

June 6, 2016

VA Notice to GI Bill Students at Ashford:

As a student at Ashford University using GI Bill benefits, I wanted to contact you personally to let you know about a situation that may affect your enrollment and benefits.

The Iowa State Approving Agency, the agency that currently approves Ashford University's online program, has informed Ashford and VA of its intent to withdraw program approval on June 30, 2016, when the university formally closes its branch campus in Clinton, Iowa. Ashford has since applied for approval this week in California, the site of its main campus and corporate headquarters.

Here is what this means for you:

- The California State Approving Agency is doing its best to review Ashford's information and application quickly.
- If Ashford's online programs are not approved by the California State Approving Agency before July 1, 2016, you will be able to finish any term beginning before June 30, 2016 but you will not be able to receive GI Bill benefits for terms that begin after that date.

In order to understand the current situation, it's important to provide you a brief background. For a school or university to be approved to receive GI Bill benefits, the law requires it to be approved by its respective State Approving Agency (these are state employees working under contract to the VA). State Approving Agencies approve schools once they have achieved a number of requirements set by both federal and state law. One principal requirement is that the school must operate in the same state as the State Approving Agency.

VA, Ashford University, California, and Iowa are working together to resolve this situation with the least impact to your education plans.

While I know this may be disconcerting, I thought it important to reach out to each of you individually to be aware of this situation as soon as possible so you can make the best plans possible for your individual situation.

To help you consider your alternatives, our GI Bill Comparison Tool can assist you; you can take a look at it [here](#) and search for other programs to attend.

I will stay in contact with you by email, and let you know more details as they develop. You can also talk to us on our [Facebook page](#), or contact our Education Call Center at [1-888-442-4551](tel:1-888-442-4551) (Monday – Friday 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST).

Please feel free to pass this on to any classmates who may not have received this email.

Thank you for your service....more to follow.

Curtis L. Coy Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
[1800 G Street, NW, Suite 510](#) - Mail Stop 20E Washington, DC 20420

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Government Relations
[810 Vermont Avenue, NW · Washington, DC 20420](#)