

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Coy, Curtis, VBAVACO** <Curtis.Coy@va.gov>

Date: Fri, Aug 4, 2017 at 2:47 PM

Subject: Ashford University Update -- You can continue to attend Ashford beyond August 16th

To:

Dear Ashford Student,

BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front): You can continue to attend Ashford beyond August 16<sup>th</sup>.

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.

**Quick recap on the background:** Based on changes to Ashford's resident programs last year, Iowa's SAA, the agency that previously approved Ashford online programs for VA benefits, found Ashford not in compliance with GI Bill approval criteria. This resulted in a court case in which the court, on July 17, 2017, dismissed Ashford's petition to remain eligible for GI Bill participation.

### **What's New?**

On August 1, 2017, Ashford filed a motion for reconsideration of the July 17th ruling with the IA District Court.

### **What does this mean for you?**

In my email to you July 20, 2017 I indicated that VA would not be able to pay benefits after Aug 16, 2017 unless Ashford took additional legal action. Ashford's motion for reconsideration will delay the Aug 16<sup>th</sup> cutoff date. ***This means that if you are enrolled in classes at Ashford, you will continue to receive benefits for classes starting beyond Aug 16, 2017 while the Court considers Ashford's motion.*** As further developments occur regarding this litigation, we will keep you updated.

I understand you may be frustrated with the back and forth of all of this. Our intent is to ensure you are informed as all of this proceeds. Your decision to continue at Ashford or to change schools is a personal one. We are committed to updating you on each development not to add to your frustration or angst, but to give you the latest information to make the decisions you need to make to pursue your educational goals.

Please take advantage of the resources you have available to make your 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](tel: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. 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.

Curtis L. Coy  
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity  
Veterans Benefits Administration  
**VA Core Values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence (“I CARE”)**

*For appointments or scheduling, please contact my office @ [OEO.VBACO@va.gov](mailto:OEO.VBACO@va.gov) or [202 443-6080](tel:202-443-6080)*

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure. Dissemination, distribution, or copying of this e-mail or the information herein by anyone other than the intended recipient or for official internal VA business is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail, and destroy the original message and all copies.