Beware of Education Program Scams

Veterans Benefits Administration personnel can help stop wrongdoers who submit false records and engage in other deceptive tactics to defraud VA and exploit veterans.

Know the SIGNS

- Non-college degree schools bundle multiple courses into a single program for trades in which civilians typically register for individual courses. Steep program costs further reduce the likelihood of civilian enrollment in these bundled programs.
- Bundling may also attempt to disguise that at least some of the courses are recreational in nature and ineligible for VA education benefits.
- Tuition rates far exceed those of similar institutions in the same geographic area.
- Tuition rates for veterans include expensive equipment that civilian enrollees are unlikely to purchase due to prohibitive costs.
- The veteran student population in any approved course is 80 percent or more, just meeting the 85/15 rule.
- Veterans live impractical distances from the school when enrolled in an in-residence program.

Take Action to Protect Beneficiaries:

- Avoid providing schools with advance notice of VA’s targeted risk-based reviews or other surveys when avoidable if they are suspected of noncompliance.
- During school compliance survey visits, obtain and preserve multiple civilian student files and conduct veteran and civilian student interviews when possible.
- Obtain the names of students not supported by VA when evaluating 85/15 compliance.
- Alert a supervisor and report suspected crimes to the VA Office of Inspector General.

Related RESOURCES

- VA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FRAUD TOOLKIT
- VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION EDUCATION AND TRAINING INFORMATION

SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

www.vaoig.gov/hotline
800.488.8244
VA Inspector General Hotline (53H)
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20420

SCAN HERE FOR VA OIG HOTLINE