

From: "VA Office of Economic Opportunity"

<Veteransbenefits@public.govdelivery.com<<mailto:Veteransbenefits@public.govdelivery.com>>>

Date: November 9, 2017 at 1:47:56 PM PST

Subject: Ashford University 60 Day Warning Letter

Reply-To: Veteransbenefits@public.govdelivery.com<<mailto:Veteransbenefits@public.govdelivery.com>>

I'm writing to share the latest information we have on Ashford University's (Ashford) status as a school approved for GI Bill payments for its online programs. As of the date of this message, you are still able to attend Ashford online using your GI Bill benefits; however, that all could be changing in 60 days.

At this time, Ashford's online programs are not fully compliant with GI Bill approval requirements, which may force VA to stop paying benefits for them.

For you to be eligible to receive GI Bill benefits for Ashford's online programs, Ashford must abide by certain legal requirements; namely, its online programs must be approved by the state in which its main campus is located. Although Ashford's main campus is in California, Ashford has not yet obtained approval from California, as is required by law. Consequently, Ashford must take steps to correct this problem, or VA will no longer be able to legally pay you benefits. VA has issued Ashford a "cure letter," giving them 60 days to apply for approval in the same state as their main campus, which at this time is California, or to relocate its main campus to Arizona.

What does this mean for you?

In order to avoid the disruption of benefits, VA will continue to make payments to students attending Ashford for the next 60 days, giving Ashford time to come into compliance with GI Bill approval requirements.

If Ashford doesn't come into compliance, VA will not make benefit payments after the end of the 60-day period.

VA aims to help you pursue and reach your educational goals, and strongly urges Ashford to do the right thing for GI Bill students – seek and gain approval from the appropriate SAA, which is currently the SAA in California. VA remains committed to protecting students from education institutions and schools that do not comply with Federal law.

We understand this decision may cause you hardship, and in an effort to avoid or limit that hardship, VA encourages you to contact us with questions or reach out to a VSO. Please take advantage of the resources you have available to make the best decision, including:

* Several of our Veterans Service Organization partners and Veteran community advocates can help with your decisions, answer questions, and have financial programs that can help; among them are [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), [American Legion](#), [Student Veterans of America](#), and [Veterans Education Success](#).

* Our online [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) can help you review and evaluate alternatives to Ashford and our Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST) for questions about your benefits and remaining entitlement. You may also securely email questions [here](#).

I will continue to stay in touch with any changes so you have the latest information on which to make your educational choices. I also encourage you to contact Ashford to inquire into their status with regards to their efforts to come into compliance before the 60-day deadline.

Please feel free to send this to other Ashford students you may know in case we missed them.

As always, thank you for your service.

Regards,

Curtis L. Coy
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VA Core Values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence (“I CARE”)