grade changes, academic problems, etc..
- Failure of instructors to inform you of attendance/attendance problems.
- Failure of other offices to inform you of new programs, changes in current programs, etc..
- Issues with Annual Reporting fee usage

Important: Ch33 has made it crucial to interact closely with accounting, Bursar and Business offices.

Keep Informed of VA Rules & Policies

- Complete the **VA on-line SCO training**
- Read and maintain my **VA bulletins**
- Read and reference the **SCO Handbook** (**always access online!**)
- Utilize the **VA Once Power Point** on the GI Bill Website
- Attend VA and SAA **training opportunities**
- Utilize the **SCO Hotline** for simple inquiries & payment status questions: 1-855-225-1159 ***For SCOs ONLY***
- **Email** or call **me** if you have certification questions, more complicated questions and/or VA Once questions or issues

Questions?



CHAPTERS ~ Pay Student

(Comparison on page 26 of SCO Handbook)

You are NOT required to determine eligibility!

❖ *All chapters below pay the student directly. NO payment to the school* ❖
Congress sets monthly payment rates each year effective 10/1

- **Chapter 30/MGIB – Montgomery GI Bill:** Voluntary active duty and/or veterans with active duty after 6/30/85
- **Chapter 1606/MGIB-Selected Reserve:** Voluntary reserve/guard w/ 6-year contract
- ***Chapter 1607/REAP–Reserve Educational Assistance Program:** Reserve/guard *involuntarily* called to active duty for contingency operation for at least 90 days
- **Chapter 35/DEA - Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance Program:** Dependents of service connected disabled or deceased veterans
 - **NOTE:** *Certified under the vets VA File Number & has a payee #*

Montgomery GI Bill® – Active Duty (Chapter 30)

- *Generally*, first entered active duty after 6/30/85.
- Did not decline the MGIB it during an open season.
- *Generally* paid \$1,200 into program.
- Entitlement is *generally* 36 months of full time benefit payments.
- Delimiting date is 10 years after *last* release from active duty.
- Student paid based on ‘Training Time.’
- Certified under their SSN

Payment Rates can be found at:
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>



Montgomery GI Bill® – Selected Reserve(Chapter 1606)

- Eligible individuals in the Reserve or Guard with a six-year contract.
- Officers must agree to serve 6 years in additional to original obligation.
- Eligibility is *solely* determined by DoD.
- Entitlement is *generally* 36 months of full time benefit payments.
- Eligibility *generally* ends when they leave the Selected Reserve.
- Student paid based on ‘ Training Time.’
- Certified under their SSN



Payment Rates can be found at:
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>

Reserve Educational Assistance Program – REAP (Chapter 1607)

- **Sunset provision has ended this program for most claimants**
 - If student was attending the semester, quarter, or term that immediately preceded 11/25/15, they *may* continue to receive REAP benefits
 - VA must have received their application for benefits prior to 11/24/15
- Individuals who were called to active duty for at least 90 days after 9/11/01, in response to a war or national emergency.
- Eligibility is *solely* determined by DoD or DHS.
- Entitlement is *generally* 36 months of full time benefit payments.
- Eligibility *generally* ends when they leave the Selected Reserve, or IRR if called up from the IRR.
- Student paid based on a percentage of the CH30 rate (40%, 60% or 80%) based on length of call up and 'Training Time.'
- Certified under their SSN

Payment Rates can be found at:
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>



Dependents' Educational Assistance Program – DEA (Chapter 35)

- Child, spouse or surviving spouse of veteran who died in line of duty on active duty, is permanently and totally service-connected disabled (P&T), died of service-connected cause, or died while totally and permanently service-connected disabled.
- Entitlement is 45 months of full time payments.
 - Receive an additional 5 months of benefits to use for high school or remedial/deficiency training.
- GENERALLY, eligibility ends 10 years from date of eligibility for spouses and 8 years from date of eligibility for children, but (for children) not beyond age 31.
- **IMPORTANT:** Certified under the Veteran's SSN *or* an 8-digit VA assigned VA File number.
 - Each dependent is also has a Payee Number.
- Student paid based on Training Time.



Certifying in VA Once

Chapters 30 (MGIB), 1607 (REAP), 1606 (MGIB Selected Reserve) and Ch35 (DEA):

- Generally do not need to certify T&F
 - Exceptions:
 - Active duty students
 - Students training at < ½ time
 - When T&F are needed certify CHARGED T&F
- Generally do not need different types of hours broken out
 - Exception:
 - CH35 students need resident and rem/def hours separated out
 - Online/distance/indep study only needs to be separated out for CH33 students
 - For all other chapters can certify both types of credits under resident



CHAPTERS ~ pay student & school (Comparison on page 26 of SCO Handbook)

All chapters below make payments to both the *student & school*

• **Chapter 31 - Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment:** *Separate processing division from other chapters & not an automatic benefit.*

• **Chapter 33- Post 9/11 GI Bill:** Active duty and/or veterans with at least 90 days service after 9/11/01

Transfer of Entitlement (TOE): Benefits transferred by a CH33 eligible person to their children and/or spouse while in the Armed Forces

- Can only transfer a total max of 36 months to all dependents

FRY Scholarship: Benefit for the children of an individual killed on active duty since 9/11/01) And spouses for terms effective 1/1/15

- Each dependent gets 36 months of benefits

Both FRY & TOE are certified under the student's SSN with no payee #

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (July 1, 2012 – March 31, 2014)

The VRAP offered 12 months of training assistance to Veterans who:

- Received an other than dishonorable discharge
- Were at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- [Were unemployed](#) on the date of application
- Were not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program
- Were not in receipt of VA compensation due to un-employability
- Were not enrolled in a federal or state job training program
- Had to train at full time to receive the benefit



Bar to Duplication of Benefits

Although a student may be eligible for more than 1 chapter they cannot receive benefits under more than one program *at a time*

- **Exception-ish:** A CH31 Voc Rehab student can receive the CH33 BAH in lieu of the CH31 monthly stipend if they have at least 1 day remaining entitlement under CH33
- Students may *generally* receive *up to* 48 months of full time benefits if eligible for more than one chapter
 - *For active duty starting on/after 8-1-11, student cannot use one period of service to establish eligibility to more than one chapter*
- Entitlement transferred to an individual does not count against the Transferee's 48 months
- Entitlement transferred out to another individual does count against the Transferor's 48 months

IMPORTANT: This topic has become quite complex – its always best to ask!

Certifying in VA Once

Chapters 31 Voc Rehab (VR&E)

- Questions related to *how* to certify in VA Once come to me
- Questions related to *what* to certify in VA Once must be directed to the Voc Rehab Counselor

Chapters 33 Post 9/11:

- **T&F are always needed**
 - Certify NET T&F
 - Must deduct Federal Aid (other than Title IV FA)
 - Must deduct other aid marked solely for T&F use
- **Generally do not need different types of hours broken out**
 - Exception:
 - CH33 students need online and resident hours separated out



Questions?



CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *ELIGIBILITY*

(starts on page 28 of SCO Handbook)

Program came into effect August 1, 2009

- Individuals who served on active duty after 09/10/01 may be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill if the individual:
 - Served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days *OR*
 - Served for at least 30 continuous days on active duty and were discharged due to a service connected disability *and*
 - Received an honorable discharged
- The % they are entitled to is based on how much qualifying active duty time they had after 9/11/01
- All payments (to student & school) are prorated based on the eligibility %
- Individuals eligible at the maximum benefit level receive 100% of the benefits *payable* - **That does NOT always mean 100% of T&F!**

Eligibility & Entitlement

Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 an individual must serve an <i>aggregate</i> of)	% of Maximum Benefit Payable
At least 36 months ⁽¹⁾	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Must be discharged due to service-connected disability)	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months ⁽¹⁾	90
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months ⁽¹⁾	80 ⁽³⁾
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months ⁽²⁾	70 ⁽³⁾
At least 12 months, but less than 18 months ⁽²⁾	60
At least 6 months, but less than 12 months ⁽²⁾	50
At least 90 days, but less than 6 months ⁽²⁾	40

(1) Includes entry level and skill training (2) Excludes entry level and skill training (3) If the service requirements are met at both the 80 and 70 percentage level, the maximum percentage of 70 must be applied to amounts payable

Post-9/11 GI Bill [®] Eligibility Matrix

Aggregate Service Requirements in Days (after 9/10/01 an individual must serve an aggregate of)	Payment Tiers Percentage
36 months or more (1095 days)	100%
30 <u>Continuous</u> Days with a Disability Discharge	100
At least 30 months but < 36 months (910-1094 days)	90
⊗ At least 24 months but < 30 months (730-909)	80
*At least 18 months but < 24 months (545-729)	70
*At least 12 months but < 18 months (365-544)	60
*At least 6 months but < 12 months (180-364)	50
*At least 90 days but < 6 months (90-179)	40

* Excludes time served in Basic Military Training and/or Skill Training. ⊗ If the aggregate service including training is at least 24 months *AND* the aggregate service excluding training is at least 18 months but less than 24 months, the individual will be deemed eligible at the 70% benefit level.

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *ELIGIBILITY*

Entry level and skill training are defined as follows:

- ARMY: Basic Combat Training & Advanced Individual Training
- NAVY: Recruit Training (Boot Camp) & Skill Training (“A” School)
- AIR FORCE: Basic Military & Technical School
- MARINE CORPS: Recruit Training & Marine Corps (or School of Infantry Training)

NOTE: Entry level and skill training are not deducted for involuntary call ups.

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *ELIGIBILITY*

Individuals who:

- Enlisted under the Student Loan Repayment Plan
- Received an ROTC scholarship
- Graduated from a service academy

CAN qualify for Ch33 BUT the time spent satisfying the active duty obligation does not count toward Ch33

- Student Loan Repayment ~ deduct 3 years
- ROTC scholarship deduct ~ 4 years
- Graduated from a service academy ~ deduct 5 years

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *When do benefits begin?*

Post-9/11 GI Bill® payments may be paid the later of:

- August 1, 2009
- The date the individual became eligible for chapter 33 (generally after 90 days of *creditable* active duty)
- One year before the date the application with a valid election was received
- **The effective date of the election as requested by the claimant, or**
- The begin date of the term
- The date the program became approved

NOTE: *Payments are prorated for enrollments that begin prior to the effective date to receive Post-9/11 benefits*

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *ELECTIONS*

- **ELECTION:** Individuals eligible for CH33 AND one of the other Chapters must make an irrevocable election to receive benefits under CH33
 - If eligible for more than one chapter other than Ch33, only one chapter needs to be relinquished.
 - **Relinquishment:** once the student “gives up” the selected benefit of his/her choice, the student cannot use that benefit again
 - Once *processed* the election date cannot be changed
 - Election requests can be **withdrawn** if the RPO receives the request before a certificate of eligibility is issued or a payment is processed
 - In writing, via phone, email or RNW

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *ELECTIONS*

- **Important!** Individuals who elect to receive Ch33 in lieu of Ch30 benefits are limited to their remaining Ch30 entitlement at the time of the election:
 - If they have even one day remaining under CH30 that is all they will receive under CH33
 - If they exhaust all of their CH30 they can receive *up to* 12 months under CH33
 - If a student exhausts CH30 payment will be extended through the end of the term
 - Student may want to wait until the term during which CH30 exhausts is completed before switching
 - This only applies to a CH30 to CH33 switch

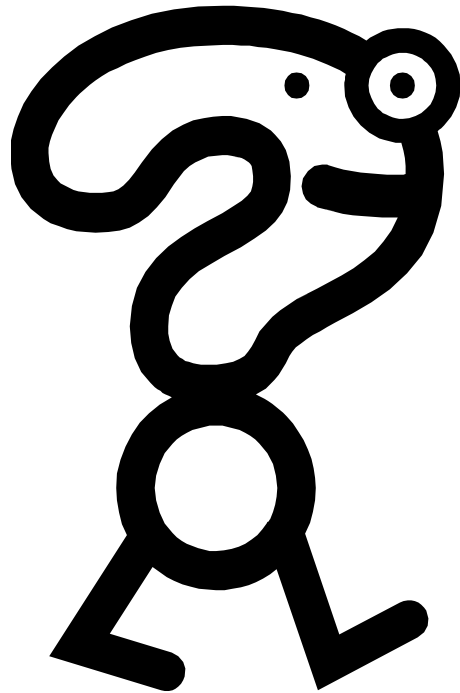
CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *ELECTIONS*

- Individuals eligible for one of the other VA Chapters must make an **irrevocable** election to receive benefits under CH33.
 - If eligible for more than one chapter other than Ch33, only one chapter needs to be relinquished.
 - ***Relinquishment***: once the student “gives up” the selected benefit of his/her choice, the student cannot use that benefit again.
 - Election requests can be **withdrawn** if the RPO receives the request before a certificate of eligibility is issued or a payment is processed (In writing, via phone, email or RNW).
- **Important!** Individuals who elect to receive Ch33 in lieu of Ch30 benefits are limited to their remaining Ch30 entitlement at the time of the election:
 - If they have even one day remaining under CH30 that is all they will receive under CH33
 - If they exhaust all of their CH30 they can receive *up to* 12 months under CH33
 - May want to wait until the term during which CH30 exhausts is complete before switching
 - **This only applies to a CH30 to CH33 switch**

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *ENTITLEMENT*

- **IMPORTANT:** Individuals with an enter on active duty date (EOD) **on/after 8-1-11**, cannot use the same period of service to establish eligibility to CH33 & CH30, CH1606 or CH1607.
 - They must make an election to which benefit the service should be credited when they apply to VA.
 - If all active duty starts on/after 8-1-11, student cannot qualify for more than one chapter and cannot receive more than 36 months of benefits.
 - CH31 Voc Rehab and/or entitlement based on another individual's service is not included in this prohibition
 - This does not affect periods of active duty that started prior to 8/1/11.
 - This does not affect immediate reenlistments, which are counted as separate periods of service.
- Individuals have 15 years from their last discharge to use CH33
- Individuals will *generally* receive 36 months of *full time* benefits under Ch33

Questions

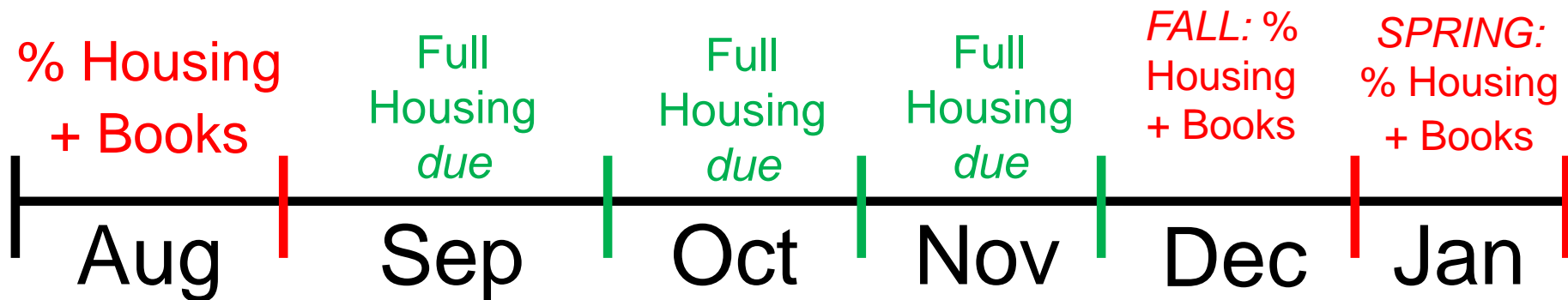


CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ STUDENT Payments

- **Monthly Housing (BAH/MHA) if eligible**
 - *VETERAN* must be training at greater than 50% Rate of Pursuit (ROP) to qualify
 - Based on the Military housing rate of an E-5 *with* dependents
 - Determined by the zip code of the school (zip based on facility code)
 - ½ the national average if training solely on-line (any combo gets resident rate)
 - Prorated by eligibility % *and* ROP
- **Books & Supplies Stipend:**
 - **IHL:** Pays *lump sum* = \$41.67 per credit up to a max of \$1000 per academic year (24cr)
 - **NCD:** Pays *lump sum* = \$83 per month (except flight) up to a max of \$1000 per academic year
 - Prorated by eligibility % only
- **Licensing/Certification and/or National tests paid up to \$2000 each**
 - Licensing & Certification tests such as Microsoft, NCLEX, Airframe & Power Plant etc..
 - National Tests such as LSAT, GMAT, TOEFL etc..
 - Pays for test only - not prep courses (other than for BAR & CPA), books or other related costs
 - Charged 1 month of benefits for each \$1759.08 paid (**if pymt is < \$1759.08 still charged 1 month!**)
 - Rate changes each 8/1
 - Student applies for reimbursement - School does NOT certify

Post-9/11 Chapter 33 Payment Flow

Housing Payments are *generally* distributed the last week of the month



Keys to success:

- Students Register for classes Early
- Schools certify in VA Once early (without T&F if needed)
- Schools amend cert when T&F are determined**

Payment Timing Under Chapter 33

Currently there are no “Advance Payments” under Ch33

However, when certification information is received and processed before the term begins, these payments may be released 15 days in advance of the beginning of the term:

- Books and Supplies
- Tuition and Fees
- Yellow Ribbon (IHLs only)

IMPORTANT: If you send in an amended or adjusted cert before these payments are released, their release will be suspended until the changed certification is processed.

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ STUDENT Payments

- **Work Study**
 - Must be training at 75% Rate of Pursuit (ROP) or greater
- **Tutorial Assistance**
 - Must be training at 50% Rate of Pursuit (ROP) or greater
- **Kicker/College Fund**
 - Kickers under a non-relinquished benefit no longer paid on CH33
 - Prorated based on Rate of Pursuit only
 - Also paid to spouse or child under TOE
- **\$600 Buy Up is not payable and no refund is given**
- **Refund of Applicable % of CH30 contributions**
 - Only if ALL CH33 entitlement is exhausted *and*
 - Only if the vet exhausts the CH33 (cannot be exhausted by dependent under TOE)

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ SCHOOL Payments

Academic year = 8/1 to 7/31 of following year

•Tuition and Fees Paid to School & *prorated* if student is less than 100% eligible

– Public IHL:

- Pays full NET in state T&F
- If not “covered” under *Section 702 of the Choice Act*, can use Yellow Ribbon if out of state and school participates

– Private IHL OR NCD:

- Pays T&F up to the max for the academic year
- Pays T&F up to the max for *program* based on academic year student started training if not on terms/mods etc.. (i.e. clock hour programs)
- Effective 8/1/15 max is \$21,084.89
- ONLY IHLs Can use Yellow Ribbon if T&F exceeds max

– Vocational Flight School

- Pays T&F up to the max *for program* based on academic year student started training
- If program spans the academic year there are no additional funds
- Effective 8/1/15 max is \$12,048.50

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ SCHOOL Payments

(Starts on page 30 of SCO Handbook)

- **TUITION** ~ The actual established charges a student is required to pay as defined in the school's catalog/supplement & listed as tuition on the billing statement
- **FEES** ~ Any mandatory charges (*except tuition, room and board*) charged to all students in that program including, but not limited to:
 - Orientation/registration Fees as long *as they are attached to a term*
 - Lab fees & Technology fees
 - Kit or supplies fees that are mandatory & *required to be purchased from the school*
 - **If a student can opt out of a fee its not mandatory**
 - Health Insurance fees can be certified if the student did not opt out/waived
 - Graduation fees can only be certified if mandatory and attached to a term
 - Parking or transportation fees can be certified if *all* students are charged
 - **The following fees are never certifiable**
 - Application fees
 - Penalty fees (late registration, Course add/drop fees or overload fees etc..)

NOTE: If the fee is not paid to the school it is not certifiable!

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ SCHOOL Payments

- **NET TUITION and FEES** = The actual net cost of T&F certified to VA after deducting:
 - Any Federal funds (such as ROTC, MYCAA, HPSP, GETA etc..)
 - Any military Tuition Assistance (TA) *or*
 - Any aid/grant/waiver from a state , institutional, employer, local or private entity paid directly to the school and marked for the *SOLE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING TUITION & FEES*
- **EXCEPTIONS** ~ The following types of aid do not have to be deducted:
 - ANY Title IV Financial Aid under Section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 including but not limited to:
 - Pell Grants
 - Stafford Loans, FFEL, PLUS Loans
 - Any other loans
 - Any state, institutional, employer, local or private aid *not marked solely for T&F*

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ SCHOOL Payments

- **FLAT RATE T&F** ~ If a school charges a flat rate tuition amount for modulated terms:
 - Divide the total T&F charged by the minimum number of hours required for *full time*
 - Multiply that per credit cost for each modulated term up to the minimum number of credits for Full Time
 - No T&F should be certified for subsequent hours pursued
- **EXAMPLE:**
 - The College charges flat T&F of **\$6250** per term for **12-18** hours
 - Each term has 3 five-week sessions
 - The student is enrolled in 9CR in term 1 and 3CR each in terms 2 and 3
- **\$6250/12 = \$520.83/credit hour**
 - $\$520.83 \times 9 = \4687.50
 - $\$520.83 \times 3 = \1562.50

Spring Semester	Credit Hours Enrolled	Tuition Reported
Term 1	9	\$4687.50
Term 2	3	\$1562.50
Term 3	3	\$0

Yellow Ribbon (YR)

Private Colleges

CH33 pays NET T&F up to a yearly cap

Current cap = \$21,084.89

After the cap is reached, and for the remainder of the academic year, VA will pay nothing for T&F unless the student is entitled to YR & the school has a YR contract with VA.

- Only IHL Schools
- Student must be 100% eligible
- Only Veterans, TOE dependents of Veterans & TOE children of Active Duty

VA will match school contribution, up to ½ of the unmet T&F charges

Public Colleges

CH33 pays full NET instate T&F

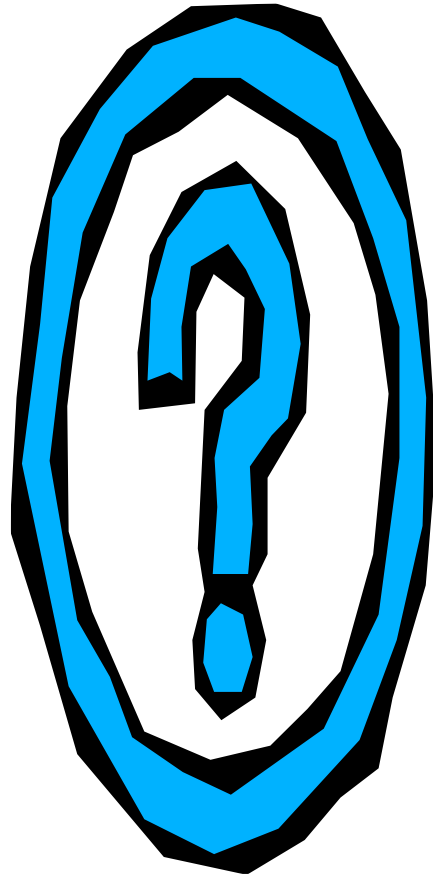
Out of state students, *who are not 'covered' under Section 702 of the Choice Act*, can participate in YR to cover the Out of State Charges.

- Only IHL Schools
- Student must be 100%
- Only Veterans, TOE dependents of Veterans & TOE *children* of Active Duty

VA will match school contribution up to ½ of the unmet T&F charges

NOTE: Section 702 only applies to 'covered' Veterans/dependents under CHs30 and 33. Active duty and non 'covered' CH33 students may still need/use YR.

QUESTIONS



CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *TOE ELIGIBILITY*

- DoD may allow an individual to elect to transfer entitlement to one or more dependents if he/she:
 - served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces; and
 - Agrees to serve at least another 4 years in the Armed Forces
- Originally 1 permanent & 5 temporary exceptions to the rules above. Effective 8/1/13, only permanent exception still in effect
 - **Permanent Exception:** If Transferor has 10 years of service & is unable to serve additional 4 years due to policy or statute but agrees to serve the max allowed
 - May have to pay back money if unable to serve the full additional time required
 - Overpayment starts eff the date the Transferor does not fulfill the 4 year obligation
 - Both Transferor & Transferee are legally responsible for the debt
- **Can only add dependents while in the Armed Forces**

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *TOE ELIGIBILITY*

- Can transfer entitlement to spouse and/or children in any combination.
 - Cannot transfer more entitlement than they have remaining
- If both the Veteran and transferee(s) are attending school and entitled to BAH, all will receive their *own* BAH
 - Paid the E5 w/ dependents rate based on the zip code of their school
- The transferor can revoke or modify the transferred benefits at any time
 - Through the TOE website if in the Armed Forces
 - By writing VA in no longer in the Armed Forces
- Transferees apply on a E1990, or through VONAPP

If you have entitlement questions when a student is eligible for TOE and FRY, CH35 or CH33 based on their own service contact me

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *TOE ELIGIBILITY*

SPOUSES:

- May use transferred benefits after Transferor had 6 years of service.
- Is paid as the transferor would be
 - Spouse is paid as Transferor would be (i.e. if Transferor on active duty no housing)
- Delimiting Date: Can use the benefit for up to 15 years after the transferor's latest qualifying discharge.
- No provision for an extension of entitlement or delimiting date
 - Exception: Individuals who acted as the primary caregiver for a veteran or member of the Armed Forces may be entitled to an extension of their delimiting date
- ***Under law, benefits are not marital property and are not subject to division in a divorce or other civil proceedings but must be officially revoked to terminate spouses right to use them***

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *TOE ELIGIBILITY*

CHILDREN:

- Transfer must occur before the age of 23
- Cannot use the benefit until the transferor has served 10 years
- May not use the benefit until he/she has a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate/GED), or reached 18 years of age.
- Is always paid as if the transferor is a veteran (i.e. will be entitled to BAH even if transferor is on active duty).
- Delimiting Date: Not subject to the 15-year delimiting period, but may not use the benefits after age 26.
- No provision for an extension of entitlement or delimiting date
 - Exception: Individuals who acted as the primary caregiver for a veteran or member of the Armed Forces may be entitled to an extension of their delimiting date

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ *TOE ELIGIBILITY*

- *Under proposed legislation* The House agreed to cut in half the amount of housing allowance children using TOE can receive *in the future*
- If a Transferee has already transferred benefits to a child or makes the transfer by 180 days after the new rules are signed into law they are safe
- The changes specifically grandfathers them in
- The legislation that passed *at one point* included a measure that would've increased the time in service requirement before transfer to 10 years, plus a two years ADSO
- Lawmakers removed that section out in the current proposal and kept things at the current six plus four rule

NOTE: If you know of anyone contemplating transferring to their children encourage them to do so now

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ FRY SCHOLARSHIP *ELIGIBILITY*

Dependents of active duty members who die in the line of duty after 9/10/01

Each dependent gets 36 months of CH33 at 100% level

Children:

- Can use the benefit beginning on their 18th birthday/high school graduation/GED
- Can use the benefit through age 33
- Marriage does not terminate eligibility
- Apply on a VA Form 22-5490 or online through VONAPP

Surviving Spouse:

- Can use the benefit beginning date of death *BUT* only for terms/training that start *1/1/15 or later*
- Can use the benefit for 15 years from date of death
- Marriage does terminate eligibility
- Apply on a VA Form 22-5490 or online through VONAPP

Questions



IDENTIFYING PAYMENTS FROM VA

- VA makes one Automated Clearing House (ACH) deposit for the T&F payment and one for the Yellow Ribbon payment (if applicable), directly into the school's financial account for each certified Chapter 33 student
 - **The direct deposit payment will include an addenda field with the student's identifying information.** The addenda will include:
 - the student's VA file number,
 - the student's name (up to 20 characters), and
 - the term dates for the payment
- NOTE: VA CANNOT make a CH33 payment without attaching this information**
- Schools may have to request the addenda information from their bank.
 - Please request that your financial institution provide this information in a readable format so that you will be able to match the payment with the student
 - Your bank may charge for this information

NOTE: If your direct deposit information changes please notify me as soon as possible

IDENTIFYING PAYMENTS FROM VA

- VA is now requiring all schools to receive CH33 payments via direct deposit.
- VA mails each School Certifying Official a weekly report known as the **Vet Rep Listing Report**.

This report lists all VA education benefits your students are receiving

- Payments sent to CH33 students will not be listed
- Payments sent to Non CH33 students will be listed
- T&F payments made to the schools will be listed on the report in a subsection titled "*Chapter 33 Tuition and Fees, and Yellow Ribbon Payments.*"
- If you see a payment on the list for a student who is not enrolled you should verify that the student's certification has been terminated.

CH 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill ~ DEBTS

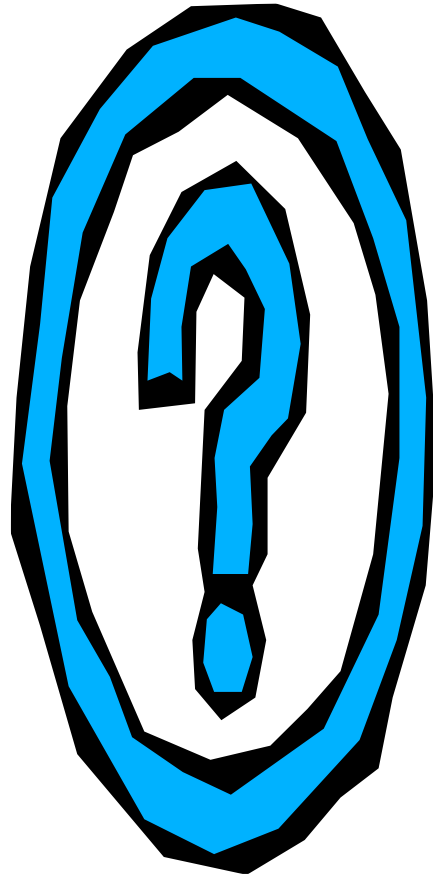
Who is responsible for debts:

- **The SCHOOL is responsible for a T&F debt in the following scenarios:**
 - The student never shows up for a term/session/period certified at all (i.e. complete no show)
 - The student shows up for the first day of classes and never returns (i.e. complete withdrawal)
 - The school changes T&F certified with no change to credit or clock hours*
 - The school is paid for the wrong student
 - The school is overpaid due to VA error

- **The STUDENT is responsible for T&F debts in the following scenarios:**
 - The student **reduces** his/her credit or clock hours, regardless of when the reduction occurs
 - The student attends *more* than the first day of class and then withdraws

- **The STUDENT is always responsible for housing & book/supplies debts**
 - If the student attends more than the first day of class there will be no book debt
 - The student will be paid housing through the end of the month during which the change occurred

QUESTIONS



TRAINING TIME vs RATE OF PURSUIT

Training Time – NON CH33

Students monthly payment & entitlement charge is determined by their Training Time

Rates change **10/1** each year

The only time T&F are required is:

- CH30, 35 & 1607 who are < ½ time
- Ch30 & 1607 on active duty

Example: CH30 student 12 credits = FT

Full time rate is \$1717
Student enrolled in 6-8 credits
Monthly rate is \$858.50

Rate of Pursuit – CH33

Students monthly housing payment & entitlement charge determined by ROP

Rates change **8/1** each year

NET T&F are always required

Example: CH33 student 12 credits = FT
Enrolled in Standard length term
FT rate for zip code is \$858

- Student enrolled in 6 credits NO BAH
- Student enrolled in 7 credits \$514.80/mo
- Student enrolled in 8 credits \$600.60/mo

Determining Training Time – Non Ch33

Training Time- NON CH33. The rate of a student's training, determined by the number of credit or clock hours the student takes.

**TT determines the monthly rate of payment and entitlement charge

Credit Hour courses:

Credit Hour courses when 12 is full-time *over a standard length term:*

9-11 credits = $3/4$

6-8 credit = $1/2$

4-5 credits = < than $1/2$ but > $1/4$

1-3 credits = $1/4$

Clock Hour courses:

Class Predominate (FT=18)

13-17 clock hours per week = $3/4$

9-12 clock hours per week = $1/2$

5-8 clock hours per week = < $1/2$ but > $1/4$

1-4 clock hours per week = $1/4$

Shop Predominate (FT=22)

16-21 clock hours per week = $3/4$

11-15 clock hours per week = $1/2$

6-10 clock hours per week = <12 but > $1/4$

1-5 clock hours per = $1/4$

Rate of Pursuit – *CH33*

- **Rate of Pursuit (ROP) – *CH33*.** Calculated by dividing the credit hours pursued by the number of credit considered to be full-time by the school.

The resulting percentage is the student's rate of pursuit (ROP).

- Rate of Pursuit is used to determine the monthly housing payment & entitlement charge at an IHL (along with eligibility percentage)
- Must be GREATER than 50% ROP to get housing
- Rounded up for payment, if applicable

Example: 12 credits = FT, 7 credits over standard term, eligible at 100% tier

$7/12 = .58$ BAH is paid at 60% of the full time rate due to rounding

NOTE: Student is charged 58% of a month for each full month of training

***STANDARD TERM* Rate of Pursuit when FT = 12cr**

Credits	Rate of Pursuit	% of BAH
12	1.00	100%
11	0.92	90%
10	0.83	80%
9	0.75	80%
8	0.67	70%
7	0.58	60%
6	0.50	Not eligible

**IMPORTANT: This is for a student eligible at 100%.
If less than 100% BAH will also be prorated by eligibility %**

Clock Hour Measurement ~ *Rate of Pursuit Ch33*

How the Difference Affects Payment of Benefits

Sample Calculations for Rate of Pursuit (Chapter 33)

Classroom/Theory/Lab	Shop Practice
<u>Clock Hours/Rate of Pursuit</u> 18 = FT	<u>Clock Hours/Rate of Pursuit</u> 22 = FT
18 = 100%	22 = 100%
15 = 80%	18 = 80%
10 = 60%	15 = 70%
9 = 50%	11 = 50%

Divide **scheduled** clock hours per week by full-time requirement (18 for CTL; 22 for SP)

How to Calculate Non standard terms

Standard Terms:

Semester school: 15 – 19 weeks

Quarter school: 10 – 13 weeks

1. How to calculate length for a *nonstandard* term:

Count the *actual* days and divide by 7

Important: Round up weeks if result is .5 or higher

EX: 5/21 to 6/23 = 34 days

$$34/7 = 4.8$$

So this is a 5 week term for VA

How to Calculate Equivalent Credits during Non standard terms

2. How to Calculate “Equivalent Credits” for nonstandard terms:

Semester School: credits x 18/weeks **Quarter School:** credits x 12/weeks

Ex: 3 credits during a 5 week term:

SEMESTER: $3 \times 18/5 =$
10.8

QUARTERS: $3 \times 12/5 = 7.2$

EQUIVALENT TO 7 CREDITS

EQUIVALENT TO 10 CREDITS

NOTE: SCO reports **ACTUAL** credits, VA will do the calculation
Do not round credits up

TIP: I have a spreadsheet that will calculate nonstandard terms

Non standard terms ~ CH33

3. If it's a CH33 you have to then determine the Rate of Pursuit (ROP)

Semester School: credits x 18/weeks **Quarter School:** credits x 12/weeks

Ex: 3 credits during a 5 week term:

Semester: $3 \times 18/5 = 10.8$

Equivalent to 10 credits

$10/12 = .83$ ROP

Will pay 83% of BAH

Quarters: $3 \times 12/5 = 7.2$

Equivalent to 7 credits

$7/12 = .58$ ROP

Will pay 60% of BAH

TIP: Anytime the number of credits is equal to or greater than the length of the term , the student is *full time*. EX: 4 or more credits over a 4 week term etc.

Hybrid & Remedial Deficiency

■ **HYBRID Classes** (i.e. part online/distance ed and part in class)

- There is no such thing as hybrid for VA payment purposes
- If it meets the definition of a resident class its certified as resident.
If it does not meet the definition, its certified as distance
- The Definition of a Resident Class:
 - The class must have regularly scheduled class sessions at least once ever two weeks
 - The total number of hours of classroom instruction must be equal to or greater than the number of credits awarded

Example: 3 credits over a 16 week term must meet at least 48 total hours

Example: 3 credits over a 5 week mini term must meet at least 15 total hours

■ **Remedial/Deficiency courses**

- Cannot be certified if any part is online/distance
- VA has recently ruled that rem/def courses do meet the resident requirement if:
 - Students are working on the same material independently on computers &
 - Re in a classroom setting with an instructor present to assist and answer questions

QUESTIONS



Maintain Student VA Records & Make Available to VA & SAA (see SCO Handbook starting on page 111)

- **Make available all school records** (VA & non-VA) to representatives of the SAA and VA
 - You may or may not have a compliance survey conducted each year
 - Your survey may be conducted by SAA or VA
 - You will be contacted ahead of time by SAA or VA to confirm the date
 - Page 111 -112 of the current SCO Handbook provides more information
- When you are contacted about your Compliance Survey, **please respond ASAP**, as scheduling is affected
- **Retain file** of VA papers submitted & records of academic progress, program pursuit, etc.. for at least **three years** after student's last date of attendance.
- **Insure that your records are kept in a safe place** and that the privacy of your VA students is protected.

A school's file for a VA student should contain:

- Official transcripts from previous schools AND evaluations of prior credit
 - NC SAA *generally* allows 2 terms/months of certification while the student is obtaining official transcripts
- Student's *school* application, program outline, a curriculum guide or graduation evaluation form
- Copies of School Paperwork
 - Grade reports
 - drop slips
 - registration slips (for those courses dropped during drop/add)
 - your school's transcript
- Tuition and fee charges (if applicable)
- Copies of all VA paperwork
 - Enrollment certifications
 - Notices of changes of enrollment

Maintain Student VA Records & Make Available to VA & SAA

- Additional responsibilities required of a Yellow Ribbon school:
 - Develop & document a process for the first come-first served enrollment of students into the YR Program
 - Certify in accordance with the school's YR agreement
 - Track the number of students enrolled under YR
 - Track the annual amount of tuition and fees

A School's File For A VA Student:

- CAN be housed electronically if:
 - It is easily understood and accessed by VA and/or SAA for a compliance survey
- Is **NOT** required by VA to contain:
 - A copy of the student's VA application (VONAPP, 22-1990 or 22-5490)
 - A Certificate of Eligibility (COE)
 - TOE documentation
 - A DD Form 214

NOTE: Many students will not even have a DD214 or COE
- A school can ask the student for the above documents if they feel they are necessary, such as a COE for CH33 students showing their eligibility percentage but:
 - As they are not required by VA you should not hold certification for more than 30 days after the start of the term if not received

Assist VA Students

- **When asked, help veterans & dependents fill out applications/forms**
 - Can be done electronically through VONAPP on the GI Bill website
- **If student cannot resolve pay problems, assist through VA channels**
 - **Students** should call 1-888-442-4551
 - **SCOs** should call 1-855-225-1159
 - **Students & SCOs** can email VA through the FAQ section of the GI Bill website
 - **ONLY SCOs** should contact ELR or ECSS
- **Disseminate and/or post information on VA education benefits and programs, and contact points**
 - Please remove my contact info if you post a bulletin I have sent
- **Insure that VA students are fully aware of their responsibilities to the school and VA**

Assist VA Students: Wave

SCOs can view some of this info on the “VA Data” Tab in VA Once

- On **WAVE**, via the GI Bill website, students can:
 - Verify their enrollment to release monthly payment
 - *They cannot verify until VA processes their award!*
 - View remaining benefits & delimiting date
 - Update address/email/EFT
 - Set up a monthly reminder to verify attendance
 - Check for pending documents
 - View their last processed award (incl. Monthly rate)
 - Can be printed & used for Fin. Aid purposes

NOTE: CH33 & CH35 students cannot use WAVE



Assist VA Students: e-benefits

Students can register for a Basic or Premium e-benefits account but must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to obtain either account type

- **On e-Benefits**, students can:
 - Obtain up to date information on their educational entitlement
 - Update their Direct Deposit and personal contact information
 - Download VA letters and personal documents
 - Viewing the current status of their payments (both education and disability)

Who To Contact

- For ***general*** questions/T&F status inquiries: **1-855-225-1159**
- For ***student specific payment*** questions: **“Right Now Web”**
- For ***VA ONCE*** or more complicated issues: Me
tracey.gross@va.gov or 404-929-3109
- For ***approval*** questions call or email your Program Coordinator at the State Approving Agency: **404-656-2306, 2322**
- For ***compliance*** issues contact Michael Rogers & Charles Humble or the SAA Program Coordinator who did your survey
- ***NOTE:** They are often out of the office so please allow them time to respond
- For ***Chapter 31*** issues call your **Voc. Rehab. Counselor**

Who To Contact

PLEASE DO NOT GIVE OUT MY
CONTACT INFORMATION TO STUDENTS

Please do share my bulletins with students when appropriate *after removing my contact info*

Please do share my bulletins with other offices at your school that are involved with VA issues

If you share my contact info with other offices at your school, please tell them to not share my contact info with students.

Questions?

www.benefits.va.gov



POST★9/11
GI BILL

THE TOOL
TO GET THE JOB
DONE