



# VETERANS RESOURCE OFFICE TOWN HALL

COVID-19 Current and Future impact of students, GI Bill® Benefits and enrollment moving forward.



**UtahState**University®  
VETERAN RESOURCES

# SPRING SEMESTER IMPACT

A. Based on the new law, Post 9/11 GI Bill students who pursue resident courses converted to an online modality solely due to COVID-19 will continue to receive the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) rate for resident training. The law only authorizes this special authority from March 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020.

- Note: other types of changes to the student's enrollment status may affect payments. Non COVID-19 related changes must still be reported per normal requirements.

- ▶ MHA will stay the same with the transition to online courses
- ▶ Withdrawing from courses will still fall under traditional repayment guidelines, the only exception is:

- ▶ The student contracts COVID-19 and cannot continue the course even in an online format

Depending on the length of the illness, the SCO should review the attendance and "Incomplete Grade" policy. The SCO should report the withdrawal based on the attendance policy and report COVID-19 as mitigating circumstances. The student's last day of attendance should be reported as the effective date. In these situations, the law does NOT allow VA to continue payments beyond the last day of attendance.

- ▶ A course can not be converted to online and the University administratively withdraws the student

Current law only provides protection for stoppage in training when the school ceases operations completely (temporary or permanent). The SCO must report the date that training ceased. When reporting this change using VA ONCE, the SCO should select the standard remark "COVID 19" as the reason for the cessation of the training. If using the paper VA Form 22-1999b, a termination is reported, the SCO should include "COVID-19" in the remarks section.



# SUMMER SEMESTER IMPACT

- ▶ MHA will stay the same with the transition to online courses
- ▶ Remedial/Deficiency courses can be pursued through an online modality and will be reported as a residence course
- ▶ For a course to qualify as in Residence, it has to be a course that was converted to online due to COVID-19. If a course has been offered only in an online format, it has to be reported as a distance course.
- ▶ **Flight related courses:**
  - The SCO should review the “Incomplete Grade” policy and apply that procedure if applicable. When the training can continue, the student should complete the flight lab portion without any further reporting requirements to the VA.
  - Note: The student should not be enrolled in the subsequent flight course until the “1” grade is completed in accordance with the school’s policy.
  - If the school’s “Incomplete Grade” policy is not applicable, the SCO should report withdrawal from the flight lab based on the student’s last date of attendance. The SCO should report COVID-19 as mitigating circumstances.
- ▶ Tuition and fee payments should not be affected by COVID-19 for summer semester.
  - ▶ To ensure that students are not impacted by any delayed payments by the VA, the Veterans Resource Office will be placing a contract on a students USU account reflecting the expected payment form the VA.



# MOVING FORWARD

- ▶ The Veterans Resource Office will continue to assist students to resolve any issues that arise as the result of COVID-19 as well as any issues related to online conversion of courses.
  - ▶ Please be aware that if we request additional information it is not because we doubt what you are asking. Rather, it is the additional information we will need to be able to advocate on your behalf effectively.
- ▶ You should expect a reply within 24 hrs of submitting an inquiry. Please make sure that you add [veteransresources@usu.edu](mailto:veteransresources@usu.edu) as a contact to prevent emails being lost in your clutter or junk folders.
- ▶ Mental Health concerns, understand that the results of transitioning to online only courses, COVID-19 self isolation, and the financial implications we all are feeling additional stressors at this time. Here are a few resources that might assist us during this time.
  - ▶ IHC COVID-19 Emotional Health Relief Hotline 888.442.2211 10:00am – 10:00pm 7 days a week
  - ▶ [USU Wellness Services](#)
- ▶ Other Resources.
  - ▶ [Academic Support](#)
  - ▶ [Utah Department of Veteran and Military Affairs](#)
  - ▶ Veterans Administration [COVID Response](#)
  - ▶ Audible is providing free children, young adult, classic literature listening during [COVID-19](#)
  - ▶ [Things to do with kids during COVID-19](#)
  - ▶ Working and Learning from [home](#)
- ▶ Financial Resources
  - ▶ Utah State University Covid-19 [Hardship Resources](#)
  - ▶ Utah Unemployment [Information](#)



# QUESTIONS?

- ▶ Did we miss anything?

