

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 21.7144

under § 21.7136 or § 21.7137, as appropriate.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3032(f))

[72 FR 16982, Apr. 5, 2007, as amended at 72 FR 35662, June 29, 2007]

§ 21.7143 Nonduplication of educational assistance.

(a) *Payments of educational assistance shall not be duplicated.* An individual, entitled to educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 34, who establishes entitlement under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30, shall not be eligible to receive educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30 before January 1, 1990. An individual who is entitled to educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30 and any of the provisions of law listed in this paragraph must elect which benefit he or she will receive for the program of education he or she wishes to pursue. The provisions of law are:

- (1) 38 U.S.C. chapter 31,
- (2) 38 U.S.C. chapter 32,
- (3) 38 U.S.C. chapter 35,
- (4) 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606,
- (5) 10 U.S.C. chapter 107,
- (6) The Hostage Relief Act of 1980, (Pub. L. 96-499, 94 Stat. 1967-1974, and 5 U.S.C. 5561 note), and
- (7) The Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-399, 100 Stat. 887-889 (10 U.S.C. 2181-2185)).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3033, 3681)

(b) *Election of benefits.* The veteran must elect in writing which benefit he or she wishes to receive. The veteran may make a new election at any time, but may not elect more than once in a calendar month.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3033; Pub. L. 98-525)

(c) *Nonduplication—Federal program.* Payment of educational assistance is prohibited to an otherwise eligible veteran or servicemember—

(1) For a unit course or courses which are being paid for entirely or partly by the Armed Forces during any period he or she is on active duty;

(2) For a unit course or courses which are being paid for entirely or partly by the Department of Health and Human Services during any period that he or

she is on active duty with the Public Health Service; or

(3) For a unit course or courses which are being paid for entirely or partly by the United States under the Government Employees' Training Act.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034, 3681)

[53 FR 1757, Jan. 22, 1988, as amended at 55 FR 28389, July 11, 1990; 57 FR 15025, Apr. 24, 1992; 58 FR 46867, Sept. 3, 1993; 61 FR 20729, May 8, 1996. Redesignated at 68 FR 35180.]

§ 21.7144 Overpayments.

(a) *Prevention of overpayments.* In administering benefits payable under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30, VA will apply the provisions of § 21.4008. See § 21.7133.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034, 3690(b))

(b) *Liability for overpayments.* (1) The amount of the overpayment of educational assistance paid to a veteran or servicemember constitutes a liability of that veteran or servicemember.

(2) The amount of the overpayment of educational assistance paid to a veteran or servicemember constitutes a liability of the educational institution if VA determines that the overpayment was made as the result of willful or negligent:

- (i) False certification by the educational institution; or
- (ii) Endorsement of a veteran's or servicemember's false certification of his or her actual attendance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034, 3685)

(c) *Recovery of overpayments.* In determining whether an overpayment should be recovered from an educational institution, VA will apply the provisions of § 21.4009 (except paragraph (a)(1)) to overpayments of educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034, 3685)

CROSS REFERENCE: *Entitlement charges.* See § 21.7076(c).

[62 FR 55761, Oct. 28, 1997. Redesignated at 68 FR 35180, June 12, 2003.]

§ 21.7150

38 CFR Ch. I (7-1-08 Edition)

PURSUIT OF COURSES

§ 21.7150 Pursuit.

Except for a veteran or servicemember seeking tuition assistance top-up or reimbursement for taking an approved licensing or certification test, the veteran's or servicemember's educational assistance depends upon his or her pursuit of a program of education. Verification of this pursuit is accomplished by various certifications.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(b))

[53 FR 1757, Jan. 22, 1988, as amended at 72 FR 16982, Apr. 5, 2007]

§ 21.7151 Advance payment and accelerated payment certifications.

All certifications required by this paragraph shall be in a form and shall contain such information as specified by the Secretary.

(a) *Certification needed before an advance payment can be made.* In order for a veteran or service member to receive an advance payment of educational assistance, the application or other document must be signed by the veteran or the enrollment certification must be signed by an authorized official of the educational institution.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034, 3680(d))

(b) *Advance payments.* All verifications required by this paragraph shall be in a form and shall contain such information as specified by the Secretary.

(1) For each individual receiving an advance payment an educational institution must—

(i) Verify enrollment for the individual; and

(ii) Verify the delivery of the advance payment check to the individual.

(2) Once the educational institution has initially verified the enrollment of the individual, the individual, not the educational institution, must make subsequent verifications in order to release further payment for that enrollment as provided in § 21.7154(a) of this part.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034, 3680(d))

(c) *Accelerated payments.* (1) A veteran or servicemember is eligible for an accelerated payment only if—

(i) The veteran or servicemember submits a signed statement to the school or to VA that states "I request accelerated payment";

(ii) The veteran or servicemember is enrolled in a course or program of education or training beginning on or after October 1, 2002;

(iii) The veteran is enrolled in an approved program as defined in § 21.4200 (aa);

(iv) The charged tuition and fees for the term, quarter, or semester (or entire program for those programs not offered on a term, quarter or semester basis) divided by the number of months (and fractions thereof) in the enrollment period, exceeds the amount equal to 200 percent of the monthly rate of basic educational assistance allowance otherwise payable under §§ 21.7136 or 21.7137, as applicable;

(v) The veteran or servicemember requesting the accelerated payment has not received an advance payment under § 21.7140(a) for the same enrollment period; and

(vi) The veteran or servicemember has submitted all certifications required under § 21.7154(d) for any previous accelerated payment he or she received.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(5) of this section, VA will make the accelerated payment directly to the educational institution, in the veteran's or servicemember's name, for delivery to the veteran or servicemember if:

(i) The educational institution submits the enrollment certification required under § 21.7152 before the actual start of the term, quarter or semester (or the start of the program for a program not offered on a term, quarter or semester basis); and

(ii) The educational institution at which the veteran or servicemember is accepted or enrolled agrees to—

(A) Provide for the safekeeping of the accelerated payment check before delivery to the veteran or servicemember;

(B) Deliver the payment to the veteran or servicemember no earlier than