

(F) 2019 12 June: Procedural and System Advisory: Processing Guidance for the Rogers STEM Scholarship

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Procedural and System Advisory: Processing Guidance for the Rogers STEM Scholarship

June 12, 2019

Purpose: To provide guidance to all Regional Processing Offices (RPOs) regarding the processing of section 111 of the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, Public Law 115-48, referred to as the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship (Rogers STEM Scholarship).

Background: The Rogers STEM scholarship provides up to 9 months or \$30,000 of additional Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to eligible individuals that have used or will use all their educational assistance within 180 days of application. The eligible individual must be enrolled in a STEM program leading to an undergraduate degree and must have completed at least 60 semester credit hours; or the individual has earned a STEM undergraduate degree and is enrolled in a teaching certification program. In addition, this advisory requires the creation of a TIMS Processing Queue and the establishment of routing rules at each of the RPOs.

RPO Impact: Effective on or after August 1, 2019, the Buffalo RPO will begin processing all applications and enrollments received for the Rogers STEM Scholarship.

- If a Veteran is applying for or using the Rogers STEM Scholarship, the Buffalo RPO will be the office of jurisdiction over this claim and all STEM related claim activity, regardless of the program location or the Veteran's home address.
- If a Veteran has not exhausted their Chapter 33 benefits and is still actively using them prior to using their Rogers STEM scholarship, the office of jurisdiction will be based on traditional procedures until those benefits are exhausted, at which point Buffalo will become the office of jurisdiction.

STEM claims can be identified by a check box in *Part II – Your Program Information* on the *Request for Change of Program or Place of Training* (VA Form 22-1995) and STEM enrollments will be identified with a "STEM" designation, (STEM1999 and STEM1999B). If a VCE discovers additional correspondence (i.e. VAI, 0820, 119 or CORRA) with STEM related information, please route the claim token to the "STEM BUFFALO" TIMS Queue.

When STEM related claim documents and/or inquiries arrive in the Muskogee, Buffalo, or St. Louis RPOs, the following should occur:

1. Review the claim to confirm if other pending documents exist such as: 1999(b), 119, CORRA. VCE should complete all non-STEM related actions.
2. Once non-STEM work is completed PCLR pending End Product (EP).
3. Route claim to 'STEM BUFFALO'
4. If development work is required, please complete all required action and leave a CT message 'Development pending.' The claim will be routed back to the VCE once STEM processing is complete.

RPO Benefit: This guidance is to provide direction to the RPOs on how to handle any Rogers STEM Scholarship claims, and to ensure they are placed under the Buffalo STEM team's control in a timely manner.

What RPO Action is Needed: Each RPO is required to establish a new TIMS Queue for STEM claims. This queue is designated "STEM BUFFALO" and must be established no later than June 17, 2019. Users from the Buffalo STEM team will be responsible for the daily monitoring of this queue.

Questions: If you have any questions, please direct them to the Colmery Team mailbox at VAVBAWAS/FOREVERGIBILL.

V/R

Executive Management Team Education Service

You can view this article at:

https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/55440000001048/content/554400000117795/F-2019-12-June-Procedural-and-System-Advisory-Processing-Guidance-for-the-Rogers-STEM-Scholarship?query=sTEm