

Purpose

The policy codifies Virginia State University's compliance with Section 103 of the Veterans Benefits Transition Act of 2018, which takes effect on August 1, 2019. Known as the Service Members Improved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress Act or the SIT-REP Act (H.R.4830), this bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to require educational institutions, in order to be eligible for educational payments, to adopt policies that prohibit penalizing student veterans for delayed disbursement of VA assistance payments to institutions on behalf of eligible student veterans, survivors, or dependents. The legislation applies to VA benefits paid directly to the school, such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Authority, Responsibility, and Duties

The Board of Visitors has delegated to the President the authority to manage the University. As such, this policy applies to the VSU President, Vice Presidents, Associate Vice Presidents, Assistant Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors, and Department Chairs. Those responsible for monitoring adherence to this and related policies are the University Bursar, the Registrar, and the University's VA Benefits Certifying Official.

Definitions

Covered individual: Any individual who is entitled to educational assistance under Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or Chapter 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Chapter 31: The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program is authorized under Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 31. It is referred to as the Chapter 31 program. It assists entitled Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap to prepare for, find, and maintain a job. It also helps entitled transitioning Service Members.

Chapter 33: The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides educational benefits to individuals who served in active duty after September 11, 2001.

Policy Statements

For those students who have been certified to use Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or Chapter 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits and whose financial obligations to the University have not been met due to delayed disbursement of GI Bill payments, Virginia State University shall not undertake the following punitive measures:

- Prevent enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty; fee
- Require the securing of alternative or additional funding; or
- Deny access to any school resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) that are available to other students that have paid their academic fees.

However, the University will require that students provide the University's VA Certifying Official with the Certificate of Eligibility and any other relevant documents needed to certify students properly.

Any covered individual will be permitted to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to Virginia State University a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

Virginia State University

Title: Protection from Delayed Veterans Affairs Payment Policy

Policy: 2600

1. The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days after the date that Virginia State University certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

This policy shall be published in the University *Catalog* and made accessible to students.

References

HR.4830 – SIT-REP Act. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4830/text>

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. "Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)." <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/>

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. "Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services: Chapter 31 Fact Sheet." <https://www.benefits.va.gov/VocRehab/docs/Ch31FactSheet.pdf>

Approvals and Revisions

Approved: _____



President

Date: _____

7/25/19