



~ Happy New Year! ~ Welcome to January Office Hours



Your Topics & Presenters Are:

- **REMOTE Act: COVID-19 Provision Updates - Marit Solem**
- **Isakson & Roe Section / Section 1010 Updates - Henry Moss**
- **SCO Annual Training Requirements – Heather Cates**

Important Note on Audio

VOIP Audio is Only Heard via Your Computer/Cell Phone Speakers!
If you Do Not Hear Victoria Speaking Now, either Log Out & Back in Again

OR

Use the Green Speaker Icon at the Top of Your Screen to Select Your Output Method

Today's Event Qualifies for SCO Approved Credit



Education Service
January Office Hours
School Certifying Officials

January 2022



Choose  A

REMOTE Act: COVID-19 Provision Updates



Marit Solem
Training Specialist
National Training Teams - Schools



COVID-19 Update for Students

Background:

On December 21, 2021, President Biden signed the "[Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions Act](#)" or the "REMOTE Act" into law.



COVID-19 Update for Students

What does this mean?

- Among other things, this law extends the various COVID-19 protections for GI Bill® students from **December 21, 2021, to June 1, 2022**
- In part, this means that students who were attending a course that was **converted to online training because of COVID-19**, and were getting paid the resident rate, **may continue to train online, and will continue to receive the resident housing rate until June 1, 2022**



COVID-19 Update for Students

More specifically:

Section 2 of this bill extends the following provisions in Pub. L. 116-140 and Pub. L. 116-128 until **June 1, 2022**:

- (1) continuation of resident housing rate for online training;
- (2) continuation of program approval for online training even if only approved for resident training;
- (3) payment at full-time rate of pursuit even if less than full-time (if student was enrolled as a full-time student on March 1, 2020);
- (4) Payment of Work-Study allowances during emergency situations; and
- (5) prohibition of charge to entitlement of students unable to pursue a program of education due to an emergency situation



COVID-19 Update for Students

More Specifically:

Section 5:

This section extends all COVID protections included in the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (PL 116-315) by extending the covered period from **December 21, 2021, to June 1, 2022.**

- Delimiting dates extended
- Continuation of benefits when student has been negatively impacted by training being truncated, delayed, relocated, canceled, partially canceled, converted to online training, or otherwise modified or made unavailable
- If an educational institution closes, cancels training, or has training disapproved due to COVID-19, certain entitlement used by an individual at that institution would not be charged against their overall entitlement
- Withdrawal from a school due to covered reasons as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be treated as a mitigating circumstance



COVID-19 Update for Students

More Specifically:

Section 5 continued :

- Protections to avoid negative impacts on a trainee in an on-the-job training program or apprenticeship who is unable to fulfill the 120-hour requirement due to unemployment during COVID-19 or unable to attend the program in person due to COVID-19
- VA will continue to pay educational assistance and subsistence allowances for up to an additional four weeks to eligible individuals who are enrolled in courses at an educational institution that has closed due to an emergency situation or has been suspended. Additionally, the length in time for which the 4-week period can be granted when educational institutions are temporarily closed under an established policy based on an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation changed from any 12-month period to any 6-month period.



COVID-19 Update for Students

Impact on Certifying

Continue to certify using the COVID rules (resident due to COVID)

Continue to follow COVID FAQ's here: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/covid19faqs.asp>



COVID-19 Update for Students

More information to come!

In addition, this law also modifies certain requirements of educational institutions relating to enrollment verification, exempts foreign schools from certain prohibitions, and amends the “rounding out” provision for students during their final semester, term, or academic period. These sections will be discussed as we receive further guidance.



KNOWLEDGE CHECK



Choose **VA**



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Isakson & Roe Updates

Section 1010



Henry Moss
Training Specialist
National Training Team- Schools



Section 1010 – Monthly Enrollment Verification

Verification of enrollment to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits

Beginning with terms starting on or after December 17, 2021, students enrolled at Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) facilities will be required to verify enrollment each month.* If students do not verify their enrollment for two consecutive months, monthly housing allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments will be withheld. This expansion includes those enrolled in IHL programs and those enrolled in Non-College Degree (NCD) programs at IHL facilities.

Post-9/11 GI Bill® students at IHLs have begun to receive text messages allowing them to “opt-in” to receive enrollment verification messaging via text. Beginning January 15, 2022, enrollment verification messaging will go out via text or email based on the students opt-on text status. Students may also verify enrollment by calling the Education Call Center effective January 31, 2022. **This change won’t affect NCD facility students already verifying their enrollment.**



Text Messaging

Students who choose VA’s “Opt-In” feature will receive a text message each month prompting them to verify their enrollment status



Telephone

Students who opt out of text and email may call the Education Call Center (ECC) at 888-442-4551 to verify their enrollment status

New!



Email

Students who do not Opt-In for text will be automatically enrolled in email verification and sent an automated email on the last day of the month

Monthly enrollment verification is only applicable to Chapter 33 students!



Choose  **VA**



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Section 1010 – Two Enrollment Certification Reminder

Schools are required to submit two (2) enrollment certifications for each term to ensure the beneficiary is progressing or has completed their training as certified

Note: Guidance for submitting an initial enrollment has not changed and is applicable to Chapter 33 students



The first enrollment certification should be submitted to VA after a beneficiary enrolls, up to 180 days before the start of the term



The second enrollment certification (verification) should be submitted after the school's drop-add period, but no later than 30 days after the end of the school's drop-add period

Note: For schools that do not have a drop-add period, the second enrollment certification (verification) should be submitted no less than 30 and no more than 60 days after the term begins



Section 1010 – Two Enrollment Certification

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If a beneficiary is enrolled in multiple mini terms, can a SCO submit a single certification for multiple terms?

Does VA withhold payment to schools until the second verification is completed?

WHERE TO FIND ANSWERS

- [Section 1010 – Two Certification Requirements](#)
- [August Office Hours Presentation](#)
- [Isakson and Roe Page](#)
- [Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 - Education and Training \(va.gov\)](#)



Enrollment Verification Resources and Reminders

NCD SCO: Remind students to verify their enrollment information for the month of November if they have not already done so, and/or please update their enrollment if needed!



[@GIBillEducation](#)



[@VAVetBenefits](#)



[VeteransBenefits@Messages.VA.gov](#)

Monthly Enrollment Verification Communication Toolkit

NEW RESOURCE:
[IHL SCO Enrollment Verification Toolkit](#)



[Enrollment Verification Webpage](#)



[IHL Students: How to Verify Enrollment Infographic](#)



[NCD SCO Enrollment Verification Toolkit](#)



[NCD Students: How to Verify Enrollment Infographic](#)



[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



[Vantage Point Blog](#)



Choose VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

How to Use Enrollment Verification Toolkit

Email/Newsletter Language

We strongly encourage SCOs to reach out to students with monthly reminders to verify their enrollments. This language can be shared with GI Bill beneficiaries via email, newsletter, your school's website, or other communication channels. Please feel free to tailor this to best fit your audience and how you usually communicate with them.

Initial Email

For GI Bill beneficiaries with terms starting **on or after December 17, 2021**, we recommend sending the following message as soon as the student enrolls in an IHL program.

HOW TO USE THIS CONTENT

Copy the pre-drafted language below and paste the text into your email/newsletter template. Then, right-click on the underlined text to copy the link address and re-link to the keywords in your template.

HEADLINE — Important GI Bill Requirement: Enrollment Verification

ATTACHMENT — Please attach the [How to Verify Enrollment Process Infographic](#).

BODY

Dear Student,

Beginning with terms starting on or after December 17, 2021, if you are using your Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefit at an Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) facility, you are **required to verify your enrollment** at the end of each month to **receive your Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments**. We want to help you meet this new requirement so you can continue your education without any interruption in benefits.

By verifying that you are still enrolled in the same courses or training every month, you help avoid overpayments caused by changes to your training schedule and safeguard your GI Bill entitlement by preventing entitlement charges for training you did not attend.

How to Verify Your Enrollment:

We encourage students to opt into text messaging, which is a simple, quick option for verifying monthly enrollment and ensuring you receive your MHA/kicker payments uninterrupted.

All impacted students with a US mobile phone number on file should receive an opt-in text message after being enrolled in your courses. **You must respond to that text within 14 days**. After opting in, you can simply reply to a VA text message each month to verify your enrollment.

If you opt out of text message verification or do not respond to the opt-in text, you will be automatically enrolled in email verification with the email address on file with VA.

For more information, **contact your School Certifying Official** or refer to the [enrollment verification webpage](#) where many helpful resources are highlighted, including [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

To use the pre-written Email/Newsletter Language:

- 1) Copy the pre-drafted language below and paste the text into your email/newsletter template
- 2) Then, right-click on the underlined text to copy the link address and re-link to the keywords in your template



Choose **VA**



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Enrollment Verification Contact Information Update



Note: After January 15th, students who use text verification will begin receiving texts from (855) 933-1416, instead of a 202 number

FY' 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders



Heather Cates
Training Specialist
National Training Team - Schools



FY' 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

New Training Cycle

- The new training cycle runs from October 1 thru August 31 of the following year
 - Existing SCOs have 11 months to meet their annual training requirement
- September 1-30:
 - Training window closes for existing SCOs
 - New SCO training is continuous throughout the year
- Only designated SCOs are required to complete the annual training ([22-8794 \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/22-8794));
“Read Only” SCOs listed as Points of Contact are not required to complete the training because they are not authorized to submit enrollment certifications to VA

Help with Training Portal

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/scotraininginstructions.pdf>



FY' 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Training modalities to complete annual training requirement:

- Asynchronous online training located on the [SCO Training Portal](#)
 - Mandatory training topics specific to facility type
 - PowerPoint presentations from virtual training events
- Synchronous SCO Approved Training events (virtual or in-person, instructor led) presented by or co-presented with a VA employee at:
 - Online training events
 - National or regional conferences
 - Local workshops
 - One-on-one training with the [ELR of jurisdiction](#)



FY' 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Training Compliance

- Compliance will be determined by the number of modules completed

New SCOs

- Must complete the training prior to being authorized to certify enrollments to VA
- Upon training completion, must submit training certificates with VA Form 22-8794 to the ELR of jurisdiction

Facility Type	Number of Training Modules Required
Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs)	10
Non-College Degree (NCD) Programs	10
High Schools and Residency Programs	1
OJT/Apprenticeship Programs	1
Vocational Flight	1



FY' 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Existing SCOs

Must complete one (1) mandatory self-paced online training module specific to their facility type

- Must complete three (3) elective modules using the training modality of their choice

Note: The three (3) electives are not required if only one (1) training module is needed for compliance

Facility Type	Number Required Training Modules
Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs)	4
Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) with Flight Courses	4
Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) with NCDs	4
Non-College Degree (NCD) Programs	4
Vocational Flight	4
*High Schools and Residency Programs	1
*OJT/Apprenticeship Programs	1



FY' 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

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



FY' 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training Credit - Click Here ➡

SCOs must self-certify their conference/workshop/virtual attendance to receive conference training credit. If you attended a national, regional, local, or virtual conference or workshop you must complete this form and certify your presence at each session. Attendance is recorded at every session and is maintained by the National Training Team – Compliance.

New SCO Training - Click Here ➡

All New SCOs to include On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship facilities, Vocational Flight Facilities, High Schools and Residency Programs 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. All New SCOs, with the exceptions of OJT and Apprenticeship and Vocational Flight SCOs, can start the training by clicking on the green button located under the heading IHL and NCD Facilities Course. This training consists of 10 modules and provides all the basic information to begin assisting Veterans in your educational programs. OJT and Apprenticeship SCOs, can start the training by clicking on the green button located under the heading On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship Programs. This training consists of 1 module specifically developed for OJT and Apprenticeship enrollment certifications. Vocational Flight SCOs, can start the training by clicking on the green button located under the heading Vocational Flight Courses. This training consists of 1 module specifically developed for Vocational Flight enrollment certifications. High Schools and Residency Programs, can start the training by clicking on the green button located under the heading High Schools and Residency Programs. This training consists of 1 module specifically developed for High School and Residency Program enrollment certifications.

Your Profile

It is important that this information is current and correct!

First Name *

Middle Name

Last Name *

Role *

Facility Code *

Save Changes



FY' 22 SCO Annual Training Reminders

Existing SCOs - Click Here ➡

This training is required for all Existing SCOs beginning on or after October 1 through August 31 of the following year. You are required to take the online module that corresponds with your facility type. Additionally, IHLs, NCD and Vocational Flight Facilities must take 3 electives. They can take any 3 electives of their choosing and it can be in any modality (Self-Paced/Online, Instructor Led or Virtual). OJT/Apprenticeship, High Schools and Residency Programs are only required to take 1 module that corresponds with their facility type. As each module is completed, you will be provided with a certification of completion that should be maintained in your school's records for potential verification during compliance surveys.

Legislative Changes - Click Here ➡

The purpose of this training is to explain what the Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) is and how educational institutions can register to participate in the program. It guides schools through the registration process, how to submit enrollment certifications, changes to enrollments and terminations. Although participation in VRRAP is voluntary, VRRAP's unique pay structure requires participating educational institutions to submit a Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form. This agreement binds the educational institutions to the terms of the VRRAP program. Upon completion of the training, you will have an in-depth understanding of the VRRAP program.



Common Email Inquiries & Contact Information

You must email the **Education Service Training Mailbox** at edutrainning.vbaco@va.gov if you have questions or concerns regarding:

- Issues involving SCO Approved credit & tracking your progress
- SCO Portal access and use
- Inquiries on the [Adobe Connect](#) registration & access process

Reminder: Do **NOT** send emails to the **Education Service Operations Integrity Mailbox**

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

You must register and update your information as needed

GovDelivery Support can be found [here](#)



How To Self Certify

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

Note: If you do not have a User Profile, click New User Account and follow the steps to set up your profile

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



School Certifying Official (SCO) Resources



SCO Resources

Issue	Who do I contact?			
	ELR	SCO Hotline	SAA	VBA Support Team
Updating SCOs; VA Form 22-8794	X	-	-	-
Reporting student enrollments and related changes	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 payments or Yellow Ribbon payments	-	X	-	-
Explanation of school debt creation for individual students	-	X	-	-
Hardship cases	-	X	-	-
Program revisions; new/suspended/cancelled programs	-	-	X	-
Updated catalogs and related publications	-	-	X	-
School address updates – including branch/extension updates	-	-	X	-
Changes in accreditation status	-	-	X	-
Change of ownership	-	-	X	-
Question about the functionality of the SCO Training Portal	-	-	-	X

SCO Resources

ELR Contact Information: [Education Liaison Representatives - Education and Training \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov)

SAA Contact Information: [NASAA - NASAA \(nasaa-vetseducation.com\)](https://nasaa-vetseducation.com)

SCO Hotline: Contact your ELR for the number

VBA Support Team: Support@VBATraining.org



SCO Resources

Resource	Hyperlink
Ask VA (AVA)	Home - Custom Portal (va.gov)
SCO Handbook	School Certifying Official Handbook (On-line) (va.gov)
GI Bill Website – School Resources Page	Resources For Schools Veterans Affairs (va.gov)
GI Bill Website – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	Resources And Support Veterans Affairs (va.gov)
New SCO Registration	School Certifying Official (SCO) Training - Education and Training (va.gov)
SCO Training Portal	Live Assessments (vbatraining.org)
VA-ONCE MOU	VA Once Memorandum of Understanding - (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)
VA-ONCE Quick Reference Guide	VA Once Quick Reference User Guide
Debt Management Center (DMC)	dmcedu.vbaspl@va.gov and 1-800-827-0648
Work Study	Home - Custom Portal (va.gov)
Veteran Readiness and Employment (VRE) (Chapter 31)	Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Home (va.gov)
VRE SCO Handbook	VRE SCO Handbook.pdf (va.gov)

Thank You For Your Participation!

Tentative February Office Hour
Dates Are

February 22 - 24

**All The Best
for 2022 Folks!**