

JULY OFFICE HOURS AGENDA

- ❑ Rounding Out Policy Update – Chelsea Jackson
- ❑ Tuition & Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021 – Sharon Seidl
- ❑ Section 3 REMOTE Act Update & Section 1009 – Marit Solem
- ❑ DGIB Updates – Traveon Ward Sr.
- ❑ SCO Annual Training Requirements – Marit Solem

This Event is SCO Approved Training.....Portal

Knowledge Checks Today!



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ROUNDING OUT

Policy Update



Chelsea Jackson

Training Specialist

National Training Team-Schools

THE ROAD TO ROUNDING OUT

EDU's policy states a student may round out with any additional class(es) included within their program, even if it's not required for the specific beneficiary to graduate. Such classes must be specified by name in the approved program curriculum, and not previously completed.

Additionally, if the student has taken (or is enrolled in) every class offered as part of the program, the student may round out with classes not offered as a part of their program of education (i.e., any class offered by the educational institution).

Historical
practice of
"Rounding Out"

VA EDU published the
Policy Advisory entitled
"Revision of the VA
Education Service
Practice of Rounding
Out". Policy effective Aug
1, 2021

"Rounding Out"
courses certified are
included within the
program and count
toward the student's
graduation
requirements

Section 4 of the
REMOTE Act
codifies VA
practice of
"rounding out"

If the student has
taken every class
offered as part of the
program, the student
may round out with
any class



Prior to Aug 1, 2021



Jun 1, 2021



Aug 1, 2021



Dec 21, 2021



Jul 5, 2022



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COURSE OPTIONS ON A DEGREE AUDIT REPORT (DAR)

Courses shown will satisfy the degree requirement

ENGL 2358: British and World Poetry (3 credits)
ENGL 2359: British and World Prose (3 credits)
ENGL 2410: Myth (3 credits)
ENVR 2000: Introduction to Environmental Science (3 credits)
GEOG 1400: World Regional Geography (3 credits)
GEOG 2200: Introduction to Human Geography (3 credits)
GEOG 3820: Geography of Asia (3 credits)
GER 1111: Elementary German I (4 credits)
GER 1112: Elementary German II (4 credits)
GER 2211: Intermediate German I (3 credits)
GER 2212: Intermediate German II (3 credits)
GER 3311: Conversation and Composition (3 credits)
GER 3312: Introduction to the Study of German Culture (3 credits)
HST 1304: World History I, Prehistory-1500 (3 credits)
HST 1305: World History II, 1500-Present (3 credits)
HST 2580: Russia (3 credits)
HST 2660: Women and History (3 credits)
HST 2700: World Religions (3 credits)

Student has taken:

ENGL 2358, 2359 ENVR 2000
GEOG 1400, 2200 GER 1111, 1112
HIST 1304, 1305, 2580

To Round-out, the student has available:

ENGL 2410 GEOG 3820
GER 2211, 2212, 3311, 3312
HIST 2660, 2700

If no other options were available, the student could take a course outside of their degree plan.



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KNOWLEDGE CHECK – ROUNDING OUT



Public Law 117-68, Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021



Sharon Seidl
Training Specialist
National Training team - Schools

COVERED INDIVIDUALS

Section 702 of the Choice Act requires VA to disapprove programs of education for everyone training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill® and the Montgomery GI Bill® - Active Duty (MGB-AD) programs, if resident tuition and fees are not charged to all covered individuals.



COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED: (PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

- Transferred benefits who lives in the state where IHL is located
- The above listed statements continuously enrolled
 - Anyone using transferred benefits living in the state where IHL is located, and the transferor is a member of the uniformed service serving on active duty
 - Fry Scholarship recipients living in the state where the IHL is located

[GI Bill Resident Rate Requirements - Education and Training \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-resident-rate-requirements-education-and-training/)

Title 38, US Code § 3679 (c) (2)



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PUBLIC LAW 117-68, COLONEL JOHN M. MCHUGH TUITION FAIRNESS FOR SURVIVORS ACT OF 2021 – EFFECTIVE DATE

Signed into law November 30, 2021

Allows VA to disapprove courses at an IHL facility which does not charge in-state tuition rates for chapter 35 beneficiaries for enrollments beginning on or after **August 1, 2022.**



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STATE RESTRICTIONS

At this time, all states are either in compliance, or had a waiver for compliance approved by VA



SCO RECOMMENDATIONS- SCHOOL

- Chapter 35 beneficiaries' tuition and fees normally don't get a review by the SCO unless the student is half-time or less
 - How are CH 35 students tracked in student systems?
 - Are they coded the same as other Chapter beneficiaries?
- Communicate this change with the Business/Billing/Financial Aid offices, as applicable

ONE MORE THING-- Section 103 of the Veterans Benefit and Transition Act of 2018, PL 115-407:

- CH 35 was not initially included when that law was signed, but it is in there now because of PL 117-68

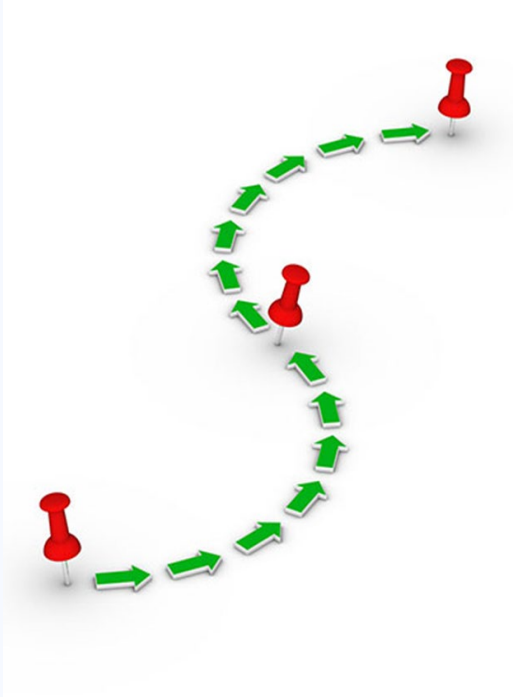
Effective August 1, 2019, schools are not allowed to penalize or prohibit a GI Bill® student from attending or participating in courses while awaiting VA payment (for up to 90 days)

****Please stand by for more information from VA Policies Team****



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SCO RECOMMENDATIONS - SAA



Contact your SAA for:

Approval issues

- Compliance conducted by SAA

Contact your ELR for:

- Advisory Questions
- Certification questions
- VA-ONCE technical questions
- Compliance conducted by VA



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KNOWLEDGE CHECK – PUBLIC LAW 117.68



SECTION 3 REMOTE ACT

Policy Update



Marit Solem

Training Specialist

National Training Team-Schools

REMOTE ACT SECTION 3

Section 3: Amends 38 U.S.C. § 3679(f)(2)(B), to now allow schools to pay incentives to recruit foreign students not eligible for Federal financial student aid; exempts all foreign schools from the requirements of 38 U.S.C. § 3679(f) and amends 38 USC 3689(c) and 3690(c) to exempt certain foreign students and foreign schools from certain reporting requirements; exempts schools that provide their students with financial disclosure information required by the Secretary of Education (e.g., schools that provide students with a College Financial Plan as part of participation in Federal financial student aid) from any of the requirements of § 3697(f); and delays enforcement of § 3679(f) until August 1, 2022, and any school seeking a waiver may apply for one starting on June 15, 2022.



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OPTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE

A school may satisfy the requirements of § 3679(f) by either:

Continuing to provide covered individuals with a CFP [such schools are exempt by virtue of § 3679(f)(7)]; or,

Begin providing students with a CFP by August 1, 2022; or,

[Financial Aid Shopping Sheet \(ed.gov\)](https://www.ed.gov/financial-aid-shopping-sheet)

University of the United States (UUS)		MM / DD / YYYY	
Undergraduate College Financing Plan			
Student Name, Identifier			
Total Cost of Attendance 2022-2023			
	On Campus Residence	Off Campus Residence	
Tuition and fees		\$X,XXXX	
Housing and meals	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX	
Books and supplies		\$X,XXXX	
Transportation		\$X,XXXX	
Other education costs		\$X,XXXX	
Estimated Cost of Attendance	\$X,XXXX / yr	\$X,XXXX / yr	
Expected Family Contribution			
Based on FAFSA As calculated by the institution using information reported on the FAFSA or to your institution.		X,XXXX / yr	
Based on Institutional Methodology Used by most private institutions in addition to FAFSA.		X,XXXX / yr	
Scholarship and Grant Options			
Scholarships and Grants are considered "Gift" aid - no repayment is needed.			
Scholarships		Grants	
Merit-Based Scholarships		Need-Based Grant Aid	
Scholarships from your school	\$X,XXXX	Federal Pell Grants	\$X,XXXX
Scholarships from your state	\$X,XXXX	Institutional Grants	\$X,XXXX
Other scholarships	\$X,XXXX	State Grants	\$X,XXXX
Employer Paid Tuition Benefits	\$X,XXXX	Other forms of grant aid	\$X,XXXX
Total Scholarships	\$X,XXXX / yr	Total Grants	\$X,XXXX / yr
VA Education Benefits		VA Education Benefits	
		\$X,XXXX / yr	
College Costs You Will Be Required to Pay			
Net Price To You		\$X,XXXX / yr	



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OPTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE - CONTINUED

Continuing to provide covered individual with the information required by § 3679(f); or,

If the school intends to provide students with the CFP but cannot begin doing so by August 1, 2022, and likewise has not yet begun to provide covered individual with the information required by § 3679(f) by virtue of a waiver granted until August 1, 2022, (a waiver that was granted to give schools sufficient time to be able to provide the information required in § 3679(f)(1) by August 1, 2022), the school must begin providing covered individual with the information required by § 3679(f) by August 1, 2022 (having successfully implemented its plan to provide such information no later than August 1, 2022), and then, once the school is able to provide covered individuals with a CFP, begin providing the CFP thereby gaining exemption from the requirements of § 3679(f); once the school is providing the CFP, it may cease providing the information required by § 3679(f)(1).



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WHAT ABOUT THAT WAIVER OPTION?

Apply for a waiver

SECTION1018.VBACO@VA.GOV

NOTE: WAIVERS BEING GRANTED ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELY



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KNOWLEDGE CHECK – REMOTE ACT



SECTION 1009

Policy Update



Marit Solem

Training Specialist

National Training Team-Schools

SECTION 1009 ISAKSON & ROE

Section 1009. Clarification MHA assistance for individuals who attend school while on active duty Clarifies that individuals pursuing a program of education while on active duty must be serving at least 30 days on active duty to no longer be eligible to receive a monthly housing allowance while using their GI Bill® benefits since they will receive a housing allowance through the Department of Defense (DoD). Effective: August 1, 2022.



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DIGITAL GI BILL® (DGIB) UPDATES



Traveon D. Ward, Sr.

Training Specialist

National Training Team - Schools

DGIB | ENHANCED POST-9/11 GI BILL® APPLICATION

A new Post-9/11 GI Bill® application experience will soon be live for Veterans and Service members as part of the Digital GI Bill® effort.

The VA is taking steps to simplify the GI Bill® application process and to make it easier to apply for Post-9/11 education benefits. The new application process will include some pre-filled information about the Veterans or Service members as he or she completes the GI Bill® application.

Upon completion of the GI Bill® application there will be faster, electronic responses in eligibility decision times; important documents will be accessible online.

Visit website: www.VA.gov for the new enhanced Post-9/11 GI Bill® Application.



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DGIB UPDATES



@GIBillEducation



@VAVetBenefits



VeteransBenefits@
Messages.VA.gov

You Asked, VA Answered

VA Education Service
hosted the first-ever
GI Bill® Summit



Stakeholder Engagement

VA EDU leaders recently provided responses to all GI Bill students and SCOs' questions posted on the 2022 GI Bill Summit RallyPoint page.

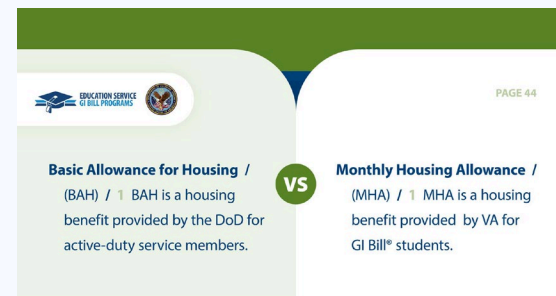


GI Bill Utilization Research

Our GI Bill utilization research is informing data-driven communications to Veterans, service members, and their families to encourage benefits usage.



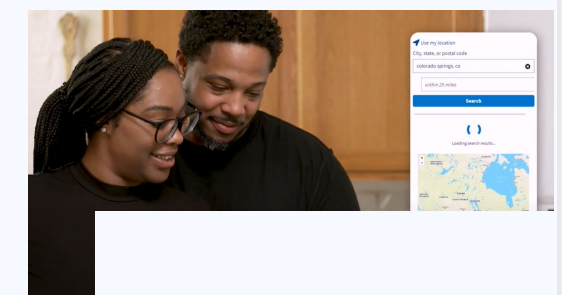
Usability Testing Sessions and Focus Groups



Social Media “Quick Definitions”



Modernization Updates



GI Bill Comparison Tool Videos



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CERTIFYING OFFICIAL RESOURCES



Marit Solem

Training Specialist
National Training Team-Schools



FY22 SCO Annual Training Requirements

Slide 96

Please remember, if you don't complete your annual training requirements, VA has the authority to remove your access from VA-ONCE and the SAA has the authority to disapprove your school's programs

Annual Training Window Opened. Updated training requirements for all new SCOs and continuing education requirements for existing SCOs are effective

October 1, 2021

60-Day Training Alert! Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill® website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice

July 1, 2022

15-Day Training Alert! Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill® website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice

August 15, 2022

*Existing SCOs - No training in progress
New SCOs – Training is continuous throughout the year*

September 1-30, 2022

June 1, 2022

90-Day Training Alert! 90-Day Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill® website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice

August 1, 2022

30-Day Training Alert! Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill® website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice

August 31, 2022

Annual Training Window Closes! Continuing education requirements for existing SCOs completed

SCO ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENT COUNT DOWN

DATE AUGUST 31, 2022

Education and Training

School Certifying Official (SCO) Training

School Certifying Official Training Countdown!

October 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022

My countdown

42 : 07 : 52 : 48

DAYS HOURS MINUTES SECONDS

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education_resources/school_certifying_officials/online_sco_training.asp



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SCO ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENT

On this page:

- [School Certifying Official Training Overview](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Impact – SCO Training](#)
- [School Certifying Official Training Countdown](#)
- [SCO Online Training Portal](#)
- [SCO Annual Training Schedule](#)
- [Education Service Webinars and Training Events](#)
- [SCO Training FAQs](#)
- [SCO Annual Training – Get Started!](#)
 - [Existing - School Certifying Officials](#)
 - [New - School Certifying Officials](#)
 - [Read Only – School Certifying Officials](#)
 - [Transferring – School Certifying Officials](#)
- [Existing SCO Training by Facility Type](#)
 - [Existing SCOs - Institution of Higher Learning \(IHL\)](#)
 - [Existing SCOs - Non-College Degree \(NCD\)](#)
 - [Existing SCOs - Institution of Higher Learning \(IHL\) with Non-College Degree \(NCD\) Programs](#)
 - [Existing SCOs - Institution of Higher Learning with Flight Programs](#)
 - [Existing SCOs - On-the-Job Training \(OJT\)](#)
 - [Existing SCOs - Apprenticeship Programs](#)
 - [Existing SCOs - Vocational Flight Programs](#)
 - [Existing SCOs - High School Programs](#)
 - [Existing SCOs - Residency Programs](#)

• [Consequences for Non-Compliance \(Existing SCOs Only\)](#)



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SCO PORTAL CHECK COMPLETION STATUS

FY22 SCO Annual Training Requirements

Department of Veterans Affairs School Certifying Official Training 2022

Click here to see more details about this portal.

Welcome

Welcome to the Department of Veterans Affairs Training for School Certifying Officials (SCOs). This training is mandated by the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, (The Colmery Act) (Public Law 115-48) for both new and existing SCOs. Please read the descriptions carefully to ensure you are taking training that corresponds with your facility type so that you can meet the annual training requirement. To track your training progress, please see the Year to Date (YTD) summary. The YTD summary list the number of modules or training events you have completed toward your annual training requirement. Also, check the information listed in your profile to ensure it is correct. Each school is responsible for ensuring that their SCOs meet the mandatory training requirement and document it in accordance with compliance regulations. This training is targeted to assist you in performing the tasks required of SCOs. If you have questions about what training to take, contact your local ELR. Thank you for helping our nation's Veterans complete their Educational goals.

Your Completion Status

Completed hours:	0	Online hours:	0
Completed modules:	0	Conference hours:	0

Getting Started

To begin, select a level of training (New or Existing) based upon your experience level. New SCOs must complete the training prior to being authorized to certify enrollments to VA and must submit a copy of their training completion certificate along with the VA 22-8794 to the ELR of their jurisdiction. Existing SCOs are required to complete training every year beginning October 1 through August 31 of the following year.

Instructions

After you select the level of training (New or Existing), a list of courses will be displayed. Select a course to begin your training. Your Education Liaison Representative (ELR) of jurisdiction can assist if you have any questions about the material covered in the training. After completing, you



Choose VA



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SUNSET OF INTERNET EXPLORER

Internet Explorer was the preferred web browser for VA-ONCE and was officially “Sunsetted” Last Month

Usability testing has found that **Microsoft Edge** is now the preferred web browser

VA-ONCE & Edge Browser Compatibility



CERTIFYING OFFICIAL RESOURCE GUIDE

Issue	ELR	Certifying Official Hotline	SAA
Updating Certifying Officials; VA Form 22-8794	X		
Technical assistance with reporting enrollments	X		
Access to VA-ONCE and related technical guidance	X		
85/15 reporting matters	X		
Clarification on WEAMS 1998 reports	X		
Status of Tuition & Fee or Yellow Ribbon payments		X	
Explanation of school debt creation		X	
Individual student benefit information and hardship cases		X	
Program revisions; new/suspended/cancelled programs			X
Updated catalogs and related publications			X
School address updates – including branch/extension			X
Changes in accreditation status			X
Change of ownership and change of address			X

RESOURCES FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIALS

- Find **ELR** Contact Information [here](#)
- Find **SAA** Contact Information [here](#)

Contact your ELR for the **Certifying Official Hotline** phone number.



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DEBT MANAGEMENT CENTER

Ask VA (AVA) School Inquiries

- All school inquiries and disputes should be submitted using AVA <https://ask.va.gov/>
- Select “**Veterans Affairs- Debt**” as the category and “**A School Official**” as the topic
 - Selecting these options is critical to ensure routing to DMC
- Under “**My inquiry is**” select “**On behalf of a Veteran**”- this enables you to select School Certifying Official or Other (Business) under “**relationship to Veteran**”
 - Selecting on behalf of a Veteran and then a business relationship will ensure the inquiries show up in a business dashboard
- You must log in to receive a response that receives specific debt information

Tell us about your question

Which category best describes your question? *

(*Required)*

Veteran Affairs - Debt



Which topic best describes your question? * (*Required)

A School Official



Tell us the reason you're contacting us? (*Required)

Question



My inquiry is: (*Required)

On behalf of a Veteran



Are you currently an employee of the VA? *

☐ No ☐ Yes

Your relationship to the Veteran (*Required)

School Certifying Official



Schools



Choose **VA**



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DEBT MANAGEMENT CENTER

Tips for Submissions via AVA

When submitting disputes and inquiries via AVA

- One inquiry per student
- Identifying information for the student (not in the subject line)
- School name and facility code
- Debt amount
- Supporting details (front and back of cashed check, when was updated certification sent, etc.)



Choose **VA**



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CERTIFYING OFFICIAL RESOURCE LINKS

VBA Education Service Monthly Office Hours	<u>VBA Education Office Hours</u>
School Certifying Official Handbook	<u>School Certifying Official Handbook</u>
GI Bill® Website – School Resources Page	<u>School Resource Page</u>
GI Bill® Website – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	<u>GI Bill® Website - FAQs</u>
School Certifying Official Training Portal	<u>School Certifying Official (SCO) Training</u>
VA-ONCE Quick Reference User Guide	<u>VA Once Quick Reference User Guide</u>
Debt Management Center (DMC)	<u>Ask VA</u> and 1-800-827-0648
Veteran Readiness & Employment (VRE)	<u>Veteran Readiness And Employment (VR&E)</u>
VRE Certifying Official Handbook	<u>VRE SCO Handbook</u>
Work Study	<u>Ask VA</u>
85/15 FAQs	<u>85/15 Frequently Asked Questions</u>

CERTIFYING OFFICIAL ANNUAL TRAINING RESOURCES

National Training Mailbox: edutraining.vbaco@va.gov

- Certifying Official training portal access and use
- Certifying Official approved training credit and progress tracking
- Adobe Connect registration and access

VBA Support: support@VBATraining.org

- Certifying Official training portal functionality

All webinars and training sessions are announced via [GovDelivery](#)

Be sure to register and update your information as needed

GovDelivery Support can be found [here](#)



CERTIFYING OFFICIAL TRAINING SELF-CERTIFICATION STEP-BY-STEP

1. Click on the URL below or Copy and Paste in your web browser
<https://vba-tpss.vbatraining.org/assess/trkSignIn?refid=XSCO>
2. Enter your email address and eight (8) digit facility code, then click Next
3. Scroll down and click the Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training tab
4. Select the applicable training session from the list of topics that appears on the right side of the screen by clicking Begin
5. To enter Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training Title, click the dropdown arrow, select SCO Virtual Training Session and click Submit
6. Enter the start date and the end date
7. Enter your Facility Name, City and State (Main Campus) and click Submit
8. Certify your attendance by clicking Agree and then submit
9. Print your training certificate and keep for your records



The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The text is overlaid on the right side of the flag.

**Be on the lookout for 85/15 Review Session
Announcements!**

August Office Hours

Education Staff = August 23rd

State Approving Agencies = August 23rd

School Certifying Officials = August 24th & 25th

Self-Certify for your Annual Training Credit in the [SCO Portal](#)