

VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS PROTECTIONS

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) complies with Title 38 U.S. Code 3679(e), which provides protections to students receiving VA education benefits under Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment), Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 GI Bill), or Chapter 35 (Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program). This policy affirms that such students will not be penalized while awaiting VA tuition and fee payments.

II. General Statement of Policy

- A. The policy of the College is to permit any covered individual, defined as a student who is entitled to educational assistance under Chapters 31, 33, or 35, to attend or participate in a course of education during the period beginning on the date the individual provides the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:
 - i. The date on which payment from the VA is made to the institution, or
 - ii. 90 days after the institution has certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the Certificate of Eligibility (COE).
- B. During this time, WDTC will not impose any penalty, including late fees, denial of access to classes, or other institutional facilities, or require the covered individual to borrow additional funds to meet their financial obligations.

III. Definitions

- A. "Covered Individual" is a student who is entitled to educational assistance under Chapters 31, 33, or 35 of Title 38 of the United States Code.
- B. "Certificate of Eligibility (COE)" is a document issued by the VA that confirms a student's eligibility for benefits under Chapters 31, 33, or 35.

IV. Reporting Procedures – None

V. Dissemination of Policy and Training

- A. This policy shall appear on the WDTC website on the policy webpage.
- B. The College shall train employees responsible for student billing, registration, and VA certification on an annual basis to ensure compliance with this policy and proper communication with covered individuals.

Legal Reference: [Title 38 U.S. Code § 3679\(e\)](#)

Pending September 2025 Board Approval