

Department of Veterans Affairs

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of the initial decision based on an administrative review is final. The review will be conducted by the—

(1) Director, Education Service, if the Director of the VA Regional Processing Office of jurisdiction made the initial decision to continue or discontinue payments; or

(2) Under Secretary for Benefits, if the Director, Education Service, made the initial decision to continue or discontinue payments.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 512, 3034(a), 3323(a), 3680(a))

(c) *Rural relocation benefit.* VA will make the \$500 rural relocation benefit payment after—

(1) The educational institution has certified the individual's enrollment as provided in § 21.9680;

(2) The individual has provided—

(i) *Request for benefit.* An individual must submit a request for the rural relocation benefit in writing;

(ii) *Proof of residence.* (A) An individual must provide proof of his or her place of residence by submitting any of the following documents bearing his or her name and current address:

(1) DD Form 214, Certification of Release or Discharge from Active Duty; or

(2) The most recent Federal income tax return; or

(3) The most recent State income tax return; or

(4) Rental/lease agreement; or

(5) Mortgage document; or

(6) Current real property assessment; or

(7) Voter registration card.

(B) An individual using entitlement granted under § 21.9570 who, because he or she resides with the transferor or, in the case of a child, a parent, cannot provide any of the documents in paragraph (c)(2)(i) of this section, may submit any document in paragraphs (c)(2)(ii)(A)(2) through (7) of this section bearing the name and current address of the transferor or, in the case of a child, a parent as proof of residence; and

(iii) *Proof of relocation.* An individual traveling by air must provide an airline receipt for travel with a departure and destination airport within reasonable distance from the home of resi-

dence and the institution of higher learning, respectively; and

(3) VA has determined that the individual resided in a county (or similar entity utilized by the Bureau of the Census) with less than seven persons per square mile based on the most recent decennial census prior to relocation, and either:

(i) If traveling by land, physically relocated at least 500 miles, confirmed by means of a commonly available internet search engine for mapping upon entering the individual's resident address provided in paragraph (c)(2) as the beginning point and the address of the institution of higher learning as the ending point; or

(ii) If traveling by air, was unable to travel to the institution of higher learning by land due to the absence of road or other infrastructure.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3318)

(d) *Apportionments prohibited.* VA will not apportion educational assistance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3680)

(e) *Accrued benefits.* Educational assistance remaining due and unpaid on the date of the individual's death is payable under the provisions of § 3.1000 of this chapter.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5121)

§ 21.9685 Tutorial Assistance.

(a) An individual who is eligible to receive benefits under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33 may receive additional monetary assistance for tutorial services. VA will pay the individual this assistance if the tutorial assistance is necessary for the eligible individual to complete his or her program of education successfully, and the individual—

(1) Is enrolled in and pursuing a post-secondary program of education at a rate of pursuit of at least 50 percent at an institution of higher learning; and

(2) The professor or other person teaching, leading, or giving the course certifies that—

(i) Tutorial assistance is essential to correct a deficiency of the individual in such course; and

(ii) The course is required as part of, or is prerequisite or indispensable to

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the satisfactory pursuit of, an approved program of education.

(b) *Limits on tutorial assistance.* (1) VA will authorize the cost of tutorial assistance in an amount not to exceed \$100 per month.

(2) The total amount of all tutorial assistance provided under this section will not exceed \$1,200.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3314, 3323(a), 3492)

(The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection provisions in this section under control number 2900-0171)

§ 21.9690 Nonduplication of educational assistance.

(a) Except for receipt of a Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty kicker provided under 38 U.S.C. 3015(d) or a Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve kicker provided under 10 U.S.C. 16131(i), an eligible individual is barred from receiving educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33 concurrently with educational assistance provided under—

(1) 10 U.S.C. 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve);

(2) 10 U.S.C. 1607 (Reserve Educational Assistance Program);

(3) 10 U.S.C. 106a (Section 901, Educational Assistance Test Program);

(4) 38 U.S.C. 30 (Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty);

(5) 38 U.S.C. 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program);

(6) 38 U.S.C. 32 (Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance);

(7) 38 U.S.C. 35 (Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance); or

(8) Hostage Relief Act of 1980.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3322, 3323(a), 3681; section 901, Pub. L. 96-342)

(b) An individual who is eligible for educational assistance under more than one program listed in paragraph (a) of this section must specify in writing which benefit he or she wishes to receive. The eligible individual may choose to receive payment under another educational assistance program at any time, but may not change which benefit he or she will receive more

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than once during a term, quarter, or semester.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3322, 3323(a), 3681)

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

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

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

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3681)

§ 21.9695 Overpayments.

(a) *Prevention of overpayments.* In administering educational assistance payable under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33, VA will apply the provisions of §§ 21.4008 and 21.4009 to eligible individuals and, when appropriate, to institutions of higher learning.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3690(b))

(b) *Liability for overpayments.* (1) An overpayment of educational assistance paid to an eligible individual constitutes a liability of that individual unless—

(i) The overpayment was waived as provided in §§ 1.957 and 1.962 of this chapter, or

(ii) The overpayment results from an administrative error or an error in judgment. See § 21.9635(r).

(2) An overpayment of educational assistance paid to the institution of higher learning on behalf of an eligible individual constitutes a liability of the individual unless the individual never attended the term, quarter, or semester certified by the institution of higher learning. If the individual never attended the term, quarter, or semester certified by the institution of higher learning, the institution must return to VA all educational assistance received under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. chapter 33 on behalf of the individual for such term, quarter, or semester.

(3) The amount of the overpayment of educational assistance paid to the