

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS REQUIREMENTS FOR VETERANS

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS: A student who is receiving VA educational benefits must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.000 to be considered making satisfactory progress.

PROBATION: Students who fail to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.000 shall be placed on academic probation for the next semester. If the student achieves a semester GPA of 2.000 or better during the probationary term, but has not achieved the required cumulative GPA of 2.000, the student may be continued on probation for one additional semester.

UNSATISFACTORY PROGRESS: If the student on academic probation fails to achieve a semester GPA of 2.0 at the end of the first probationary semester, the student shall be reported to the Veterans Affairs Regional Office as making unsatisfactory progress. These standards are in accordance with the Department of Veterans Affairs Code of Federal Regulations, Title 38, Part 21, Subpart D, Section 21.4277. The student will no longer be eligible for certification until the cumulative GPA is brought up to a 2.000.

A student who fails to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.000 at the end of the second consecutive probationary semester shall be reported to the Veterans Affairs Regional Office as making unsatisfactory progress.

Any student who is reported to the VA Regional Office as making unsatisfactory progress will have his/her educational benefits discontinued by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Progress is unsatisfactory if the student does not satisfactorily progress according to the regularly prescribed standards and practices of the institution he/she is attending.

A veteran must also have satisfactory attendance in order to continue receiving payment of benefits. If the veteran or eligible person is not exempt from TASP requirements and is enrolled in a mandatory remediation course, attendance in classes is required. Unsatisfactory attendance in remedial classes may result in administrative withdrawal from all courses. Administrative withdrawal will be reported to the VA Regional Office and educational benefits will be discontinued at that time.

SUMMARY OF V.A. REGULATIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The regulations of the Veterans Administration are complex, and it is very important that every student receiving veteran's educational benefits understand the major items that affect the amount of his/her payments and the potential overpayment charges the Veterans Administration may claim.

Below is a summary of some of the more important VA regulations. If you need more information about these or other items, contact your College of the Mainland veteran affairs representative. You may also visit the VA web site at www.va.gov.

EVALUATION OF TRANSCRIPTS: Students receiving veteran's educational benefits must report all previous course work and request that academic transcripts be sent from all previous schools to College of the Mainland's admission office regardless of whether you received credit for the courses. VA regulations require that all prior college credit be evaluated toward the student's current degree plan and re-evaluated if/when the student changes programs or place of training. A student receiving VA educational benefits may not receive benefits for any course for which he/she has already received credit even if the course was completed prior to the establishment of eligibility for benefits. We will certify enrollment for one semester with prior credit pending which will allow ample time for the transcript(s) to be received and evaluated.

SELECTION OF DEGREE PROGRAM: In order to receive educational benefits, VA regulations require that the student have a "predetermined and identified educational, professional or vocational objective." Benefits cannot be authorized for courses which do not lead to the completion of this objective. Therefore, prior to enrollment certification, a degree plan must be submitted to the COM VA office in the Student Financial Services suite. Courses which do not apply to the selected program are considered unrelated courses and are not eligible for benefits. Therefore, any such courses will not be certified.

NON-PUNITIVE GRADES: VA regulations prohibit payment of educational benefits for any period of training in which the grade assigned the student is not used in computing a grade point average. This applies to the following grades: **R**, **W**, and **WP** (see COM catalog - System of Grading). Usually the veteran will have already been paid for the training time before the grades are assigned. If so, the VA will notify the veteran of the overpayment and he/she is required to repay them the amount of the overpayment.

If circumstances beyond the student's control are responsible for the assignment of a non-punitive grade, he/she may file a claim form 21-4138 available on the VA web site. Submit this form to the COM VA office. This form will be submitted to the VA for adjudication.