

## Policy on Protections for VA Educational Benefit Users

Maryland University of Integrative Health (MUIH) recognizes that covered individuals (see Note) using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits may encounter situations where payments to the institution and the individual are delayed through no fault of the covered individual. This policy recognizes and makes appropriate allowances for covered individuals in such situations; it applies to all University programs.

It is MUIH's policy to not impose any penalty on covered individuals using Veteran Education Benefits, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries or other institutional facilities, or the requirement to borrow additional funds to cover the student's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement of a payment by the VA. This applies to covered individuals who submit their Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for entitlement to educational assistance to their [VA School Certifying Official](#) (SCO). Covered individuals are permitted to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date a COE is provided and ending the earlier of the date on which payment from VA is made to MUIH or 90 days after the date MUIH has certified tuition and fees following receipt of the COE.

1. Students should submit a COE no later than the first day of a course for which the student wishes to use the entitlement for educational assistance. The SCO will advise the student to provide additional documentation and information necessary for the proper certification of enrollment.
2. If a student does not receive their COE from the VA by the start of the academic term, the student should notify their SCO of their intent to use Veteran Education Benefits and should submit additional documentation and forms as requested.
3. In cases where a student is unable to meet a financial obligation to MUIH because the amount of a disbursement from the VA is less than anticipated, MUIH will require additional payment from the student and will provide the student with a timeline for payment before assessing late fees. Students should contact their SCO for assistance.
4. Students may request certification for previous academic terms if they were eligible for benefits at the time for which they want to be certified. In cases where Veteran Education Benefits are used to certify previous academic terms, students are responsible for any late fees incurred prior to the date of the certification request. This excludes Yellow Ribbon benefits, which are not retroactive for previous fiscal years.

**Note:** A covered individual is any individual who is entitled to educational assistance under Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or Chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits.

This addendum is posted in accordance with the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, effective August 1, 2019.