



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

August 16, 2011

Dear School Official:

This letter is written to outline changes that apply to your institution or facility in relation to the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Improvements Assistance Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-377) that was signed on January 4, 2011.

Section 203 of Public Law 111-377 deemed certain programs of education to be approved for the purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) educational benefit programs (Title 38, United States Code). It also gives VA the authority to approve and disapprove certain programs of education and the ability to utilize State Approving Agencies (SAAs) for compliance and oversight of schools. Information can be found at ([Public Law 111-377](#)).

The following programs are deemed to be approved effective August 1, 2011, subject to sections 3675 (b)(1) and (b)(2), 3680A, 3684, and 3696 of Title 38, United States Code:

- Accredited standard college degree programs and non-college degree programs offered at an accredited public or accredited not-for-profit proprietary educational institution, that is accredited by an agency or association recognized for that purpose by the Secretary of Education.
- A flight training course approved by the Federal Aviation Administration that is offered by a certified pilot school that possesses a valid Federal Aviation Administration pilot school certificate.
- An apprenticeship program registered with the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) of the Employment Training Administration of the Department of Labor or a State apprenticeship agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship.
- A program leading to a secondary school diploma offered by a secondary school approved in the State in which it is operating.
- A licensure test offered by a Federal, State, or local government is deemed to be approved for purposes of this chapter.

SAAs will continue to accept notification information from new institutions, facilities and testing organizations that have programs that are deemed approved by law. SAAs will follow the provisions outlined in PL 111-377, section 203 for programs that are deemed approved. Institutions and facilities must meet or be compliant with sections 3675 (b)(1) and (b)(2), 3680A, 3684, and 3696 of Title 38, United States Code in order for VA to accept the programs.

Effective immediately, School Officials will notify VA's Education Liaison Representatives (ELRs) regarding any new programs or program modifications at the above noted institutions and facilities. Accredited public and not-for-profit institutions will no longer have

to report new standard college degree programs or changes to those standard college degree programs. Schools must continue to forward and maintain all appropriate records.

Please be advised that programs must meet the sections of the law as noted in the underlined area above to be deemed approved. U.S.C. 3680A, in part, discusses prohibited programs as those being avocational or recreational in nature. Some workforce development and continuing education programs do not meet statutory requirements, therefore education benefits would not be authorized. In addition, U.S.C. 3680A requires that all programs that are contracted be approved. The ELR will review, then approve or deny these programs. Should you have any question regarding if a program meets the deemed approved criteria, please contact your ELR.

VA may suspend or withdraw approval in institutions and facilities due to non-compliance with statutory requirements for those programs that are deemed approved. Schools and facilities would receive a letter from VA via certified mail, as usual.

All institutions and facilities noted above that have programs deemed approved should immediately report to their ELR and SAA any changes in accreditation, certification or licensure. In addition, any program changes, (other than for standard college degrees) must be reported to the ELR. The current ELR listing can be found at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/school-certifying-officials/elr.html>

Please see the attached notification form that should be utilized for modifications (by the facilities and institutions that have programs deemed approved), effective immediately. You must note if any of the programs are continuing education or contracted programs. The attached chart provides additional information. Please contact your ELR with further questions.

Sincerely,

Keith M. Wilson
Director, Education Service

Enclosures