

Veterans Education Certifying Officials Conference

Tuesday, July 12, 2011
Worcester State University
Certifying Official Conference



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

State Approving Agency

SAA Staff

- George O'Connor
Director for Veterans Education
- Shelley Tinkham
Director of Academic, P-16, and Veterans Policy
- Kristen Mooney
Administrative Assistant for Veterans Education
- Chris Brown
Program Specialist for Veterans Education

VA Staff



- Tom Coleman
Education Liaison Representative (ELR)

- Mark Locken
Education Compliance Survey Specialist

Overview

- The Role of the State Approving Agency (SAA)
- Brief Overview of GI Bill Chapters
- Overview of Post 9/11 Benefit
- How The Post-9/11 Affects your Campus
- Breakout Sessions
- Getting Your Campus On the Same Page
- Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services
- Closing Remarks

The Role of the State Approving Agency

Agency	Role	Contact Information
 <p>MASSACHUSETTS Department of Higher Education</p> <p>State Approving Agency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• approves institution and programs• promotes use of the GI Bill through outreach to veterans and their families.	<p>454 Broadway, Suit 200 Revere, MA 02151 617-727-9420 x1334 www.mass.edu/veterans</p>
 <p>U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• administers education benefits programs and payments	<p>1-888-GI-BILL-1 www.gibill.va.gov</p>

DHE must approve degree and certificate programs in which veterans are enrolled before the VA can pay benefits.

State Approving Agency Offices



State Approving Agency for the GI Bill

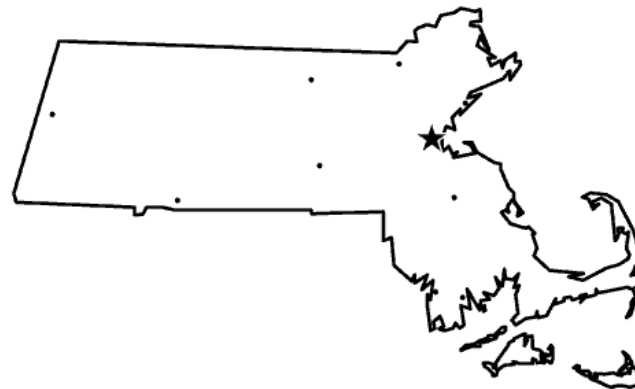


Department Of Higher Education

*(Revere Office) 454 Broadway, Suite
200, Revere, MA 02151*



Colleges / University
Trade School
On The Job Training
Flight School
Correspondence



Division of Apprentice Training

19 Staniford St, 1st Floor
Boston, MA 02114



Apprenticeship

What programs need to be approved for the GI Bill?

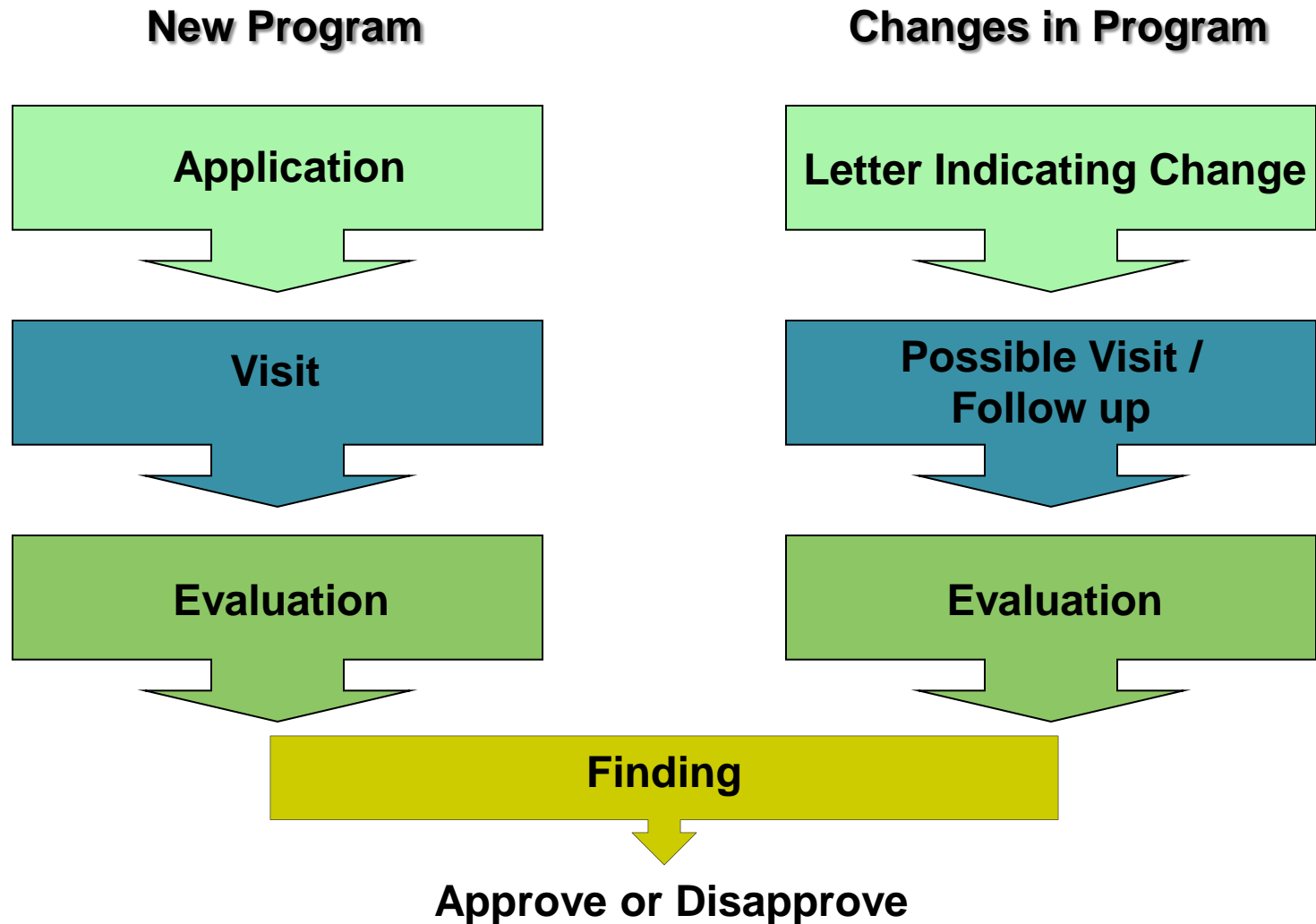
- New Organization – New Program
- Existing Organization:
 - New Program
 - Change in Program

August 1, 2011 Caveat

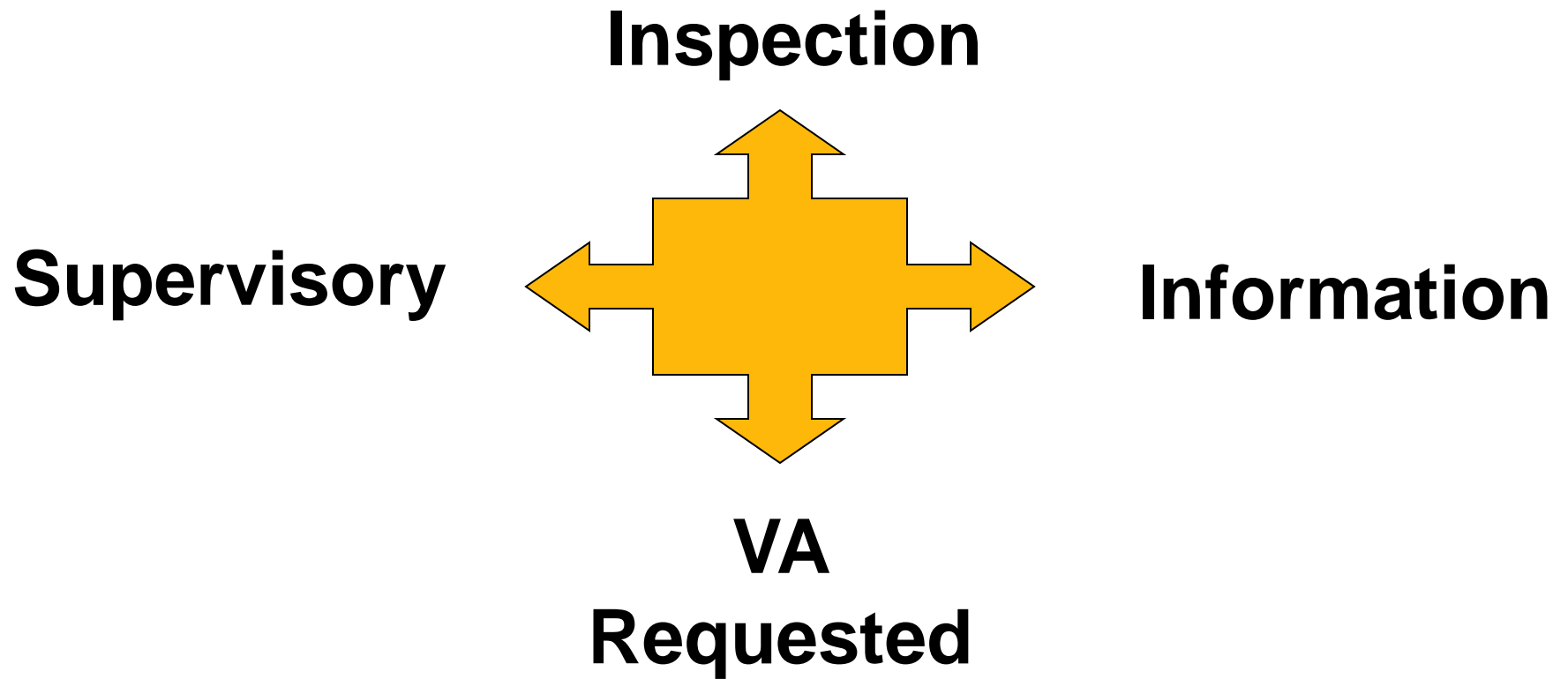
- Standard Degree Programs at Accredited Non-Profit Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Will Be Automatically Approved
- Does not include NCD/Certificate Programs
- Institutions **MUST Have Authority to Offer the Degree in Massachusetts**
- Process To Notify VA To Be Determined
 - Education Liaison Representative will have oversight

Program Approvals

Approval Process



SAA Visits



After August 1, 2011

SAA Will Also Do Compliance Visits



Site Visits

- Supervisory Visits
 - 38 U.S.C. 3675 (b). SAA must find the following:
 - (1) ...Adequate records are kept showing grades and progress, and that student meets standards...
- Compliance Visits
 - Authority: Title 38: 38 C.F.R; M-22-4
 - Oversees approved courses to ensure compliance with ALL applicable provisions and laws administered by the VA

Site Visits

Before, During, and After a Site Visit

	Member	Actions
BEFORE	Certifying Official	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Gather veterans records▪ Gather updated catalogs and/or student handbooks▪ Prepare new program approval letters, if any
	SAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Send site visit requests and confirm
DURING	Certifying Official	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Be available to ask and answer any questions▪ Sign and certify three catalogs▪ Inform SAA of any changes to approved programs
	SAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Interview certifying official▪ Review veterans records
AFTER	Certifying Official	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Contact SAA or VA for assistance—<u>ongoing</u>▪ Inform SAA of any program changes—<u>ongoing</u>▪ Follow up on any action items
	SAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Follow up on any action items▪ Complete site visit report▪ Send site visit report to VA and CO

What To Keep In a Veteran's Record

■ 38 CFR 21.4253 (d)

Military & VA Documentation

- 22-1999
- 22-1999b
- **Ch. 33**– Certificate of Eligibility*
- Any correspondence from VA relating to the student

**When available*

School Documentation

- Transcripts from ALL colleges and schools previously attended, including your school
- **Ch. 33**– Student account information for site visits and audits
- Transfer evaluations
- Copies of drops/withdrawal forms, when applicable
- Remedial/deficiency courses certified to VA
- Conduct reports
- Tuition & Fee Charges (including Financial Aid & Billing information)
- Program outline

Military Education Benefits

- The GI Bill
- Other Federal Programs
 - DOD Top Up
 - Tuition Assistance
 - Kickers
 - Buy Up
 - MYCAA
 - FRY Scholarship
 - Transferred Benefits
- Massachusetts State Programs
 - Tuition Waivers - Vets & Dependents

Chapters of the GI Bill

Chapter	Who is eligible?	Eligibility Contributions	Benefits	Types of Training Covered	Expiration of Benefits
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Duty • Veterans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid \$1,200 while on active duty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College • Non-degree, • Flight • OJT • Correspondence • Apprenticeship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years after last discharge from active duty
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members on active duty from 1/77–6/85 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly contributions of \$25 – 2,700 while on active duty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1–36 months • Veteran is refunded unused benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College • Non-degree, • Flight • OJT • Correspondence • Apprenticeship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years after last discharge from active duty
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any service member with active duty after 9/10/01 and certain dependents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 months • 48 months for some veterans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College only until 10/1/2011 • Certificate & degree programs at colleges until 10/1/2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 years from last discharge from active duty

Chapters of the GI Bill

Chapter	Who is eligible?	Eligibility Contributions	Duration of Benefits	Types of Training Covered	Expiration of Benefits
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivor's and Children of 100% disabled or deceased servicemembers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Non-degree, Flight OJT Correspondence Apprenticeship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10–14 years from date of discharge or date of eligibility
1606	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select Reservists National Guardsmen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None for basic payments, but member can elect \$600 "Buy Up" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Non-degree, Flight OJT Correspondence Apprenticeship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 years from date of eligibility
1607	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select Reservists National Guardsmen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None for basic payments, but member can elect \$600 "Buy Up" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Non-degree, Flight OJT Correspondence Apprenticeship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 years from date of eligibility

Other Federal Programs

- Veterans / Service Person
 - GI Bill (Top Up)
 - CH 30 & 33
 - If a person receives the Top-up benefit, his or her GI Bill Benefits will be reduced
 - VA payments have to be offset by TA
 - DOD Tuition Assistance
 - Available through each branch of Service
 - Per semester hour cap= \$250.00, \$4,500.00 fiscal cap per service person
 - Student driven web based enrollment system- branch specific
 - Conflicts with CH 33 and VA duplication of benefit policy
 - Consult CO Handbook for guidance in certifying a student receiving TA
 - Accounting office receives notification if a student is receiving TA funds

Other Federal Programs

- Veterans / Service Person

- Kickers

- Monetary monthly entitlement outlined in a service person's enlistment or reenlistment contract to be used in conjunction with GI Bill
- Paid directly to student for months spanning enrollment certification
- CH 30, 1606/7 eligible may use if eligible for CH 33
- Not prorated based on the rate of pursuit

- Buy Up

- CH 30, 1606/7 eligible may use if eligible for CH 33
- Service persons contribute up to \$600.00 over time to increase monthly GI Bill payments up to \$150.00.
- Similar to a "kicker," but is a benefit that is paid into for later compensation

Other Federal Programs

- Spouses
 - Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MYCAA)
 - Provides financial support to spouses of Active Duty and Activated Reserve soldiers that wish to earn an associates degree, or seeking certification and licensure tests.
 - Post 9/11 GI Bill (Transferred from Spouse)
 - Spouses of Active Duty members do not receive housing allowance benefit
 - Non-Active and veteran spouses will receive transparent benefit as if they were the veteran

Other Federal Programs

- Dependents

- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (Student May Not Know About This Program)
 - Children of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, and who are enrolled in an accredited institution may be eligible for this benefit
 - Meant to provide emergency funding for student attending while they lost their parent.
 - Provides grant to student who does not meet needs requirement of the Pell Grant
 - Student must be under 24
 - Maximum award is capped at Pell Grant Level (Approx \$5,550.00 for FY 2011)

Other Federal Programs

- Fry Scholarship
 - Children of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, are eligible for this benefit.
 - Essentially Post 9/11 benefits at 100% level excluding eligibility for Yellow Ribbon Program
- Post 9/11 (Transferred from Parent)
 - Can receive all or partial benefit of parent veteran.
 - May be subject to service commitment on veterans behalf to qualify for transfer

State Programs for Veterans

Program	Role	Eligibility / Contact
<p>Categorical/Veterans Tuition Waiver</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives only tuition at state supported programs at state supported public institutions. • Undergraduate degree or certificate programs. • Does not expire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most if not all Massachusetts veterans are eligible. <p>Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) 454 Broadway Suite 200 Revere, MA 02151 (617) 727-9420</p>
<p>National Guard Tuition & Fee Waiver</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives Tuition AND Fees at state supported programs at state supported public institutions of higher learning. • Good for up to 130 semester hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Active Massachusetts National Guard Members are eligible. <p>Massachusetts Army National Guard Education Services Office 50 Maple St Milford, MA 01757 (888) 301-3103 extensions 6753, 6762 or 7624</p>

State Programs

Program	Role	Eligibility / Contact
<p>Children of Fallen Service Member Waiver Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives full net cost of tuition and fees at state supported programs at state supported public institutions. • Undergraduate degree (Bachelor Degree) • Provides Room & Board 	<p>Parents Service Must Be Contributed to Massachusetts and Child has to be Massachusetts Resident</p> <p>Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) 454 Broadway Suite 200 Revere, MA 02151</p> <p>(617) 727-9420</p>
<p>Public Service Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays - tuition only - at state supported public institutions of higher learning. • Can be used at private independent colleges but payment is capped at U-Mass Amherst rate (Approx \$1,714.00 per year.) 	<p>Parents Service Must Be Contributed to Massachusetts and Child has to be Massachusetts Resident</p> <p>Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) 454 Broadway Suite 200 Revere, MA 02151</p> <p>(617) 727-9420</p>

Questions

