

SUBJECT: Announcement – New DoD Voluntary Education Institutional Compliance Program

Dear Participating Institution,

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is pleased to announce the kickoff of the Department's new Voluntary Education Institutional Compliance Program (ICP).

In September of 2014, the Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education Program received specific recommendations from the Government Accountability Office in its Report No. 14-855, "DOD EDUCATION BENEFITS: Action is Needed to Ensure Evaluations of Postsecondary Schools Are Useful." In response, DoD took action to develop and execute a more efficient, focused, and all-encompassing review process of the educational programs and services provided to the military community.

The new DoD Voluntary Education ICP was developed based upon the Department's requirements and using best practices from across industry and government to ensure a rigorous, transparent evaluation of educational institutions, focusing on compliance with the tenets of the DoD Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). By signing the MOU, each of you has agreed to abide by a set of behaviors, processes, and policies – all focused on improving services delivered to military-connected students. These will be the focus of the DoD Voluntary Education ICP.

Following a request for proposals, the Department selected Price Waterhouse Coopers to serve as the DoD's third-party assessment team. With government oversight, it will meet current compliance needs, build a solid foundation for compliance in the future, and activate a compliance culture across the DoD Voluntary Education community.

The DoD anticipates that Voluntary Education's new ICP will usher in an era of cooperation and shared values in support of the professional and personal development and the eventual successful transition of Service members to the civilian workforce. In the coming months, DoD will communicate with all stakeholders, especially our valued educational institutions, to facilitate a clear understanding of the compliance factors that are most important to the DoD and the standardized, consistent review and assessment methodologies that will be employed.

Because so many educational institutions participate in the annual symposium for the Council of College and Military Educators, DoD plans to preview the Department's new Voluntary Education ICP during a general session of the symposium in Atlanta, Georgia, on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. Session participants will learn how the ICP was developed and receive an overview of ICP requirements that will apply to all educational institutions participating in the DoD Voluntary Education Program. The session will also provide an opportunity to ask questions and address concerns.

Be sure to check www.dodmou.com periodically for DoD Voluntary Education Program updates on items of interest, including the resources section. This section hosts notices, bulletins, and presentations that could be useful to participating institutions.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bilodeau
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