

# Tennessee State Approving Agency

Tom Morrison, Assistant Executive Director Veterans Education

Ken Hanson, Senior Director Veterans Education

# Overview

- Change to Buffalo RPO
- Catalog Approval Packets-ONLINE
- VA form 22-1998, WEAMS, & SAA forms
- Essential Catalog Items
- Education Compliance Surveys
- Recent Changes & Common Issues
- Webinars with SAA

# Buffalo Regional Processing Office (RPO)

- Buffalo is now RPO for Tennessee
  - Changed from St. Louis August 1, 2020
- Process certifications
- Focus change on details compared to St. Louis
  - May receive letters for non-approved programs etc.

# Catalog Approval Packets-ONLINE

- Now online only “Catalog Approval Packets” on THEC website
  - Will not accept hard copy of catalog or documents
- Submit Annually or Biannually if no changes
- Five tabs on webpage:
  - Important catalog requirements; IHL; NCD; Supporting Documents; Contacts
- New items on checklist (Title IV IDs)
  - OPE ID (Office of Postsecondary Education ID)
  - IPEDS ID (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System ID)
- Webpage “Catalog Approval Packet”
- <https://www.tn.gov/thec/bureaus/academic-affairs-and-student-success/veterans-education/redirect-veterans-education/catalog-approval-packets.html>

# VA form 22-1998, WEAMS, & SAA forms

- Get to know your school's VA form 22-1998
  - Similar details on WEAMS
  - Used by RPO to pay students
- Know the codes
  - Coop trng: 38 CFR 21.4233 & 4257
  - Internships/practical trng: 38 CFR 21.4265
  - Online/hybrid/independent study/distance learning; 38 CFR 21.4267
  - Colmery law, Section 302
- Non accredited schools—must provide catalog/bulletin/handbook with policies etc.

# VA form 22-1998, WEAMS, & SAA forms (Cont.)

- Annual/Bi-annual catalog approvals
  - Compare current programs to VA form 22-1998
  - Updates made SAA forms (SAA-1 IHL; SAA-2 NCD etc.)
    - Include Teach Out & withdrawals
    - Theory vs. Practical (NCD)
    - Student to teacher ratio (NCD)
    - Maintain recent version- compare once approved

# VA form 22-1998, WEAMS, & SAA forms (Cont.)

- **Complete annual/Bi-annual approval BEFORE catalog is implemented**
  - If catalog not updated, school could be suspended/withdrawn
  - If catalog is outdated, NO NEW PROGRAMS can be approved
  - Same day approvals DO NOT exist—plan ahead (3+ weeks)
- Let us know of changes to programs/catalogs
  - Loss of accreditation
  - Change of ownership
  - School moves

# Essential Catalog Items

- PL: 115-407 section 103
  - *Any covered individual will be able to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the educational institution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 (a “certificate of eligibility” can also include a “Statement of Benefits” obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) website – eBenefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for chapter 31 authorization purposes)*
  - Different than State Deferment TCA 49-7-104
- GI Bill® Trademark
  - MUST be used in all documents
  - Attestation statement:
    - GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



# Education Compliance Survey (ECS)

- Remote: current way of doing business
- FERPA & PII- ESSENTIAL
- Data transfer through SFTP for security of data
  - SAA
  - VA may have different requirements
- EO 13607- Principles of Excellence

# Recent changes & Common Issues

- 85/15
- COVID changes- December 21, 2021
- SCO handbook
  - Rev 6.2—Nov 1, 2020
- Right Now Web—No more Fax to VA
- VA Once—If not using it, recommend signing MOU
- Study abroad
  - Must be controlled by school (TnCIS)
- Colmery act: accredited NCD—distance learning

# Recent changes & Common Issues (cont)

- Section 107 recertifications
  - Complete by Dec 31, 2020
- Annual SCO training
- Annual Reporting Fee (ARF)
  - Over 100 students—separate acct
  - Use for school's effort support vets (38 CFR 21.4206)
- Must report graduation/program completion

# Questions?

# Contacts

[Veterans.Education@tn.gov](mailto:Veterans.Education@tn.gov)

**PH: 615-741-7569**