

(2) However, such off-campus courses may be considered as resident institutional training only if all of the following conditions are met. The course is:

(i) Accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or is offered by a school that is accredited by one of the regional accrediting associations;

(ii) A part of the approved curriculum of the school;

(iii) Directly supervised by the school;

(iv) Measured in the same unit as other courses;

(v) Required for graduation; and

(vi) Has a planned program of activities described in the school's official publication which is approved by the State approving agency and which is institutional in nature as distinguished from training on-the-job. The description shall include at least:

(A) A unit subject description;

(B) A provision for an assigned instructor;

(C) A statement that the planned program of activities is controlled by the school, not by the officials of the job establishment;

(D) A requirement that class attendance on at least a weekly basis be regularly scheduled to provide for interaction between instructor and student;

(E) A statement that appropriate assignments are required for completion of the course;

(F) A grading system similar to the system used for other resident subjects offered by the school; and

(G) A schedule of time required for the training which demonstrates that the student shall spend at least as much time in preparation and training as is normally required by the school for its other resident courses.

(g) *Nonaccredited courses.* Any non-accredited internship program not given in a school will be recognized as other on-the-job training when it meets the requirements of § 21.4262 and when the program is required for licensure by the State in which it is offered. (See § 21.4275 for measurement.)

[41 FR 26683, June 29, 1976, as amended at 43 FR 25429, June 13, 1978; 49 FR 39545, Oct. 9, 1984; 54 FR 34984, Aug. 23, 1989; 61 FR 6783, Feb. 22, 1996]

#### § 21.4266 Courses offered at subsidiary branches or extensions.

(a) *General.* A State approving agency in approving a course offered at a subsidiary branch or extension of an educational institution may either approve the course separately from the course approved for the educational institution's parent facility (either its main campus or its principal teaching location in a State), or it may combine the approval for courses offered at the branch or extension with that for the courses offered at the educational institution's parent facility. The choice made by the State approving agency shall be governed by the provisions of this section.

(b) *Combined approval.* If the approval for the courses offered at a branch or extension is combined with the approval for the courses offered at the educational institution's parent facility, the branch or extension does not need to have its own administrative capability. In these cases the State approving agency will list the branches or extensions and the courses approved at each on the notice of approval sent to the educational institution pursuant to § 21.4258. The approval of courses offered at a branch or extension may be combined with the approval of courses offered at a parent facility only when the branch or extension is located in the same State as the parent facility and one of the following conditions exist:

(1) The course offering at the branch or extension consists of a small number of unit subjects which do not comprise a program of education or a set curriculum large enough to allow pursuit on a continuing basis;

(2) The course offering at the branch or extension is being given on a temporary basis (the educational institution is contemplating no more than a few cycles of training);

(3) The facilities at the branch or extension contain insufficient space for an administrative capability to be developed.

(c) *Separate approval.* If the course offered at a subsidiary branch or extension cannot qualify under paragraph (b) of this section for a combined approval with the courses offered at the educational institution's parent facility,

**§ 21.4267**

**38 CFR Ch. I (7-1-03 Edition)**

the State approving agency can only approve the courses separately. Such a course may not be approved if the branch or extension neither has administrative capability nor can qualify for an exception to having administrative capability.

(1) A branch or extension is considered to have an administrative capability when:

(i) The branch or extension maintains all records and accounts required by § 21.4209;

(ii) The branch or extension designates a named certifying official;

(iii) The branch or extension is able to furnish to the Department of Veterans Affairs without resort to the parent school all reports and certifications required by §§ 21.4203 and 21.4204;

(iv) The branch or extension maintains a local mailing address.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph courses may be approved separately at a branch or extension without administrative capability if the parent facility within the same State:

(i) Maintains a centralized record-keeping system;

(ii) Can identify the records of students at each branch;

(iii) Specifies the branch location when certifying enrollments.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3672, 3689(c))

CROSS REFERENCE: *Period of operation of course.* See § 21.4251.

[43 FR 35303, Aug. 9, 1978, as amended at 44 FR 62503, Oct. 31, 1979; 61 FR 26115, May 24, 1996]

**§ 21.4267 Approval of independent study.**

(a) *Overview.* Except as provided in §§ 21.4252(g), 21.7120(c), and 21.7622(f), VA may not pay educational assistance for a nonaccredited course which is offered in whole or in part by independent study. Hence, it is necessary to differentiate independent study from similar courses.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3014, 3523, 3672, 3676(e), 3680A(a))

(b) *Definition of independent study.* (1) VA considers a course to be offered entirely by independent study when—

(i) It consists of a prescribed program of study with provision for interaction between the student and the regularly employed faculty of the institution of higher learning. The interaction may be personally or through use of communications technology, including mail, telephone, videoconferencing, computer technology (to include electronic mail), and other electronic means;

(ii) It is offered without any regularly scheduled, conventional classroom or laboratory sessions; and

(iii) It is not a course listed in paragraph (c), (d), or (e) of this section.

(2) VA considers a course to be offered in part by independent study when—

(i) It is an undergraduate course;

(ii) It is not classified as one of the three types of courses listed in paragraph (c) of this section;

(iii) It has some weeks when standard class sessions are scheduled; and

(iv) It consists of independent study as defined in paragraph (b)(1) of this section during those weeks when there are no regularly scheduled class sessions.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3523, 3676(e), 3680A(a))

(c) *Scope of independent study.* VA does not consider any of the following courses to be courses offered by independent study.

(1) A cooperative course as defined in § 21.4233(a);

(2) A farm cooperative course; or

(3) A course approved as a correspondence course.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3676(e), 3680A(a))

(d) *Undergraduate resident training.* VA considers the following undergraduate courses to be resident training.

(1) A course which meets the requirements for resident institutional training found in § 21.4265(f);

(2) A course which requires regularly scheduled, standard class sessions at least once every two weeks and which has a total number of class sessions equal to the number of credit hours awarded for the course, times the number of weeks in a standard quarter or semester, as applicable;

(3) A course of student teaching; and