



EDUCATION SERVICE

# School Certifying Official (SCO) Training Requirements

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# Summary of Legislation

- Section 305 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also referred to as the “Forever GI Bill,” authorizes VA to establish training requirements for SCOs at “covered institutions.”
- Training requirements will be developed in consultation with the State approving agencies (SAAs).
- VA may disapprove any course of education offered by the institution if training requirements are not met.



# Summary of Legislation

- A "covered educational institution" would refer to an educational institution that has enrolled 20 or more individuals using VA educational assistance.
- An "SCO" is defined as an employee of an educational institution with primary responsibility for certifying Veteran enrollment at the educational institution.
- This section will be effective on August 1, 2018.





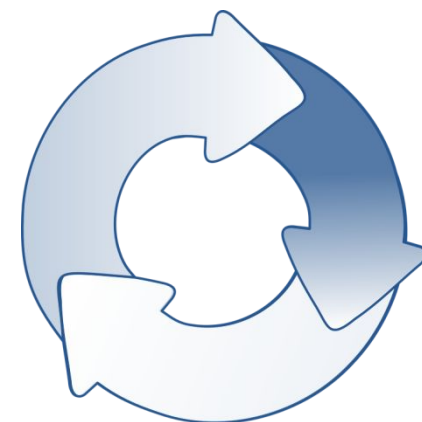
# Implementation Plan

- VA and SAAs are currently engaged in recurring conference calls to define specific training requirements.
- Training requirements must be met on an annual basis.
- VA will identify covered institutions and designated SCOs at those institutions.
- VA Form 8794, Designation of School Certifying Official(s), must be accurately maintained to ensure only SCOs performing certification duties are listed.



# Implementation Plan

- Training will be deployed in phases, with specific requirements for new SCOs.
- First phase will be for new SCOs designated on or after August 1, 2018.
- New SCO training will be completed online and will include a basic overview of VA education benefits and SCO responsibilities.





# Implementation Plan

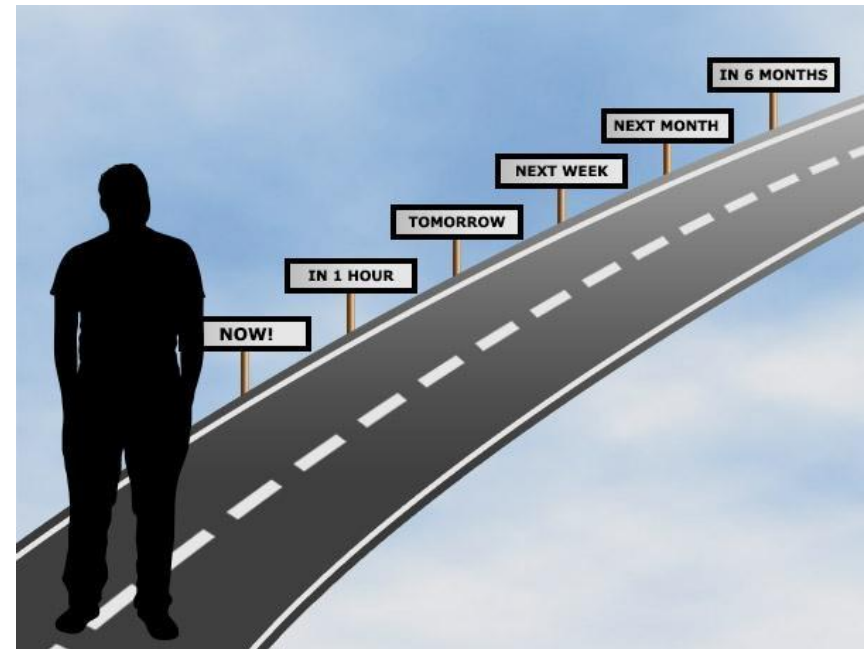
- Training requirements for all SCOs may be met by completing online micro-learning training modules, verified registration and attendance at SCO conferences, or a combination thereof.
- Subsequent phases will include diagnostic testing for experienced SCOs, the results of which may be used to satisfy annual training requirements.
- SCOs may be given specific training requirements based on the results of site visits conducted at an institution.





# Next Steps

- Continued collaboration between VA and SAA to fully develop implementation plan.
- Migrate and update existing training content into online training platform.
- Finalize communication plan to keep SCO community abreast of implementation updates.





# Questions?

