



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

In Reply Refer To: 223(ANDERSEN)

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

STEPANIE COWSERT, AVP FINANCIAL AID POLICY AND COMPLIANCE
ASHFORD UNIVERSITY
8620 SPECTRUM CENTER BLVD
SAN DIEGO CA 94061

Dear Ms. Cowsert:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), serving as the California State Approving Agency, has reviewed Ashford University's application for approval to train veterans and other eligible persons dated October 14, 2019, and all supporting documentation submitted to VA.

This approval letter is based on the following documents that were submitted to our office:

- Ashford University's application for approval.
- Ashford University's Course Catalog (2019-2020).
- Ashford University's Course Catalog Supplement (2019-2020).
- Ashford University's Supplemental Information.
- Ashford University's California BPPE Approval.
- Ashford University's Consolidated Financial Statements.
- Ashford University's Self Evaluation Report.
- Ashford University's Agency Visit Report.
- Certificate of Status issued by The State of California.
- WSCUC Letter of Accreditation.
- Samples of student records, marketing material, and diplomas.
- VA California State Approving Agency School Site Visit Report.
- VA Form 20-8206, "Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Equal Opportunity Laws".
- VA Form 22-1919, "Conflicting Interest Certification for Proprietary Schools".
- VA Form 22-8794, "Designation of School Certifying Official(s)".
- Power of Attorney Certification.
- Advance Payment Certification.

All documentation necessary to support the approval package was received as of: December 18, 2019.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), serving as the California State Approving Agency, has determined that Ashford University meets the criteria for approval for Veterans education under the provisions of Title 38, United States Code, Section 3675.

Your approval is effective **July 1, 2019** and includes:

- Catalog 2019/2020 (all academic/administrative policies included therein)
- Distance Study pursuant to 38 CFR 21.4267
- Approval of Practical Training pursuant to 38 CFR 21.4275

The programs listed below are **approved** by VA, serving as the California State Approving Agency, for the purposes of the GI Bill® under the provisions of Section 3675, Title 38, United States Code.

Programs Approved by VA (Serving as the California SAA)

#	Degree	Program Title	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #
1	AA	Associate of Arts in Military Studies	64	204; Supp. 11
2	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Accounting	120	150
3	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Applied Behavioral Science	120	190
4	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics	120	205
5	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration	120	152
6	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Business Economics	120	153
7	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Business Information Systems	120	153
8	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Business Leadership	120	154; Supp. 9
9	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies	120	206; Supp. 11
10	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Complementary and Alternative Health	120	191
11	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Consumer and Family Financial Services	120	155
12	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology	120	207
13	BA	Bachelor of Arts in eMarketing	120	156
14	BA	Bachelor of Arts in English	120	208
15	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Entrepreneurship	120	157

Programs Approved by VA (Serving as the California SAA)

#	Degree	Program Title	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #
16	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies	120	209
17	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Finance	120	157
18	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Gerontology	120	192
19	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Health and Human Services	120	193
20	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Health and Wellness	120	194
21	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Health Care Administration	120	194
22	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Health Education	120	196
23	BA	Bachelor of Arts in History	120	210
24	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Management	120	210; Supp 11
25	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Human Resources Management	120	158
26	BA	Bachelor of Arts in International Business	120	159
27	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication	120	211; Supp 11
28	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Law Enforcement Administration	120	212; Supp 11-12
29	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts	120	213
30	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Marketing	120	160
31	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Military Studies	120	214
32	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Operations Management and Analysis	120	161
33	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management	120	162
34	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government	120	215
35	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Project Management	120	163
36	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology	120	199
37	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration	120	215; Supp 12
38	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Marketing	120	164
39	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Real Estate Studies	120	164

Programs Approved by VA (Serving as the California SAA)

#	Degree	Program Title	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #
40	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Service Management	120	165
41	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Social and Criminal Justice	120	216
42	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Social Science	120	217
43	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Sociology	120	218
44	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management	120	167
45	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Supply Chain Management	120	168
46	BS	Bachelor of Science in Computer Software Technology	120	171
47	BS	Bachelor of Science in Cyber & Data Security Technology	120	172
48	BS	Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management	120	200
49	BS	Bachelor of Science in Human Services Leadership	120	201; Supp. 10
50	BS	Bachelor of Science in Information Technology	120	203
51	BS	Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN)	120	203; Supp. 10
52	BS	Bachelor of Science in Web & Mobile App Technology	120	174
53	MA	Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education Leadership	30	260
54	MA	Master of Arts in Health Care Administration	36	276
55	MA	Master of Arts in Human Services	33	278
56	MA	Master of Arts in Organizational Management	33	251
57	MA	Master of Arts in Public Sociology	30	286
58	MAcc	Master of Accountancy	48	248
59	MBA	Master of Business Administration	42	253; Supp. 13
60	MHRM	Master of Human Resource Management	39	254
61	MISM	Master of Information Systems Management	42	255

Programs Approved by VA (Serving as the California SAA)

#	Degree	Program Title	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #
62	MPA	Master of Public Administration	36	285
63	MS	Master of Science in Criminal Justice	39	287
64	MS	Master of Science in Finance	39	256
65	MS	Master of Science in Health Informatics & Analytics	39	284
66	MS	Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology	36	270
67	MS	Master of Science in Technology Management	36	257
68	PhD	Doctor of Philosophy in Education	59	298
69	PhD	Doctor of Philosophy in Human Services	62	300
70	PhD	Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Development & Leadership	62	269
71	PsyD	Doctor of Psychology	62	301

The programs listed below are **not approved** by VA, serving as the California State Approving Agency, for the purposes of the GI Bill® under the provisions of Section 3675, Title 38, United States Code.

Programs Not Approved by VA (Serving as the California SAA)

#	Degree	Program Title	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #
1	MA	Master of Arts in Psychology - Note 1	39	280
2	AA	Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education - Notes 2 & 3	120	175
3	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Child Development - Notes 2 & 3	120	177
4	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Studies - Note 2 & 3	120	178
5	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Development w/Differentiated Instruction - Notes 2 & 3	120	179
6	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education – Notes 2 & 3	120	180
7	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education Administration – Notes 2 & 3	120	182
8	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies - Notes 2 & 3	120	184; Supp 9-10

Programs Not Approved by VA (Serving as the California SAA)

#	Degree	Program Title	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #
9	BA	Bachelor of Arts in English Language Learner Studies – Notes 2 & 3	120	186; Supp. 10
10	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Instructional Design – Notes 2 & 3	120	187; Supp 10
11	BA	Bachelor of Arts in Library Science and Media – Notes 2 & 3	120	188
12	MA	Master of Arts in Counseling – Notes 2 & 3	61	273
13	MA	Master of Arts in Curriculum & Instruction - Notes 2 & 3	30	259
14	MA	Master of Arts in Psychology – Notes 2 & 3	36	279
15	MA	Master of Arts in Special Education – Notes 2 & 3	30	266
16	MA	Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology – Notes 2 & 3	30	268
17	MAEd	Master of Arts in Education – Notes 2 & 3	36	262; Supp. 13
18	MA	Master of Arts in Organizational Development & Leadership - Note 3	39	250
19	MA	Master of Arts in Leadership - Note 3	33	250
20	MPH	Master of Public Health - Note 3	42	282; Supp. 14

Note 1 – This program was replaced by another MA in Psychology and is in teach out.

Note 2 – Ashford is not listed as a Commission-Approved Educator Preparation Programs with the State of California Commission on Teaching Credentialing. Consequently, these programs fail to satisfy 38 U.S.C. § 3675(b)(3) and 3676(c)(14) or (15), as applicable, which requires both accredited and non-accredited programs that are designed to prepare an individual for licensure or certification in a state to meet any instructional curriculum licensure or certification requirements of the state in order to be approved for purposes of VA education benefits. Because Ashford is not listed as a Commission-Approved Educator Preparation Program with the State of California Commission on Teaching Credentialing, these programs do not meet the instructional curriculum licensure or certification requirements of California.

Note 3 – 38 USC §3676 (c) (1): VA acting as the CA State Approving Authority, finds the courses, curriculum and instruction are not consistent in quality, content and length with similar courses in the California public university system, with recognized accepted standards. The acting State Approving authority could not find any programs in the California public system similarly generically identified as being a degree in the respective field.

Notification of this approval will be forwarded to the Department of Veteran Affairs Education Liaison Representative staff serving California. Following their review and acceptance of the approval, program information will be updated in WEAMS. Enrollments and payments will not be processed until this approval has been accepted and updated into VA systems.

Continued Approval

Schools must comply with all pertinent state and federal regulations and remain in good standing with the appropriate accrediting bodies. Adverse actions against the school by federal or state agencies or accrediting associations may be cause for suspension of approval. Failure to notify the VA of any changes in chief administrative officer, school certifying official, location, or school name change will automatically void this approval, effective the date of the change. The institution must report to the VA any material event or circumstance that could affect the school's accreditation status, policies, staff, curricula, reputation and legal or financial status. The school is required to notify the VA within 30 days of notification of any such action or change. Failure to do so may result in immediate suspension of approval of all programs.

Schools with programs approved for the use of GI Bill® benefits are required to submit new *Catalogs* and/or *Addendums* to the VA within 30 days of publication. Failure to do so could result in the suspension of approval of programs for the use of VA education benefits.

If You Have Questions

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our SAA representatives by e-mail at ACLAPPROVALS.VBAMUS@va.gov.

Respectfully,

William L. Spruce

Bill Spruce
Acting Director
VA-California State Approving Agency