



Greetings from the Washington Student Achievement Council's State Approving Agency. The WSAC/SAA staff is still working remotely and will be for the foreseeable future. The best way to reach us is via email at laurab@wsac.wa.gov.

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, the WSAC/SAA continues to approve new programs and Apprenticeship organizations, provide technical assistance to veterans and training facilities, as well as performing remote Compliance Surveys to approved Apprenticeship Training Organizations. Currently there are 89 registered Apprenticeship Programs in Washington State approved for the use of GI Bill® education benefits (this includes three new registered programs approved in Fiscal Year 2020. As of December 31, 2020, there are approximately 1,088 veterans (and other eligible persons) participating in the GI Bill® Apprenticeship and OJT programs in Washington state.

The WSAC/SAA is hosting a Zoom call on January 28, 2021 at 2:00 PM for all interested Apprenticeship Certifying Officials. If you have not received the Zoom information, contact us and we will be happy to send it to you. This will be a "Back to Basics" call with enrollment and certification training for new and advanced Certifying Officials.

ZOOM LOG ON:

Topic: APP/OJT SCO Update

Time: Jan 28, 2021 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81622554752?pwd=TE5HQ1AwQ2htWVdhRVJkK0J2TGhhUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 2255 4752

Passcode: 989864

One tap mobile

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 816 2255 4752

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81622554752?pwd=TE5HQ1AwQ2htWVdhRVJkK0J2TGhhUT09>

During this pandemic, we are continuing to conduct remote compliance surveys. If we contact your organization for a remote survey, your cooperation is appreciated. We know it is a lot of work to gather and copy the records and we appreciate all the efforts on the part of the apprenticeship programs in Washington State.

As a reminder to those Apprenticeship Programs that are approved and certifying hours for VA benefit payments – please only certify paid OJT hours that apply towards the standards of apprenticeship. Unpaid RSI hours should not be certified to the VA for benefits. Additionally, please ensure that you verify hours submitted by apprentices to ensure they are accurate before submitting to the VA!

A list of currently Apprenticeships and On-the-Job training programs may be found at: http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_locator.asp.

The WSAC/SAA would like to express its thanks to all of the currently approved Apprenticeships who have shown their support and dedication to our nation's veterans.

If your Apprenticeship program is not currently approved, we welcome the opportunity to work with you in the approval process. Please contact us at SAAInfo@wsac.wa.gov to request an application for approval. The application process has been streamline for “deemed approved” apprenticeships, most of the information we require is contained within your Standards of Apprenticeship. Approval of your Apprenticeship Program can be a valuable recruitment and retention tool, while assisting our veterans to utilize this well-deserved benefit. We look forward to working with you!

“GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.”