




## *HLC Accreditation Evidence*

Title: VA Principles of Excellence Program

Office of Origin: Vice President of Student Services - Financial Aid



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# VA Principles of Excellence Program




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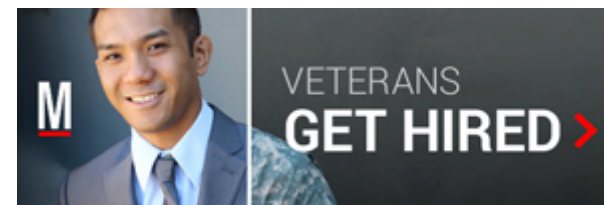
## VA for Vets

Since the Post-9/11 GI Bill became law, there have been reports of aggressive and deceptive targeting of service members, veterans, and their families by some educational institutions. For example, some institutions have recruited veterans with serious brain injuries and emotional vulnerabilities without providing academic support and counseling; encouraged service members and veterans to take out costly institutional loans rather than encouraging them to apply for Federal student loans first; engaged in misleading recruiting practices on military installations; and failed to disclose meaningful information that allows potential students to determine whether the institution has a good record of graduating service members, veterans, and their families and positioning them for success in the workforce.

The Principles of Excellence are guidelines for educational institutions receiving Federal funding. Schools that agree to participate will:

- Provide students with a personalized form covering the total cost of an education program.
- Provide educational plans for all Military and Veteran education beneficiaries.
- End fraudulent and aggressive recruiting techniques and misrepresentation.

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The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) honors the pledge that Military Service Members and Veterans made to protect our nation. As part of VA's mission to provide world-class services for the men and women who sacrifice for us, we created a dedicated career support program just for them: VA for Vets.

VA is committed to helping Veterans thrive. VA for Vets works to turn this vision into reality by offering the tools they need to launch their civilian careers at VA.

We offer:

- Provide accommodations for Service Members and Reservists absent due to service requirements.
- Designate a Point of Contact for academic and financial advising.
- Ensure accreditation of all new programs prior to enrolling students.
- Align institutional refund policies with those under Title IV.

Foreign Schools, High Schools, On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship programs, Residency and Internship programs, and those who do not charge tuition and fees were not asked to comply with the Principles of Excellence.

The VA's [Comparison tool](#) will let you see if the school you are interested in attending participates in the Principles of Excellence program.



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- Thorough military skills translation and career matching for Veterans seeking employment.
- Professional development and deployment lifecycle support for current Veteran and Military Service Member employees.
- Online training and personalized services for supervisors, hiring managers and coworkers who work with our Veteran employees every day.

Come see how VA for Vets is connecting Veterans to information, tools and resources they need to succeed: [www.VAforVets.VA.gov](http://www.VAforVets.VA.gov).

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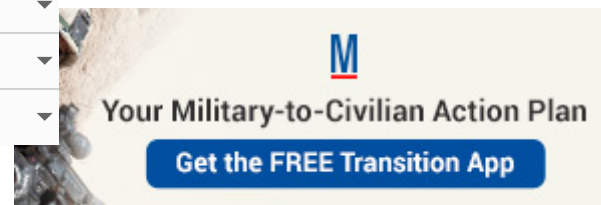
Military Spouse and Family Educational Assistance Programs



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GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE UNDER SECRETARY

January 28, 2015

Dear President:

As part of President Obama's plan to make college more affordable and ensure that students "know before they owe," the Administration has prioritized adoption of the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet (Shopping Sheet). You are receiving this letter because your institution agreed to adopt the Shopping Sheet,<sup>1</sup> but, to our knowledge, has yet to do so.

The Shopping Sheet is a single page disclosure to individual students that describes – in a standard format – the educational costs and the financial aid your institution is awarding to help those students meet those costs. Your institution may use the Shopping Sheet as a cover sheet for your institution's notification of financial aid awards or as a stand-alone notice of aid awards. Students should receive the Shopping Sheet prior to enrollment.

The Executive Order on Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members (E.O. 13607) identified an expectation for institutions to use the Shopping Sheet to provide personalized financial aid information to prospective undergraduate and graduate service members, veterans, military spouses, and other military family members. For a prospective student covered by E.O. 13607 at your institution, it should include the cost of attendance for the student's program as well as the estimated financial aid that your institution would award to that student.

Many institutions that have agreed to adopt the procedures set out in E.O. 13607 for servicemembers and their families have also indicated to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) that they will provide the Shopping Sheet to all students who participate in Federal student aid programs and are seeking to attend those institutions. Over 2,000 institutions have already adopted the Shopping Sheet, and we would like to publicly recognize every institution that is using it.

To help us keep track of the institutions that have adopted the Shopping Sheet, please e-mail the Department at [ShoppingSheet@ed.gov](mailto:ShoppingSheet@ed.gov) and indicate whether you will be supplying the Shopping Sheet to all prospective students during the 2014-15 or 2015-16 school year or, if not, whether you will be providing this information to students who are eligible to receive military and veterans' educational benefits. We will make this information publicly available on our Web page at <http://www2.ed.gov/financial-aid-shopping-sheet>.

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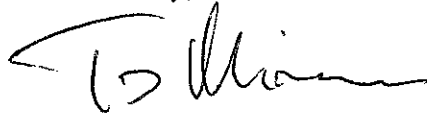
<sup>1</sup> In accordance with your arrangements with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, or under the Principles of Excellence Executive Order 13607.



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Thank you for your support and continuing effort to provide clear, useful information to inform students' educational choices. Please direct any questions about the Shopping Sheet to [ShoppingSheet@ed.gov](mailto:ShoppingSheet@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Ted Mitchell  
Under Secretary of Education

cc: Financial Aid Administrator