

Veterans Affairs Benefits Information

In compliance with the **Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 Public Law 116-315** (effective June 15, 2021, and will apply to Institutions of Higher Learning and Non-College Degree institutions beginning August 1, 2021.)

Section 1015: Chipola College is approved and participates in the Federal Student Aid program through Title IV of the Higher Education Act and is eligible to receive GI Bill® funds.

Section 1018: Mandates adherence to the requirements of the **Principles of Excellence**, currently in Executive Order 13607, among other requisites to maintain approval for GI Bill® participation and obligates schools that receive federal funding through programs such as the GI Bill to follow certain guidelines.

Section 1018 codifies in statute the following requirements:

- Provide students with a timely personalized **Financial Aid Shopping Sheet** covering the total cost of an education program.
- Inform students who are eligible to receive Veterans education benefits of the availability and potential eligibility of Federal financial aid before packaging or arranging private student loans or alternative financing programs.
- Avoid fraudulent and unduly aggressive recruiting or automatic renewal techniques (covered individuals must approve their enrollment in individual courses).
- Avoid misrepresentations or payment of incentive compensation.
- Must fully disclose conditions or additional requirements, including training, experience, or examinations, required to obtain the license, certification, or approval for which the course of education is designed to provide preparation.
- Provide to a covered individual enrolled in a course of education at the educational institution with information regarding the requirements to graduate from such course, INCLUDING information regarding when required classes will be offered and a timeline to graduate.
- Obtain the approval of the institution's accrediting agency for new courses or program offerings prior to enrolling students.
- Maintain a policy to accommodate Service members and reservists to be readmitted to a program if they are temporarily unable to attend class or suspend their studies due to service requirements.
- Designate a point of contact to provide academic and financial advising.

Section 1019: If a student withdraws or resigns, VA will collect tuition and fee debts from Chipola College. Students are required to pay Chipola College any outstanding balance for tuition and fees regarding this debt. Additionally, if a student withdraws or resigns from classes, students will be responsible for repaying any debts associated with the monthly housing allowance and the books and supplies stipend to VA. Before withdrawing or resigning from any class, it is strongly recommended that students consult with VA Services and the School Certifying Officer regarding potential financial liability.

Chipola College is certified by the **Florida State Approving Agency (SAA)** for training under the various U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Education and Training Programs (GI Bill ®). The college's policies and procedures are applicable to all eligible students who make application for, and receive, VA Educational or Training Assistance/Benefits under Chapters 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 1606 and 1607 while enrolled in an approved program of study. All degrees, certificates and courses offered by the college must be approved by the Florida SAA to allow payments to eligible students. Student Veterans or dependents planning to enroll at Chipola College and wishing to receive VA educational/training benefits should consult with the college's VA Services Office well in advance of registering for classes. The School Certifying Officer (SCO) will coach the veteran through the required applications and forms needed for VA benefits and/or enrollment certification. The veteran assumes responsibility for all fees at registration. However, veterans attending the college under Chapter 31 (Veteran Readiness and Employment) who have approval from the VA will have registration fees paid directly to the college by the VA. Veterans attending college under Chapter 33, also known as Post-911, will have all or a percentage of tuition and fees paid based on their length of active duty service paid directly to the college by the VA.

Veterans (students) desiring information about benefits and requirements should contact Chipola College's VA Services Office at 850-718-2437 or the VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000. Website - www.gibill.va.gov.

For VA purposes, training time is usually computed as follows:

12 or more credit hours	Full-time
9-11 credit hours	¾ time
6-8 credit hours	½ time
1-5 credit hours	less than half time

For the summer term, training time is computed differently. Veterans are advised to contact the VA Services Office before registering.

Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e)

Chipola College adopts the following additional provisions for any student using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 G.I. Bill (Ch.33) or Veteran Readiness and Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA.

Chipola College will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student;
- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class;
 - A Veteran Readiness and Employment student must provide a VA form 28-1905;
 - The Member 4 copy of the Veteran's DD214 form;
 - Provide a written request to be certified;
 - Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies.
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