

Memorandum

EA-VPAA-21-26
Effective Fall 2021

To: EIU Council on Academic Affairs

EIU Council on Graduate Studies

From: Brad Bennington, Registrar

Date: September 29, 2021

Subject: Catalog Changes to remain compliant with the Department of Veteran's Affairs regulations.

This memo serves as a notice of executive action regarding the addition of compliance language to our current 2021-2022 catalog concerning Department of Veteran's Affairs regulations.

The proposed location for the following compliance language is in between the "Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990" and "Other Compliances" section on page 3 of the undergraduate catalog:

Veteran Affairs Pending Payment Compliance

Section 103 of Public Law (PL) 115-407, 'Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018,' amends Title 38 US Code 3679 by adding a new subsection (e) that requires disapproval of courses of education, beginning August 1, 2019, at any educational institution that does not have a policy in place that will allow an individual to attend or participate in a course of education, pending VA payment, providing the individual submits a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under Chapter 31 or 33.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679(e), Eastern Illinois University adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post-9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from VA. Eastern Illinois University will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student;
- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class;

- Provide a written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies

In summary:

The changes indicated in this memo are required by public law and as of 8/1/2021, the VA Pending Payment Compliance policy must be incorporated into the institutions catalog/handbook. Information regarding the legislation can be found at:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-115publ407>

<https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ407/PLAW-115publ407.htm>