

Protecting Veteran Students When VA Payment is Delayed, Policy on

Category: Business and Finance
Responsible Office: Continuing Professional Studies

Date Established: July 29, 2019
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POLICY SUMMARY

SUNY Buffalo State will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation, and Chapter 33 Post 911. The primary purpose of this policy as it relates to section 103 of public law 115-407 is to allow the covered student time to receive stated benefits without any penalty imposed by the college.

POLICY

SUNY Buffalo State's policy permits any covered individual 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) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

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

In addition, the policy requires the following actions by the covered individual:

- submit a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance not later than the first day of a course of education for which the individual has indicated the individual wishes to use the individual's entitlement to educational assistance.
- submit a written request to use such entitlement.
- provide additional information necessary to the proper certification of enrollment by the educational institution.

Background

On December 31, 2018, the President signed the 'Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018' into law. Section 103 of this law, PL 115-407, will amend 38 US Code 3679 to add subsection (e) which contains a provision that requires a policy be adopted by any educational institution (public, private, for profit, not for profit) certifying Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation) or Chapter 33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill®) students. This law requires programs be disapproved for all VA purposes if your school is not in compliance by August 1, 2019.

Applicability

Anyone receiving Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation, and/or Chapter 33 Post 911 which can include veterans, active duty, reservists/guardsmen, and military dependents

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Definitions

A Covered Individual is any individual who is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Responsibility

Certification Officer Margaret Shaw-Burnett, Ed.D., Associate Vice President, monitors policy for the college. Brad Baumgardner, Veteran Coordinator, runs reports for late fees (as needed) to determine additions or deletion.

Procedure

Our current student database (Banner) automatically applies late fees to all student bills if a balance is due after any/all payment deadlines. Late fees are removed for any military affiliated student if original balance is unpaid as our system is unable to prevent them from being assigned. A Banner report will be run during the semester(s) for the covered students to ensure no late fees are applied. Exceptions; these student can be charged a late fee is: (a) Ch33 Post 9/11 student has less than 100% eligibility then they will be responsible for paying the remaining percentage that the VA benefit doesn't cover on their reported charges (b) Any charges that Ch31 and/or Ch33 do not cover will be the responsibility of the student such as on-campus housing, meal plans or any other non-mandatory fees

RELATED INFORMATION

Buffalo State standard late fee catalog policy:

<http://ecatalog.buffalostate.edu/graduate/finances/service-fees/>

Related Links:

Buffalo State Veteran and Military Services webpage:

<https://continuingstudies.buffalostate.edu/veteran-and-military-services>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Name: Veteran and Military Services

Office Address: SUNY Buffalo State, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Cleveland Hall 210, Buffalo, NY 14222

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APPROVAL

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Vice President for Finance and Management