



IMPORTANT VETERANS UPDATE

September 14, 2016

Updates & Resources from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs VA on ITT Technical Institute Closure:

An email was sent out to students attending ITT Technical Institute on September 6, 2016 announcing that it has discontinued operations at all campuses.

Here are a few updates on resources available for students to use to re-map their plans to continue their education and otherwise overcome the school's sudden closure. We are contacting and working with our partners at Veteran Service Organizations, Department of Education, the State Approving Agencies, and others to make students aware of all potential resources that are available to assist students in achieving their educational goals.

As a reminder, VA can no longer pay for housing allowance until the student is enrolled in another GI Bill® approved educational institution. Students should also be aware that there is the possibility an overpayment was created in your account. Students that already had enrollments submitted for an upcoming term may have already received benefits (books and supplies) for a term they are now unable to complete. If this happened, they will receive a letter from VA explaining actions to take in order to resolve any potential issue.

If you are a GI Bill® user who also has federal student loans, you need to make decisions about what to do next; if you transfer you may not be able to receive a "Closed School Discharge" of your federal student loans. The Department of Education shared this on their site:

- If you are currently or were recently enrolled at ITT, you may be eligible to have your federal student loans for your program at ITT discharged. Your federal loan debt will be wiped away and you will have the option of restarting your education somewhere new. We will post and update information about how to receive a discharge at our ITT announcements page.
- If you wish to continue and complete your program at a different school – especially if you are close to graduating – you may be able to transfer your credits. It is important to note that transferring your credits may limit your ability to have your federal loans discharged. Closed school discharge may be an option if you enroll in a different program that does not accept your ITT credits

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Here is an updated list of Ohio and National resources available:

- Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools (www.scr.ohio.gov). The SBCCS has posted on their website noting more detailed information for ITT students.
- Ohio Department of Higher Education (www.ohiohighered.org)
- GI Bill® Comparison Tool on the www.gibill.va.gov website can help you review & compare alternatives to ITT.
- Contact Student Veterans of America. They have a network of over 1,400 student chapters at colleges and universities and their staff can provide answers to your questions. They have a website specifically for you with contact information. Their website is www.studentveterans.org.
- The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has an announcements page with information on how former ITT students can continue their education, apply for closed school loan discharges, retrieve student records, and more. They will continue to update this information for affected students. ED has several webinars planned – more information on those at the link - and VA will be participating to answer your questions. Their website is www.ed.gov.
- If you took out a federal student loan to supplement your GI Bill®, you may be eligible for a “Closed School Discharge,” of that loan but you need to be aware of when to apply. Veterans Education Success (www.veteranseducationsuccess.org) has more on this on their website. Click “Advice to ITT Students.”

Debt Waiver for GI Bill® benefits received:

If you are a veteran or family member using GI Bill® educational benefits you may apply for a debt waiver by accessing the link below. It is important that the subject of the letter say “Request a Waiver.” Veterans need to address in the letter that the debt was due to mitigating circumstances due to rapid closure of ITT Technical Institute. Make sure students complete their financial statement to accompany letter.

http://www.va.gov/debtman/Submit_A_Waiver_Request.asp

The VA will continue to look for ways to assist veterans in overcoming this obstacle and will continue to provide updates. If you know any students or former students not receiving our emails, please pass this information along. As always, the VA Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST) for questions about your GI Bill® benefits, any overpayments, and remaining entitlement. You can also join the conversation on the VA Facebook page or follow them on Twitter @VAVetBenefits.