

# The 85/15 Rule – Q & A

## The 85/15 Rule

**What are the rules making process that the VA uses to determine the definition of supported and non-supported students? The terms are not in legislation.**

The [Statute](#) provides that any amount of institutional aid, or VA support under Title 10 or Title 38, makes a student supported for the purposes of 85/15. The [Regulation](#) allows for institutional aid so long as the aid is not restricted from VA beneficiaries, and it also provides that graduate students in receipt of institutional aid (who are not VA beneficiaries) would not be considered supported by virtue of the institutional aid. The rest is extrapolated from the regulatory language therein.

**Does 85/15 apply to programs that operate on a military installation?**

If the program does not meet requirements for the Department of Defense (DoD) Exemption, then it must comply with the 85/15 Rule.

**Did I hear that Chapter 31 and 35 student can still enroll in programs that exceed the 85/15 ratio?**

Yes, chapter 31 and 35 students may continue to enroll in, and receive benefits, for programs that exceed 85 percent enrollment of supported students. They are still counted as supported students.

**What if, when the student started the program, the % of supported v non supported complied but when the student was in their last semester, they were the only student in the program, do we stop certifying that student?**

Any student continuously enrolled in a program is not affected by the payment suspension.

**What is considered 'continuous enrollment' concerning the 85/15 policy? If a student takes a break off one term or more, does that cause a break in continuous enrollment?**

Summer terms are excluded when determining continuous enrollment, but any other breaks in continuous enrollment would require that the program meet the 85/15 Rule for that student to receive VA benefits under Title 38 or Title 10 unless they are using benefits under chapter 31 or chapter 35.

**As an ETI with only NCD programs, do I have to submit the 85/15 or exemption**

Yes. Please refer to the 85/15 Rule [webpage](#) for information on types of ETIs subject to this law and contact your [ELR](#) if you still have any questions.

**If someone with military benefits wants to apply for enrollment into a suspended program, they will have to "pursue" something else temporarily, correct?**

A newly enrolling VA beneficiary student may not receive benefits for a program that exceeds 85 percent enrollment of supported students, except for students using benefits under chapters 31 or 35.

**We aren't a specialty school, but we have very few VA students. are we unable to apply for exemption?**

Any training facility subject to the 85/15 Rule may submit a request for the 35 percent exemption of reporting. Please visit our [webpage](#) on the 35 percent exemption for more information.

## Routine Reporting

**Our institution has flex start dates for Fall and Spring semesters, is an 85/15 report required for each start date?**

If new students may begin an approved program on an other than term basis (multiple enrollment dates not simply a modified schedule), you should report quarterly vice bi-annually.

**If we have mini-terms that students may enroll in after the first of the term, then we should do multiple 85/15 or wait 30 days after the last mini-term? However, most students enroll at the beginning of the term for all terms.**

If new students may begin an approved program on an other than term basis (multiple enrollment dates not simply a modified schedule), you should report quarterly vice bi-annually.

**If a school has regular fall and spring semesters and then has a summer semester with 16 weeks, but also several different start and end dates for programs within that summer term, when would the 85/15 calculations be processed?**

If the ETI is organized in an other than term-based structure, it should report quarterly.

**Is 85/15 only required for students enrolled in the standard 16-week semesters (Fall/Spring), or is a separate 85/15 report required for the several non-standard concurrent shorter terms and for Summer?**

If the ETI is allowing students to matriculate, or enroll in programs, on an other than standard term/semester basis, then the ETI is not organized on a term basis and should report quarterly. If unsure of how to report, contact the [ELR](#) for questions specific to your ETI.

**Our school is an IHL with standard semester. Each semester has a 2 week add/drop period. Should 85/15 reports be based on the first day of the semester, or after the drop/add period. What about students enrolled on the first day of the semester who subsequently withdraw?**

Base your calculations on enrollment on or before the first day of the term/enrollment period start date. VA does not require that ETIs amend their enrollment ratios based on changes in enrollment after the first day of the enrollment period.

**Okay, I am very confused. How can I submit an 85/15 rule report 30 days after a term starts when it just starts? How can we get accurate information after 30 days? Plus, we also have several modules within our Fall and Spring terms (2 8-week terms), so do I do it each quarter instead?**

Program start dates, or class start dates? If the ETI is organized in an other than term-based structure, it should report quarterly, but please do direct any ETI-specific questions to the [ELR](#).

**A standard school should be submitting the 85-15 report for each semester. Correct?**

If the ETI is organized in a term-based structure, it should report within 30-days of the beginning of the enrollment period (excluding summer sessions). If the ETI is organized in a non-term-based structure, it should report quarterly.

**With each start date, we include every single program even if those programs do not have courses that start on that date?**

When an ETI's programs have multiple start dates within a reporting period, the ETI reports quarterly, and each report will include only those programs that begin on that enrollment period start date.

**So, from what has been presented, we only report on the programs that we have approved in WEAMS?**  
Report on all approved programs and variations of those approved programs when there is a difference in attendance, cost, equipment, length, or objective.

**I was told to include calculations for withdrawn programs listed on WEAMS. Can you clarify when to not provide calculations for withdrawn programs for 85/15?**

There is no need to provide enrollment percentages for withdrawn programs.

**If we have seven terms starting within the first quarter, we must submit seven 85/15 reports per term with all the programs listed?**

The 85/15 submission must include separate reports for all enrollment periods beginning during the quarter upon which the ETI is reporting.

**Our history major has like 10 different concentrations. Do the programs really need to be broken down into that much granularity?**

A variance in concentrations does not necessarily equate to variance in programs. Report on all approved programs and variations of attendance, cost, equipment, length, or objective.

**Do we need to send a separate form for each program for the 85/15 form? We have six programs, and do we need to submit six separate VA Form 22-10215?**

Submit a separate form for each enrollment period not each program. All approved programs beginning during that enrollment period (as published) are listed on each form. Direct any ETI-specific questions to the [ELR](#).

**NCD schools that start classes bi-weekly, would list all start dates in that quarter for each program?**

Submit a separate form for each enrollment period not each program. All approved programs beginning during that enrollment period (as published) are listed on each form. Direct any ETI-specific questions to the [ELR](#).

**For a flight school, what form to use and where to send?**

Vocational Flight Schools may use whatever format they currently use to submit reports to the [ELR of jurisdiction](#).

**We are semester hour, and one term will have a 16-wk. session and two 8 wk. sessions. For each session you can enroll up to the 1st day of class so, what is the enrollment period? Also, do we have to have a separate report for each of those sessions? 16 wk. and for each 8 wks.?**

If the ETI is organized in an other than term-based structure, it should report quarterly, but please do direct any ETI-specific questions to the [ELR](#).

**If the IHL has 2 standard fall/spring terms and offers a nonstandard summer term. Is 85/15 required for summer term?**

For term based ETI, summer enrollment periods are excluded from the reporting requirement.

**When were Fall 2021 85/15 reports due?**

You can find the schedule for 85/15 report submission on the Reporting Requirements [webpage](#).

**85/15 only required for Fall and Spring? Not winter or summer terms?**

For term based ETI, summer enrollment periods are excluded from the reporting requirement. However, if the ETI is structured on an other than term-based enrollment schedule, it should report quarterly, and with that, it would report on all enrollment periods.

**Do we need to gather 85/15 numbers for the summer terms?**

For term based ETI, summer enrollment periods are excluded from the reporting requirement. However, if the ETI is structured on an other than term-based enrollment schedule, it should report quarterly. If you're unsure of how to report, contact your [ELR](#).

**Please confirm. The 10216 MUST be submitted also or not?**

Only ETI requesting the 35 percent exemption need to submit the VA Form 22-10216.

**What about clock hour schools that have different program start dates every month?**

85/15 calculation reports must be generated for every enrollment period. Due dates are determined by how the ETI is organized (term or non-term based). Please see the [SCO Handbook](#) or VA website for information on [Reporting Requirements](#).

**For reporting I thought the 85/15 training in February stated the calculation date must be on the first day of the term. Is that not the case? Also, are the 85/15 reports due within 30 days of the start of the term?**

Calculations are based on enrollments on the first day of the enrollment period. Due dates are determined by how the ETI is organized (term or non-term based). Please see the SCO Handbook or VA website for information on Reporting Requirements.

**Must the 85/15 be submitted separately for each enrollment period if the university is on a semester basis?**

Generally, if an ETI has several program/enrollment start dates during a reporting period, the ETI is organized on an other than term-basis and should report quarterly. If unsure of how to report, contact the [ELR](#) for questions specific to your ETI.

**I'm a bit confused and not sure I understood when we run our 85/15 calculation. Did you say we have to do the calculation on the first day of the semester? I realize we have 30 days to submit it but am unclear on what was said.**

Calculations are based on enrollments on the first day of the enrollment period. Due dates are determined by how the ETI is organized (term or non-term based). Please see the [SCO Handbook](#) or VA website for information on [Reporting Requirements](#).

**So, we need to report 85/15 to the ELR no later than 30 days after the first day of the enrollment period, but we can't run the calculation until 30 days after the first day of the enrollment period? We only have 1 day to perform this intense calculation.**

Calculations are based on enrollments on the first day of the enrollment period. Due dates are determined by how the ETI is organized (term or non-term based). Please see the [SCO Handbook](#) or VA website for information on [Reporting Requirements](#). There is no requirement that the calculations must be performed on the 30th day.

**When using the 10215 / 10215A - if a program won't fit in the provided line does it matter if it's cut off, or do I use the line below to include the complete program?**

It should not matter, but in general, VA recommends the use of standard abbreviations. If in doubt, contact the [ELR](#) for guidance on acceptable abbreviations

**If we have online only students that have terms within our standard semesters, do we have to report them separately for 85/15 purposes besides listing them out separately as online programs. Would we need to do an 85/15 for each individual term?**

85/15 calculation reports must be generated for every enrollment period. Due dates are determined by how the ETI is organized (term or non-term based). Please see the [SCO Handbook](#) or VA website for information on [Reporting Requirements](#).

**Are we supposed to monitor our programs each time a student contacts us to use their benefits? And if their program is over 85% at that time, we can't let them join? Or do we only run it on the 30th day of each semester and only prevent students from joining the programs that were out of compliance from the last semester calculation? For example, we get hundreds of new students in the summer to start in the fall term. In June, bills are available for the fall term so our numbers will look good. In August, bills are released so our numbers will be very high until the payment due date. It is hard to say what is out of compliance until the 30th day since unpaid balances are considered supported and that can change at any time.**

Schools should monitor and have a process in place to monitor their records to ensure approved programs of educations do not exceed 85/15.

## 35 Percent Exemption

**Since every ETI is required to calculate 85/15 each term, what is the benefit to submitting the 35% Exemption request? It seems that it only means that we do not have to send the calculations to VA each term.**

The 35 percent exemption will relieve the ETI from the requirement to submit reports on a routine basis.

**Do we need to turn in the 10216 if we have no intention of requesting a 35 exemption?**

The ETI does not need to submit the 22-10216 unless it is requesting the 35 percent exemption of reporting.

**If we already had an exemption, when did that expire and when do we have to submit a new exemption request?**

All 35 percent exemptions were reset on October 1, 2021. You may submit your exemption request to the [ELR of jurisdiction](#) for your facility with your routine report. See the 85/15 webpage on [35 percent exemptions](#) for more information.

**If the ETI has a 35 percent exemption and one program that has a total of 3 students enrolled has just gone above 85% because two of those students are vets using benefits and one that is a non-vet, but supported--what do we do from there? We technically don't have to submit the 85/15 statements of assurance for two years. Do we just not allow any other VA students to enroll in the program?**

Schools should monitor and have a process in place to monitor their records to ensure programs of educations do not exceed 85/15.

**How does the 35% waiver impact individual programs who may have greater 85% of supported students?**  
Programs that exceed 85 percent supported student enrollments are excluded from the exemption, and the training facility is required to provide routine reports on any such programs.

**If an ETI is approved for a 35 percent exemption -- would individual programs exceeding 85% of supported students enrolled be covered under the 35 percent waiver for benefit payments to new enrollees?**

The 35 percent exemption is for routine reporting only. Programs that exceed 85 percent supported student enrollment are suspended for payment of VA education benefits to any newly enrolling VA education beneficiaries except for chapters 31 and 35. Any student continuously enrolled in a program is not affected by the payment suspension.

**How can I check if my school had already submitted a 35% exemption form and is this updated yearly?**

The 35 percent exemption is renewed every 24 months. Contact the [ELR of jurisdiction](#) to confirm that there is a request pending for the ETI.

**What if I have already submitted last quarter's 85/15s and another exemption request?**

If the ETI has already submitted a complete and accurate 85/15 report and the 35 percent exemption request, please wait to hear back from VA before submitting any additional reports. If it has been more than 90 days since your submission, please contact your [ELR](#) to confirm receipt.

**Can we request 35% Exemption for certain programs only or it should be for all programs at the facility campus?**

The ETI submits the exemption for all programs and will submit the 85/15 report as a part of that request. VA will exclude from the exemption any programs exceeding 85% supported student enrollments.

**I thought all schools were required to submit the 85/15 each semester/quarter/etc. and there was no more waiver you could be eligible to receive.**

All schools are required to monitor enrollments to ensure approved programs do not exceed 85 percent enrollment of supported students. Schools with a 35 percent exemption do not submit routine reports for any programs not exceeding 85 percent enrollment of supported students unless VA specifically excludes that program from the exemption. VA may exclude any program from the exemption when it has reason to believe that the enrollment of Veterans and other supported students in the course may exceed 85 percent enrollment of the total student enrollment of the course. 38 CFR 21.4201 (c) (4) (2).

**What happens when our 85/15 forms span almost 70 pages, and the document is too large? We sent it via secure one drive, but that is an excessive amount of work to move from our spreadsheet into the approved forms every semester. With the 35% exemption in process, will we only need to track and submit the programs that are at 86% or higher, or ALL the programs again? Quarterly**

With respect to the size of the document, please coordinate with the ELR and, possibly, your IT department, to submit the report. Schools with a 35 percent exemption do not submit routine reports for any programs not exceeding 85 percent enrollment of supported students unless VA specifically excludes that program from the exemption. If the ETI has a 35 percent exemption in process, please continue to monitor enrollments but do not submit any additional reports at this time. If it has been more than 90 days since your submission, please contact your [ELR](#) to confirm receipt.



## Computing the 85 Percent Ratio

**On the report for different parts of term, are the students considered part-time students? If the student has 15 hours 9 credits start 01/10/2022, 3 credits start 02/02/2022, and the 3rd credits start 3/3/2022. Do I submit as a part-time student for each term I submit?**

You can find information on computations for determining this information on our [webpage](#) on Full-Time Equivalency.

**Our ETI has different start dates are different for online and for main campus. Can these be combined on the same 85/15 submission?**

Generally, if an ETI has several program/enrollment start dates during a reporting period, the ETI is organized on an other-than-term-basis and should report quarterly. If unsure of how to report, contact the [ELR](#) for questions specific to your ETI.

**Our school has a standard term but also offers modules that are shorter than a standard term, are we considered a "non-standard term school" and therefore ALL reports are submitted on the quarter following the non-standard term schedule (even the report for the standard term session)? Or should we submit the report for our full (standard) term 30 days after the standard term starts AND submitting the reports for the shorter (non-standard) terms on the quarter?**

Pursuit of a course on an accelerated schedule, without the opportunity to matriculate, does not, in and of itself, equate to a non-term-based organization. For example, a term-based IHL allows students to enroll (matriculate) in a program in the Fall and Spring semesters but offers some courses required for that program on an accelerated schedule during the semester or over the Winter, Spring or Summer break. These accelerated schedules would not equate to a separate enrollment period because they do not offer the opportunity for new students to enroll in the **program**. However, when the ETI is allowing students to matriculate, or enroll in programs, on an other than standard term/semester basis, then the ETI is not organized on a term basis and should report quarterly. If unsure of how to report, contact the [ELR](#) for questions specific to your ETI.

**For 85/15, are they looking at just the program, or is it concentration specific?**

Separate 85/15 computations are required when there is any difference in the educational/vocational objective, attendance, length, cost, or equipment of a program based on the concentration or track

**If a program has two concentrations that are the same in attendance, cost, equipment, length (# of credit hours); then is the different concentration name constitute a difference in "objective"? For example, BA Christian Ministry w/ concentration in either General Religion or Educational Leadership. We've received contradictory opinions from different SAA staff.**

A different concentration name doesn't necessarily constitute a difference in objective. Was the concentration approved separately by the SAA? If yes, you would need to report it separately. If not, and if all else is the same, I think you might be able to determine that the two concentrations, or the concentration of the main program, maintain the same objective - to obtain a BA in Christian Ministry. If the ETI is unsure contact the [ELR](#) as 85/15 falls under the jurisdiction of VA not SAA.

**What is Full-Time Equivalency and how do you convert hours to FTE?**

Please review the webpage on [Full-Time Equivalency](#) for instructions on how to convert hours to FTE.

**For 85/15 reporting of Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) can I use decimals (example 3.5) or does the number need to be rounded up or down?**

Please do not round up or down when reporting FTE.

**Can the 85/15 form include all facility codes for an institution?**

Any separately approved campus with administrative capability, and a Facility Code, must complete individual 85/15 calculations and submit separate reports. Enrollments certified under extension campuses not approved separate of the parent campus (i.e., teaching sites) are included as enrollments in the approved programs at the parent campus, regardless of where the student attends classes.

**If an NCD school whose programs are 1) VA approved for all- residential, AND 2) the same programs are also approved for all-online delivery by the local state (NOT hybrid--both online OR in person for same student), then A) do we include the non-VA online students in the 85/15 counts? and B) they may be attending the same class with all vets/others in residence and some separately attending strictly online.**

**How would we report this scenario?**

Programs that vary in attendance, cost, equipment, length, or objective should be listed and calculated as separate programs for 85/15 purposes. Differing modality would be considered a variance in attendance requirements.

**The ETI offers NCD 600 clock hour programs with two programs on the same schedule. Classes begin every January, May, and September. The September 2021 class won't graduate until May 2022. Do we include those students in our April 30th, 85/15 calculations? The same is with our January 2022 class start, do we include those students in the June 30th list?**

When new students enroll in a program that has existing students from a previous cohort, you will include the total number of students enrolled in the program when calculating 85/15. When submitting the reports to VA, you include reports for all program start dates. Find more information on the Overlapping Modular/Cohort Reporting section in the [September 2021 Office Hours](#) presentation.

**I recently started at my institution as a new SCO, are extensions offered/available? The previous SCO left and there is no information that has been prepared yet for these reports?**

Contact the [ELR](#) for guidance on this specific situation. There is no provision for extension. Failure to provide reports timely could lead to all programs being suspended for failure to provide reports.

## Supported and Non-Supported Students

**Do all our non-supported students still need to be paid in full in the first 30 day?**

Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#).

**Our term due date is two weeks after the start date... so any student who doesn't pay their bill in full two weeks early is supposed to count as supported? That would basically be all our students. Please clarify.**

Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#).



**I thought we do not include 31 and 35 students in 85/15 in 85/15 calculations.**

Students using VA benefits under Title 10 and Title 38 (this includes chapters 31 and 35) are counted as supported, always. Students using chapters 31 and 35 may enroll in, and receive benefits for, programs that are suspended for 85/15.

**What is the thought process behind a student being considered self-pay for 85/15? The reason I ask this is that you are saying a student must have the account paid OR must have been accepted for an approved payment plan before the end of drop period. There are various situations when a student is still a self-pay even if they have not made a payment by end of drop payment, so I am curious on what that thought process is.**

Good question. The statute dictates that an ETI report during a certain time frame, and the ETI must certify what it knows to be true in content and policy. If the ETI is submitting calculations within 30 days of the beginning of the term (at a term-based institution), the ETI can certify that a student's payment status is either paid or not paid or being paid under an institutionally funded payment plan that meets the stated requirements. If a student is not paid in full by the report date and does not have the charges covered via non-supported means (not restricted institutional funds and not VA funds under Title 10 and Title 38), then the student must be counted as supported.

**What if a student enrolls in a payment plan after the first day of the enrollment period, but before the reporting date? Our first payment plan withdrawal date is usually 28 days after the first day of the term, so students can enroll in the payment plan up until that time.**

The statute dictates that an ETI report during a certain time frame, and the ETI must certify what it knows to be true in content and policy. If the status of the student on the day the calculations are performed is that the student, though not paid in full, is on an institutionally funded payment plan that meets stated requirements to pay the remaining balance, then the student could be counted as non-supported (provided there are no other conditions that would identify them as supported).

**What happens if your merit-based aid is reduced due to other outside scholarship for both veteran and non veteran alike...is that considered non supported, since you're reducing the merit aid for both in the same manner?**

Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#) for assistance when determining supported status. However, aid from an organization other than VA or the Educational and Training Institution is not counted as supported.

**For the balance pay off requirement, do we only have to count self-pay students (i.e., cash students)?**

No. If a student is not paid in full by the report date and does not have the charges covered via non-supported means (not institutional funds and not VA funds under Title 10 and Title 38), then the student must be counted as supported. Types of funding that is considered non-supported are Title IV funds, Employer-based Tuition Assistance, ETI-funded aid that is NOT restricted, etc. Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#).

**If the ETI does not charge tuition, does the housing allowance count as VA supported?**

Yes. For the purposes of 85/15, any VA beneficiary using VA benefits under Title 10 or Title 38 is supported; however, if the ETI is one that doesn't charge tuition and fees to any student, it may not be subject to the 85/15 Rule. Please contact the [ELR of jurisdiction](#).

**When looking at full payment received to determine supported/non supported students, are we looking at tuition only? How are students with room/board charges counted? Does the entire number of charges need to be paid in full?**

Support for 85/15 does not include support for fees or charges that could not be certified to VA. When the statute refers to “tuition, fees and other charges,” VA interprets it means the actual charges for tuition and fees that similarly circumstanced non-Veterans enrolled in the program of education are required to pay.

**Where is the supported and non-supported student codified in law? I understand 85/15, however, there is nothing in the law that says a student who doesn't pay their balance by the 30th day they need to be counted as supported.**

It's by the reporting date that those students must be paid in full. For a term based ETI, that is within 30 days of the beginning of the term/semester. For all other types of ETI, the report date is within 30 days of the end of the previous quarter. The statute dictates that an ETI report during a certain time frame, and the ETI must certifying what it knows to be true in content and policy. If the ETI is submitting calculations within 30 days of the beginning of the term (at a term-based institution), the ETI can certify that a student's payment status is either paid or not paid or being paid under an institutionally funded payment plan that meets the stated requirements. If a student is not paid in full by the report date, in this case, and does not have the charges covered via non-supported means (not institutional funds and not VA funds under Title 10 and Title 38), then the student must be counted as supported.

**On the definition of Supported Students, we offer a border state waiver so students that live across the state line are only charged an out-of-district rate instead of out-of-state. We were told that because it was a waiver, we had to include that as supported. Based on your presentation, I think they should not be included. We really need clarification.**

Without more specific information, it's difficult to provide a definitive response; however, in general, if the aid (in this case the out of district rate) is equally available to VA students as well, even if they don't use it or need it, then the aid is not considered restricted.

**To clarify, a student who has nothing to do with VA benefits and just has decided to not pay their bill in full on time even though a payment plan is available, is counted as a supported student?**

Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#).

**Would ROTC scholar students be considered supported?**

Supported funds come from two sources: the VA and the ETI. In all cases, students receiving any amount of VA funds under Title 10 and Title 38 are supported. When the funds are from the institution, only funds that are restricted from VA beneficiaries are considered supported.

**We have a scholarship that is available to VA students, but they can't use benefits if they opt for the scholarship. Is the scholarship considered restricted aid, even though VA students are eligible to receive it?**

Yes. If a Veteran is required to forfeit GI Bill® benefits to accept the scholarship, then the scholarship is considered restricted aid.

**Just to verify even though 35, 1606 etc. only receive monthly stipends and not tuition and fees at the University...they are still considered supported?**

Yes. Students using VA benefits under Title 10 and Title 38 (this includes chapters 35 and 1606) are counted as supported, always. Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#).

**So, a student delinquent on their tuition is a supported student?**

Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#) and contact the [ELR of jurisdiction](#) for additional information, if necessary.

**What if a student is on a payment plan that doesn't meet the requirements, but the tuition and fees are paid in full on the reporting date? Supported or non-supported?**

If the student has paid in full tuition, fees, and other charges by the reporting date and none of the student's funding came from VA or was restricted and came from the ETI, the student would not be considered supported. Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#).

**What if the student is approved/covered by non-supported sources but the funds have not been paid by the time of the 85/15 calculation?**

If the student provides an official award letter that confirms the third-party funds will be delivered, the ETI may accept this as proof of funds. Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#).

**The criteria for supported students those students are considered supported if they have a balance due on the reporting date that is not on a VA approved payment plan -- is that a balance due for the current term or for the prior term? In other words, if they have a balance due for the current term that is not on a payment plan, but they do NOT have a balance due for the prior term, should they still be considered a supported student?**

Students carrying a balance into the next term, when previously found to be non-supported by virtue of participation in an institutionally funded payment plan meeting all requirements, would be considered supported for the purposes of 85/15. If a student has a balance on the reporting date that is not covered by an institutionally supported payment plan, or otherwise guaranteed with state or non-VA federal funding, then the student is supported.

**For 85/15 rule do we count students who withdrew?**

If they were enrolled as of the first day of class, you would count them. VA does not require the school report changes after the beginning of the term/semester/enrollment period.

**Can we get clarification on supported vs. non-supported regarding ETI employee tuition assistance?**

If an employee also entitled to VA benefits may utilize the ETI employer-based tuition assistance, without having to forfeit their VA benefits to do so, then the aid is not restricted. If the non-VA students do not receive any other assistance that would be considered restricted institutional aid, then those students would not be counted as supported.

**Do all our non-supported students still need to be paid in full in the first 30 day?**

Students not paid in full by the reporting date are counted as supported.

## Institutional Aid

**Did you say that NOT restricted aid= supported? (If not using VA)?**

Restricted aid = Supported. Students using VA benefits under Title 10 and Title 38 to pay tuition, fees, and other charges are ALWAYS supported.

**For clarification, is it correct to say tuition exemptions are not considered restricted if they are offered to VA educational beneficiaries and all other students equally?**

If a VA beneficiary meeting the requirements for the aid is eligible (in policy and practice) to receive the aid without having to forfeit VA benefits to do so, then the aid is not restricted.

**If a student has their tuition and fees covered by all non-supported funds but they're not all paid by the reporting date, are they still non-supported? This is what your first example shows but wanted to confirm.**

Depends on the non-supported funds. If the non-supported funds are in the form of state or federal governmental or non-restricted governmental aid, employer tuition assistance, State 529, state prepaid program, etc. then verification of the pending award with an official award letter may be accepted as proof of funds. Any balance not covered by the award, scholarship, grant, fund must be paid in full by the reporting date or the student is supported.

**We have a temporary scholarship that we've offered for the last year (funded by COVID funds) which covered tuition (up to \$1500) for anyone whose tuition wasn't covered by other FA. Because it was tuition-specific funding, if a Ch33 student received it I couldn't also certify that tuition to the VA (since it was paid by this scholarship). Are ALL the students who received this funding considered "supported"? Could a chapter 33 beneficiary at a different benefit level (less than 100%), or under a different chapter be eligible to receive the benefit without having to forfeit their VA benefits under institutional policy and practice? If yes, then the aid is not restricted.**

**Most of our institutional aid is only applied need based. Our policies state that all students (including VA students) may be "eligible" for this aid; however, it explains that such aid may not be "applicable" if VA (100% Ch. 33 or Ch. 31) or any other 3rd party source (e.g., employer tuition remission) is paying all tuition. Is this ok that we will not apply certain need-based institutional aid if VA is paying for all tuition?**

If a VA beneficiary meeting the requirements for the aid is eligible (in policy and practice) to receive the aid without having to forfeit VA benefits to do so, then the aid is not restricted.

**Our school also waives a \$200 enrollment fee for some degree programs, but not for all students. Would that make all students in programs that received the waiver supported? Or is it non-supported because all students (both VA and non-VA) in any given program are treated the same based on their program and not on their VA status?**

If a VA beneficiary meeting the requirements may receive the exemption, then the aid is not restricted.

**We sometimes waive a drop fee for students if there are extenuating circumstances. Would this be a supported student? Or is it non-supported because all students, including VA students can pursue the waiver request process?**

Please review the [webpage](#) on restricted aid for information on this topic.

**When you say students receiving restricted aid, does that mean any amount of this aid? Or a student funded totally by restricted aid?**

Any amount of restricted aid. Please refer to the VA website resources on supported and non-supported students: [webpage](#) and the [Student Status Checklist](#).

**Just to be clear, need based aid could be considered as not restricted, correct?**

Needs based aid would be not restricted if a VA beneficiary meeting the requirements for the aid is eligible (in policy and practice) to receive the aid without having to forfeit VA benefits to do so.

**When determining institutional support, do room and board charges count? And, if yes, must the room and board charges be paid in full by the report date.**

No. Room and board are not included as “tuition, fees, and other charges” when determining institutional support for 85/15 purposes.

**What about this 85/15 scenario: The institution has a need-based grant program, and a Chapter 31 recipient has all his costs covered by VA benefits, therefore he is not be eligible for a need-based grant. Are students who receive that need-based grant considered supported?**

When a VA beneficiary meeting the requirements for the aid is eligible (in policy and practice) to receive the aid without having to forfeit VA benefits to do so, then the aid is not restricted.

**If ETI offers a scholarship exclusively for Veterans, would we count recipients of those as supported?**

- Students using VA benefits under Title 10 and Title 38 to pay tuition, fees, and other charges are ALWAYS supported.
- Students not in receipt of VA benefits under Title 10 or Title 38 are not considered VA beneficiaries for the purposes of the 85/15 rule.
- An institutional scholarship or waiver provided to a VA beneficiary under the condition that they forfeit VA benefits in exchange for that scholarship or waiver is restricted aid.

Thus, if you award non-VA beneficiary Veteran a scholarship, that you would not also give to a VA beneficiary that also meets all the qualifications for the scholarship, then the aid is restricted, and any student using that aid is supported.

**For clarification, we must report net benefits...so if we are calculating GI Benefits and are reducing the certification amount by the Institutional scholarships because they cover tuition only, even though VA students are eligible for them...they are considered restricted???**

Generally, if a VA student is eligible for an institutional scholarship, then the scholarship would not be considered restricted aid. Please reach out to the [ELR of jurisdiction](#) if you need additional information.

## Third Party Aid

**Are third party payment plans considered institutionally funded?**

If the payment plan isn't funded by the ETI, then no.

**If our NCD facility connects students with an outside financing company that provides funding for tuition, are those students utilizing that aid counted as supported or unsupported?**

When the student's account (tuition, fees, and other charges) with the ETI is paid full by the reporting date, and the funds are not furnished by the ETI or VA, the student is not counted as supported.

**Still trying to understand if Federal Stafford loans (subsidized/unsubsidized) would be considered "Supported" or "Non-Supported".**

Federal aid (other than VA funds) is not counted as supported aid for the purposes of the 85/15 Rule.

**What if the funds are pending for 529 payments on the 30th day? would that be considered supported since the funds are not physically received yet? or since we know they are coming, and its listed, they can be considered non-supported?**

Verification of the pending award with an official award letter may be accepted as proof of funds.

**Would 529 college savings plan count as third-party aid or fed/state agency? Our 529 payments typically come in after the 30th day of the term but they are listed as pending aid as they are guaranteed to get the funds. Would students with pending 529 payments be considered supported or non-supported?**

Verification of the pending award with an official award letter may be accepted as proof of funds.

**How should we report students whose FA or DoD funds did not come yet by the reporting date? Should we still report them as supported students since they have an outstanding balance (but expect funds from FA and DoD)?**

Verification of the pending award with an official award letter may be accepted as proof of funds. Any amount not covered by the Tuition Assistance must be paid in full by the reporting date or the student is counted as supported.

**An ETI has proof that the student will receive Title IV funds that will cover the full amount of tuition, fees, and other charges for the school year prior to the 85/15 reporting date. The ETI distributes the funds equally throughout but not in full until the end of the school year. Thus, the student carries a balance from enrollment period to enrollment period until the last term/semester that year. Does the ETI count all terms as non-supported (all aid is non-supported)?**

When a third party award covers the tuition, fees, and other charges in full, then the award letter alone would stand as proof of funds; however, if the award does not cover the full amount of tuition, fees and other charges, the student would be supported any time there is a balance due on the reporting date.

## Institutional Payment Plans

**Could you please expand on the payment plan? Our students can enroll through a 3rd party and will be paid by the end of the semester. So, this is considered non supported?**

Students not participating in an institutional payment plan meeting stated requirements must be paid in full by the school's 85/15 reporting date to be considered non-supported.

**If a student is enrolled in an approved institutional payment plan, do we need to monitor that they have made all payments on time throughout the term for purposes of that 85/15 calculation, or just the snapshot in time 30 days out from the term start date?**

If the ETI-funded payment plan meets the requirements as stated, the student may be counted as non-supported provided there are no other factors that would cause the student to be counted as supported.



**If a student has a monthly payment plan set up and it terminates due to non-payment, prior to the reporting date, will this student be considered a supported student?**

The ETI must follow its institutional policy. VA does not require the ETI report changes in enrollments after the first day of the term for 85/15 purposes.

**What is the reasoning behind a student who has a balance for the term and has not set up a payment plan as being counted as supported when if they set up a payment plan, they are non-supported?**

VA does not require the ETI report changes in enrollments after the first day of the term for 85/15 purposes. However, if the student has not paid in full prior to beginning training for the subsequent enrollment period, they are supported.

**If student has a payment plan to begin after graduation, are they supported or non-supported?**

If the ETI-funded payment plan meets the requirements as stated, the student may be counted as non-supported provided there are no other factors that would cause the student to be counted as supported. Please refer to the [Student Status Checklist](#) webpage for more information on the requirements for an institutionally funded payment plan, and contact your [ELR](#) for any ETI-specific questions.

**If students are on an active payment plan, following our posted policy for payment plans, are we to assume those students will follow the agreed upon payment plan due dates and we can count them as non-supported? Even if the payment plan due date exceeds the reporting date for that term.**

Please refer to the [Student Status Checklist](#) webpage for more information on the requirements for an institutionally funded payment plan, and contact your [ELR](#) for any ETI-specific questions.

**What if tuition is due 30 days after the beginning of the term? How do we account for our delinquent, supported students?**

VA does not require the ETI report changes in enrollments after the first day of the term for 85/15 purposes. However, if the student has not paid in full prior to beginning training for the subsequent enrollment period, they are supported.

**What if a student enrolls in a payment plan after the first day of the enrollment period, but before the reporting date? Our first payment plan withdrawal date is usually 28 days after the first day of the term, so students can enroll in the payment plan up until that time.**

Please refer to the [Student Status Checklist](#) webpage for more information on the requirements for an institutionally funded payment plan, and contact your [ELR](#) for any ETI-specific questions.

**We are a technical quarter-based institution. We follow a continuous training calendar and go all year round. Almost all our students are on some sort of payment plan, that lasts throughout the student's schooling and sometimes goes beyond. Does this mean all our students are supported?**

Please refer to the [Student Status Checklist](#) webpage for more information on the requirements for an institutionally funded payment plan, and contact your [ELR](#) for any ETI-specific questions.

**Do payment plans span an academic year (fall/spring) count as supported or unsupported?**

Please refer to the [Student Status Checklist](#) webpage for more information on the requirements for an institutionally funded payment plan, and contact your [ELR](#) for any ETI-specific questions.

"The payment plan explicitly requires the student to pay the outstanding balance by the end of the 85/15 reporting period (academic term or calendar quarter) (i.e., the school requires the payment plan to be paid off in full no later than the end of the term)" - Does this apply to nonstandard terms? So, a student starts a 9-week term in March but must be paid off by March 31st (not end of term) or they are supported?

For non-standard terms, the payment plan must be paid in full by the end of the 85/15 reporting period (academic term or calendar quarter) or by the end of the enrollment period, whichever is later.

## 85/15 Forms

Could the VA form 22-10215A be put back as an excel form so it can calculate the percentage again.

VA is actively exploring a solution to the issue some ETI are experiencing with performing the data entry required to submit complete and accurate reports.

These forms need to be editable. The 85/15 forms can't be edited after we've done them and when updates need to be made that is a huge burden.

The forms are editable. The reports you submit to VA must not be.

What is the effective date of the current VA Form 22-10215 (86/15)? Several different versions were distributed by VA and then we were told you must use the one dated XX YY ZZZZ not the one dated ZZ YY XXXX.

The December 2021 version of VA Form 22-10215 is the current version. You can locate links to the current forms approved for 85/15 data collection on our Reporting Requirements [webpage](#).

I tried to use the forms and the fillable pdf don't work and had to make my own. Can you make sure the form is fillable?

Please use the form available online: <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-10215-ARE.pdf>, and ensure you enable the form to allow for editing. If you are still experiencing difficulties, please check your settings.

The 85/15 Reporting pdf forms were extremely difficult to use. Please consider reverting to the former Excel sheets and allow SCOs maximum ability to adjust the sheets to meet their reporting needs--within the reporting requirements.

The Office of Management and Budget forms are approved for collection of this data; however, VA is actively exploring a technology solution to aid in submission of these reports.

Could the VA form 22-10215A be put back as an excel form so it can calculate the percentage again.

VA is actively exploring a solution that will lessen the administrative burden reported by some ETIs.

The WEAMS report has title lengths longer than what will fit within the 'Program Name' Column. In these instances, we've been using shortened titles which have been accepted previously. Some SCO's may have questions regarding the text limit in the column. Can the text limit be increased?

Thank you for the suggestion. The form blocks were initially formatted to allow for wrapped text, but this feature was lost during the approval process. VA is working to identify a solution.

**I tried to use the forms and the fillable pdf don't work and had to make my own. Can you make sure the form is fillable?**

Please use the form available online: <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-10215-ARE.pdf>. They are all editable, so if you're experiencing issues with editing the form, you may need to reach out to your IT support.

**The 85/15 Reporting pdf forms were extremely difficult to use. Please consider reverting to the former Excel sheets and allow SCOs maximum ability to adjust the sheets to meet their reporting needs--within the reporting requirements.**

The Office of Management and Budget forms are approved for collection of this data; however, VA is actively exploring a technology solution to aid in submission of these reports.

**VA has said many times that changes to the current VA Form 22-10215 (such as allowing for more characters in the programs block, correcting a mislabeled column, adding the ability to sign digitally). When will the form be corrected?**

Multiple changes/edits to the current VA Form 22-10215 were requested as early as December 2021, but no new updates have been made as of this date.

### Accredited IHL Reporting Provision (June 30, 2022)

**I received information that it would be acceptable to attach an excel spreadsheet to the Form 22-10215. Is that not true?**

Accredited IHLs were granted a provision allowing them to submit Spring 2022 reports using alternative means (a pdf document attached to the VA Form 22-10215). Please review [April 2022 Office Hours](#) slide deck for information on this provision.

**If the report is 15 pages, you want us to sign EVERY single page?**

Every page must be signed and dated.

**Where can we find the Excel version of the 85/15 report that is permissible to submit if converted to PDF?**

A template was not provided; however, the [April 2022 Office Hours](#) presentation does include more information on requirements.

**Is it true that the approval to use attached spreadsheets to the forms will expire in June 2022? If so, are you going to make the forms more usable rather than making us complete each field rather than copy and paste from our own reports?**

Accredited IHLs were granted a provision allowing them to submit Spring 2022 reports using alternative means (a pdf document attached to the VA Form 22-10215). These ETI have until June 30, 2022 to submit reports for Spring 2022. Actual report dates have not changed, and all information contained in reports should reflect 85/15 rules. VA is actively exploring a solution to the issue some ETI are experiencing with performing the data entry required to submit complete and accurate reports.

**A colleague attended the recent AACRAO conference and was told during the federal and legal updates session that schools could submit an excel sheet instead of the PDF forms if the excel sheet contained the same information on VA form 22-10215A. Can someone confirm if this is correct?**

There is a one-time provision for accredited IHLs to submit 85/15 calculations using a spreadsheet that has been saved as a pdf. The [April 2022 Office Hours](#) presentation included more information and affected ETI would have received an email from VA.

**Regarding the 85/15 when submitting the VA form 22-10215 and the excel spread sheet accompanying documentation with the list of supported and non-supported students. Does the excel spread sheet need to have an additional column that states "supported"/ non-supported? Do we still need to include the benefit being used by " supported " students in a column?**

Any reports submitted using an ETI generated spreadsheet must include all elements required for completion of the forms approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Please see, the [April 2022 Office Hours](#) presentation does include more information on requirements, and there's not requirement to include the benefit being used.

**Weren't we told that we could use our excel reports and submit them with 22-10215 form? If we do that program where we currently do not have any students will not be listed there. Could you please clarify that?**

The requirement is that the excel worksheet include all the same elements listed on the OMB approved forms, and it will need to include calculations for all approved programs or cannot be accepted.

## Miscellaneous

**Where should we be sending our 85/15?**

Submit all 85/15 reports to the [ELR of jurisdiction](#). Contact information is on our [website](#).

**Can we get a checklist that explains the 85/15, when to submit it, and how to submit it? Also, can we submit waivers?**

Please refer to the 85/15 [webpages](#) on the VA website for more information.

**Can you provide where in the Federal Register the payment plan/balance information lives?**

You can find that information by following this [link](#).

**Can we get clear directions where and how to submit waiver requests?**

Please refer to the 85/15 [webpages](#) on the VA website for more information on how to submit exemption and waiver requests.

**If I apply for 35% exemption, why do I still have to do the 85/15 reports?**

The 35 percent exemption is of reporting only. The monitoring piece is required to ensure the program enrollment ratios maintain compliance with the 85/15 Rule.

**Why doesn't VA use different reporting standards for different types of schools (non-profit/for-profit or IHL/NCD)? 85/15 is A LOT of work for SCOs at reputable non-profit IHLs with clean audits and small Veteran populations.**

The reporting standards are dictated in statute and regulation.

**How does a school go about updating there WEAMS if there are programs that we do not have anymore?**

If there are programs listed as approved in WEAMS that are listed on your most recent SAA approval letter, contact the SAA for instructions. If there are programs listed as approved in WEAMS that are not listed on your most recent SAA approval letter, contact the [ELR](#) for corrections.

**The ETI has four programs not compliant with 85/15 rules. When they do become compliant, does the ETI simply resubmit the 85/15 documentation to the ELR with a note asking that VA review the programs for compliance to have the payment suspension lifted? (The ETI did receive the 35 percent exemption.)**

The ETI may submit interim reports to the ELR of jurisdiction. Following the suspension lift, the ETI must individually compute every enrollment of a VA beneficiary to ensure the 85 percent limitation is not again immediately exceeded until the end of the term or the end of the calendar quarter, if the school is not operated on a term-basis, for which the ratio was reestablished.

**What documentation do we need to keep if our 85/15 is challenged? Specifically, the payment plan piece.**

Generally, student records should support enforcement of the ETI's published policy.

- 1) Enrollment documents and/or catalog should support the cost of the program, credits, and outline any payment plan options.
- 2) Financial documents (ledger, invoices, etc.) should record the initial amount owed and payments as they are made.

**We have campuses in three states. But each SAA seems to arbitrarily decide if our concentrations need to be listed separately. One state decided (rightly) that the concentrations in one degree, while having different "focuses" did not have different educational objectives, which meant only the degree needed to be listed. Can VA provide better directions to SAAs to make these determinations, perhaps asking the schools for assistance?**

An ETI may request that the SAA approved a concentration as a separate program; however, the SAA has authority over program approval. Please direct approval-related questions to the SAA of jurisdiction. Please note that the 85/15 Rule requires that a program's enrollment ratios be broken out for reporting purposes, even absent of a separately-approved concentration, if there is a variation in attendance, cost, equipment, length, or objective.

**If the April 85/15 report was submitted without listing VRRAPs at all (per VRRAP [FAQs](#)), does it need to be resubmitted showing them now as non-supported?**

If the information provided to VA was inaccurate, then yes, please submit the corrected information to the [ELR of jurisdiction](#) for your campus. Type CORRECTED in the subject line to alert VA that this is a correction.

The terms 'Program' and 'Course' are not synonymous at our institution. 85/15 uses 'Program' for the ratios and reports. Is it safe to presume that 'Courses' within a 'Program (Degree)' must meet the 85/15 ratio (i.e., Program: Bachelor's Degree and Course: English 100)?

As it relates to the 85/15 Rule, you are reporting enrollment in a "course of study" or "program." To use your example, the ratio of student enrollment in the bachelor's degree is the calculation required.

**A colleague attended the recent AACRAO conference and was told during the federal and legal updates session that schools could submit an excel sheet instead of the PDF forms if the excel sheet contained the same information on VA form 22-10215A. Can someone confirm if this is correct?**

There is a one-time provision for accredited IHLs to submit 85/15 calculations using a spreadsheet that has been saved as a pdf. The April 2022 Office Hours [presentation](#) included more information and affected ETI would have received an email from VA.

**If the ETI has submitted the 35% Exemption Request but has not heard back, should it no longer be routing 85/15 reports to VA but still doing the reporting internally and housing in the event of an audit? We just want to verify.**

VA is working through the 35 percent exemption requests in the order they are received. Even once granted the 35 percent exemption, the ETI must still monitor 85/15 ratios. Maintain copies of the 85/15 reports, which must be provided to VA or SAA officials upon request.

If it has been more than 90 days since the ETI has submitted the 35 percent exemption request (with required reports) and the ETI is waiting for a response, hold off on submitting additional reports but reach out to the [ELR of jurisdiction](#) to confirm the status of the request.