

Reading Area Community College

Title 38 U.S.C. § 3679(e) Compliance Policy

Purpose

This policy ensures that Reading Area Community College (RACC) complies with federal requirements under Title 38 U.S.C. § 3679(e) regarding the enrollment and billing of students receiving U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) educational benefits under Chapter 31 (Veteran Readiness and Employment) or Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 GI Bill).

Policy Statement

RACC permits any covered individual to attend or participate in a course of education during the period beginning on the date the individual provides a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) (or a valid Statement of Benefits or authorization from the VA) and ending on the earlier of:

1. The date payment from the VA is received by the institution; or
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees to the VA.

Institutional Commitment

While awaiting payment from the Department of Veterans Affairs, RACC will not:

- Impose any penalty,
- Deny access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities,
- Require a student to borrow additional funds, or
- Charge late fees to covered individuals,

solely due to delayed VA payment of tuition and fees.

Student Responsibilities

To qualify for these protections, covered individuals must:

1. Submit a Certificate of Eligibility (COE), Statement of Benefits, or VR&E; Authorization Form to the RACC Financial Aid Office prior to the first day of the term (or as soon as available).
2. Submit all required documentation necessary to process enrollment certification to the VA.
3. Pay any charges not covered by VA benefits by the published billing due dates.

Institutional Practices

1. Registration Hold Requirement:

RACC applies a registration hold each semester for all veteran and covered students receiving Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 benefits. This hold ensures that student records are reviewed and updated each term to confirm continued benefit eligibility and accurate certification. The hold is released by the Financial Aid Office once required documentation (e.g., COE, term request for certification) has been received.

2. Collections Practice:

RACC does not refer veteran accounts to external collection agencies for tuition and fees covered under VA benefits, even in cases of payment delay or adjustment. Any balance not covered by VA benefits will be handled directly through the Business Office in coordination with the student and the Financial Aid Office.

Compliance Authority

This policy is established pursuant to Title 38 U.S.C. § 3679(e) and the corresponding regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It reflects RACC's institutional procedures for compliance, student protections, and responsible management of veteran educational benefits.

Effective Date

August 1, 2019

Financial Aid Director – Reading Area Community College

Registrar – Reading Area Community College