

Education Service

Update as of 2/29/2012



Post-9 / 11 GI Bill Update

- As of Feb 22, VA has issued over \$17 billion to 698,889 individuals and their educational institutions since August 1, 2009.
- VA has received Spring 2012 enrollments from 398,529 individuals and 65,180 Spring enrollments are pending
- VA has received Non-College Degree enrollments for Spring 2012 from 4,722 individuals, and 1,228 enrollments are pending.
- For the 2011-2012 academic year, 2512 schools are participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program
- VA has processed 1,111 applications for the Fry Scholarship through Feb. 24th

Chapter 33 Long Term Solution (LTS)

- Initial end-to-end automation of a subset of chapter 33 claims expected July 2012
 - Automation of some enrollment certification claims
- February 2012 LTS release deployed functionality to support July automation

Current Efforts

- White House DoD/VA Task Force
 - Veterans' Education and Transition Sub Group charged with developing strategies to:
 - Expand support for service members and Veterans before and during transition from military to civilian life and employment
 - Provide enhanced resources and support to facilitate academic/vocational success and employment readiness

Current Efforts

- More Robust data
 - Who, where, when, and in what field do students graduate?
 - If they don't graduate, why?
 - What does VA need to know to support graduation?
- Schools required to report beginning Fall 2011
 - Program of study
 - Veterans placed on Academic Probation
 - Veterans terminated for unsatisfactory progress
 - Graduation

Current Efforts

- Increased engagement at key points to support graduation and employment
 - Choosing the Right School
 - Ensure interests, aptitudes, and abilities match desires
 - Now Available
 - Academic Probation
 - Make aware of VA and other assistance
 - Termination for Unsatisfactory Progress
 - Make aware of VA and other assistance
 - Available now
 - Pre-Graduation and Graduation
 - Seamless connection to Federal, State, and local employment services

For-Profit Schools

- VA is aware of concerns raised regarding for-profit institutions and fraudulent activities.
- VA is committed to providing effective oversight and ensuring that Veterans can use their benefits to obtain a quality education at any institution offering programs approved for VA education benefits.

For-Profit Schools

- State Approving Agencies (SAA) approve VA education programs at for-profit institutions.
 - For-profit institutions are held to the same standards as non-profit institutions.
 - SAAs and VA Education Compliance Survey Specialists review school records to ensure compliance with State and VA statutes, including those pertaining to misrepresentation or deceptive marketing.

For-Profit Schools Cont.

- PL 111-377 allows VA to utilize SAAs in an expanded oversight role, including enhanced reviews of for-profit schools, starting in FY 2012.
 - SAAs and VA have authority to suspend or withdraw approval if programs or institutions are non-compliant with laws, regulations, and approval criteria.
- VA reviews SAA activities annually to ensure fulfillment of contracted duties.
- VA is engaged with the Departments of Justice, Education, Defense, and other entities to share information regarding for-profit institutions and ensure students are prepared to make informed school choices.

School Certifying Officials

- VA is updating the School Certifying Official Handbook to include the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)
 - Administrative information
 - Procedural guidance
- VA is supporting Paperwork Reduction Act efforts
 - Requiring schools to use VA Online Certification of Enrollment (VAONCE) system to submit enrollment information



Legislative Changes

PL 112-56

Vow To Hire Heroes Act

Section 211: Veterans Retraining Assistance
Program

Veterans' Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

- Enacted on November 16, 2011, as section 211 of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act
- Creates a partnership between the Departments of Labor (DOL) and Veterans Affairs (VA) responsible for administering the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP).

Veterans' Retraining Assistance Program

- The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program offers 12 months of retraining assistance to up to 99,000 unemployed Veterans between July 1, 2012 and March 31, 2014. Veterans must:
 - Be between the ages of 35 and 60
 - Be unemployed (as determined by DoL) with special consideration given to Veterans who have been unemployed for more than 26 weeks
 - Have an other than dishonorable discharge
 - Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program like the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance
 - Not be in receipt of compensation by reason of unemployability
 - Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program

Veterans' Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

- Veterans may pursue training in accordance with the following criteria:
 - Training must be approved under chapter 36
 - Training is offered by a community college or technical school
 - Training leads to an associate degree or certificate, or equivalent evidence of program completion
 - Training prepares the Veteran for a high-demand occupation, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics
 - Training commences on or after July 1, 2012