

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 21.7600

quarter or semester if the reservist is enrolled for the entire term, quarter or semester. VA will make a charge for the entire period of certified enrollment, if the reservist is otherwise eligible for educational assistance, except when educational assistance is interrupted under any of the following conditions:

(1) Enrollment is terminated;

(2) The reservist cancels his or her enrollment, and does not negotiate an educational assistance check for any part of the certified period of enrollment;

(3) The reservist interrupts his or her enrollment at the end of any term, quarter or semester within the certified period of enrollment, and does not negotiate a check for educational assistance for the succeeding term, quarter or semester; and

(4) The reservist requests interruption or cancellation for any break when an institution of higher learning was closed during a certified period of enrollment, and VA continued payments under an established policy based upon an Executive Order of the President or an emergency situation. In such a case entitlement will be restored unless the reservist negotiated a check for educational assistance for the certified period and does not repay the amount received.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16133(c); Pub. L. 98-525)

(e) *No entitlement charge for some reservists.* When the criteria described in this paragraph are met, there is an exception to the charges against entitlement described in paragraph (b) of this section.

(1) VA will make no charge against a reservist's entitlement when the reservist—

(i) While not serving on active duty, had to discontinue pursuit of a course or courses as a result of being ordered to serve on active duty under sections 12301(a),(d),(g), 12302, or 12304 of title 10, U. S. Code; and

(ii) Failed to receive credit or lost training time toward completion of the reservist's approved educational, professional or vocational objective as a result of having to discontinue his or her course pursuit.

(2) The period for which receipt of educational assistance allowance is not charged against a reservist's entitlement shall not exceed the portion of the period of enrollment in the course or courses for which the reservist failed to receive credit or with respect to which the reservist lost training time.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16131(c)(3))

[53 FR 34740, Sept. 8, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 51783, Oct. 5, 1993; 61 FR 29302, June 10, 1996; 68 FR 59731, Oct. 17, 2003]

COUNSELING

§ 21.7600 Counseling.

A reservist may receive counseling from VA before beginning training and during training.

(a) *Purpose.* The purpose of counseling is—

(1) To assist in selecting an objective;

(2) To develop a suitable program of education;

(3) To select an institution of higher learning appropriate for the educational or training objective;

(4) To resolve any personal problems which are likely to interfere with the successful pursuit of a program; and

(5) To select an employment objective for the reservist that would be likely to provide the reservist with satisfactory employment opportunities in light of his or personal circumstances.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 16136(b), 3233; Pub. L. 98-525)

(b) *Required counseling.* (1) In any case in which the Department of Veterans Affairs has rated the reservist as being incompetent, the reservist must be counseled before selecting a program of education. The requirement that counseling be provided is met when—

(i) The reservist has had one or more personal interviews with the counselor;

(ii) The counselor and the reservist have jointly developed recommendations for selecting a program of education; and

(iii) The counselor has reviewed the recommendations with the reservist.

(2) The veteran may follow the recommendations developed in the course of counseling, but is not required to do so.

§ 21.7603

(3) The Department of Veterans Affairs will take no further action on a reservist's application for assistance under this chapter when he or she—

- (i) Fails to report for counseling;
- (ii) Fails to cooperate in the counseling process; or
- (iii) Does not complete counseling to the extent required under paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b), 38 U.S.C. 3967(a); Pub. L. 98-525, Pub. L. 99-576)

(c) *Availability of counseling.* Counseling is available for

- (1) Identifying and removing reasons for academic difficulties which may result in interruption of discontinuance of training, or
- (2) Considering changes in career plans and making sound decisions about the changes.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b); 38 U.S.C. 3967(a); Pub. L. 98-525)

(d) *Provision of counseling.* The Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide counseling as needed for the purposes identified in paragraphs (a) and (c) of this section upon request of the reservist. In addition, the Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide counseling as needed for the purposes identified in paragraph (b) of this section following the reservist's request for counseling, the reservist's initial application for benefits or any communication from the reservist or guardian indicating that the reservist wishes to change his or her program. The Department of Veterans Affairs shall take appropriate steps (including individual notification where feasible) to acquaint reservists with the availability and advantages of counseling services.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b); 38 U.S.C. 3967(a); Pub. L. 98-525, Pub. L. 99-576)

[53 FR 34740, Sept. 8, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 9628, Mar. 7, 1991]

§ 21.7603 Travel expenses.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will not pay for any costs of travel to and from the place of counseling for anyone who requests counseling under 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606 or for whom

38 CFR Ch. I (7-1-04 Edition)

counseling is required under that chapter.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111)

[56 FR 9628, Mar. 7, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 20729, May 8, 1996]

PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION

§ 21.7610 Selection of a program of education.

(a) *General requirement.* An individual must be pursuing an approved program of education in order to receive educational assistance.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16131; Pub. L. 98-525)

(b) *Approval of a program of education.* VA will approve a program of education selected by a reservist for payment of educational assistance under 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606 if—

(1) The program accords with the definition of a program of education found in § 21.7520(b)(17) of this part,

(2) It has an educational, professional or vocational objective (as defined in §§ 21.7520(b)(7) and (28) of this part), and

(3) The courses and subjects in the program are approved for VA purposes as provided in § 21.7720 of this part.

(4) The reservist is not already qualified for the objective of the program.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b), 1671; Pub. L. 98-525)

[53 FR 34740, Sept. 8, 1988, as amended at 61 FR 20729, May 8, 1996]

§ 21.7612 Programs of education combining two or more types of courses.

An approved program may consist of courses offered by two educational institutions concurrently, or courses offered through class attendance and by television concurrently. An educational institution may contract the actual training to another educational institution, provided the course is approved by the State approving agency having approval jurisdiction over the educational institution actually providing the training.

(a) *Concurrent enrollment.* When a reservist cannot schedule his or her complete program at one educational institution, VA may approve a program of concurrent enrollment. When requesting such a program, the reservist must