

THE BULLETIN

The official newsletter of The Veterans Resource Center



IN THIS ISSUE

NEW MONTHLY ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION REQUIREMENT

- OPT IN VIA TEXT MESSAGE
- OPT IN VIA CALL CENTER

ISAKSON AND ROE REQUIREMENTS

THE REMOTE ACT

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS

MEET STAFF AND UPCOMING EVENTS

New Monthly Enrollment Verification Requirement

by *Michelle Evans*

Associate Director of Financial Aid

Veterans School Certifying Official

Starting December 17, 2021 all students using Chapter 33 (post 9/11) GI BILL Educational Benefits, who receive a Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments will be required to monthly verify their enrollment status, to continue receiving their payments.

You will be required to verify monthly enrollment to receive your Monthly Housing Allowance for terms starting on or after December 17, 2021.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Via Text Message

Easiest and fastest Method

To opt-in contact the Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to ensure the VA has your mobile phone number. After opting-in, you can verify your enrollment by responding to a text message from the VA.

NOTE: the VA will never ask for your personal information, for example, social security number or bank account number via text.



Via Education Call Center

Contact the Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) and ask the representative to verify enrollment on your behalf.

NOTE: Wait times may be high due to the number of students verifying each month.



If you opt-out of text verification and later change your mind, or need to change your mobile number, call the ECC at 1-888GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)

FAILURE TO VERIFY ENROLLMENT:

If you fail to verify your information for two consecutive months, your monthly payments will be placed on hold. You will then have to take additional steps to verify your enrollment and have the payments released.

Isakson and Roe Requirements

What you need to know?

Section 1018 of Public Law 116-315, Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, adds new requirements for educational institutions participating in the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). See how Cuesta has implemented this information here.

The REMOTE Act

On December 21, 2021, President Biden signed the [Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions Act](#) or the REMOTE Act into law.

What does this mean for a student using the GI BILL?

Section two of this law extends the various COVID-19 protections for GI Bill® students from December 21, 2021, to June 1, 2022. In part, this means that students who were attending a course that was **converted to online training because of COVID-19**, and were getting paid the resident rate, **may continue to train online, and will continue to receive the resident housing rate until June 1, 2022.**

Additionally, **Section 4:** Amends 38 U.S.C. § 3680(a) to authorize “rounding out” for GI Bill students during their final semester, term, or academic period starting January 1, 2022, which allows them to enroll in additional classes in order to be more than half-time, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to pay benefits for the additional classes as well. This is only allowable during the student’s final semester, term or academic period.

- **Section 5:** Extends all COVID protections included in the [Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020](#) (PL 116-315) by extending the covered period from December 21, 2021, to June 1, 2022

The VA notified GI Bill students regarding this legislation. More information will be shared as it becomes available. To learn more, visit our [website](#) and read the [COVID-19 School Certifying Official FAQs](#).

If you are GI Bill student and have any questions about your benefits, please call the Education Call Center at 888-442-4551 between 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Central Time, Monday-Friday to speak with a representative.

School Supplies Available on Campus at Cuesta



SCHOOL SUPPLIES - PHOTO BY DARLENE AZEVEDO

If you are in need of school supplies, please contact veterans@cuesta.edu

Supplies are limited. They are located on campus, at both the North County and SLO Campus sites.

Some available supplies include: Blue Books, highlighters, pencils, notebooks, rulers, 3x5 cards, folders, and college ruled paper.

Scientific Calculators, Rocketbooks, and Smart Pens available for checkout in the Library



Are you taking a statistics class? Do you need a scientific calculator? We have some available for YOU!

Or maybe you need some short cuts with taking notes? We have Rocketbooks and Smart Pens too!

Check one out at the Cuesta College Library.

To request equipment for check out, [please fill out this form](#) and e-mail it to veterans@cuesta.edu

If you are enrolled in a class this Spring 2022, you qualify for funding!

Check out our [Financial Aid website](#) for opportunities available for emergency funding!

Meet Staff

Michelle Evans

*Associate Director of Financial Aid
Veterans School Certifying Official*



Hello, my name is Michelle and I am the Associate Director of Financial Aid and School Certifying Official. Do you have questions about financial aid or certifying your education benefits? If you want to chat I am here to help. As a Navy Veteran I used a lot of resources while in school and in my local community. Cuesta and SLO County have a variety of supports available for **YOU!**

805-592-9321

michelle_evans@cuesta.edu

Welcome to Spring 2022 from the Counseling Office

Andrea Devitt

*Cuesta College Counselor
Veterans Counselor*



My name is Andrea Devitt and I am the Veterans Counselor at Cuesta College. I have had the opportunity to meet with many of you already and I am looking forward to meeting with all of you this semester. I am available for Zoom, in-person, and phone appointments this semester. Please click on the link below to schedule an appointment. I am also available by email and phone if you have a quick question. Looking forward to a great semester.

Kindly,

Andrea

VA Counselor

adevitt@cuesta.edu

805-592-9964

<https://www.cuesta.edu/student/student-services/counseling/assistance-help/index.html>

Upcoming Events



CASH FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION WORKSHOP

GET ASSISTANCE FROM FINANCIAL AID EXPERTS!

Attend this **FREE** virtual workshop to receive assistance in completing the FAFSA, Dream Act, Cal Grant, and Scholarship applications.

Thursday, February 10, 2022 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Registration is easy!

[Click here to let us know you will be there!](#)

To complete your FAFSA or Dream Act application, please bring:

- Driver's license (optional)
- Parent(s)/adoptive parent(s) date of birth
- Parent(s)/adoptive parent(s) marital status
- Both student and parent(s)/adoptive parent(s) Social Security Number (do not use an ITIN # for FAFSA application)
- Permanent Resident number (Green Card), if applicable
- Student and parent(s)/adoptive parent(s) 2020 W-2 forms
- Student and parent(s)/adoptive parent(s) 2020 income tax return (if filed)

If you are unable to attend this event, complete your forms yourself at fafsa.gov or dream.csac.ca.gov

Questions? Call (805) 546-3143 or email finaid@cuesta.edu

Almost anyone, regardless of income, qualifies for financial assistance.