Education Service

**Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act**

**Section 111 of PL 115-48**

Edith Nourse Rogers Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship

Lesson Plan



December 2019

Version 1.0

| Topic | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Time Estimate: | 60 minutes |
| Purpose of the Lesson: | The purpose of this lesson is to provide the Regional Processing Offices (RPOs) with general information about the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship, a provision of Section 111 of Public Law 115-48, the Colmery Act, Forever GI Bill |
| Prerequisite Training Requirements: | None |
| Target Audience: | Entry-level, intermediate, or journey-level Veterans Claims Examiners (VCE), Education Case Managers (ECM) and their supervisors. |
| Lesson References: | * Harry W. Colmery Act PL 115-48 * 38 U.S.C 3320: Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship * 38 CFR 21.9520 * 38 U.S.C. 3695 |
| Lesson Objectives: | * Explain the basis for Section 111 (Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship) * Summarize basic eligibility under Section 111 * Identify the office of jurisdiction for STEM claims * Distinguish claims impacted by Section 111 * Employ processing guidelines for STEM claims |
| What You Need: | Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, Section 111 of PL 115-48. Edith Nourse Rogers Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship PowerPoint |
| Post Training Requirements: | Participants are required to complete an online lesson assessment and survey in Talent Management System (TMS). |

Instructor Notes

The lesson will provide Regional Processing Offices (RPOs) general information about the Edith Nourse STEM Scholarship, why it was established, who will benefit, how they are eligible, where it will be processed and what to do if a claim is received.

| PowerPoint Slides | Instructor Activities |
| --- | --- |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **1**  **INTRODUCE** yourself as the instructor and introduce any fellow instructors.  **INTRODUCE** the lesson. |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **2**  **READ** the Overview of Today’s Training |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **3**  **READ** the lesson Objectives |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **4**  **DESCRIBE** The STEM scholarship namesake’s (Edith Nourse Rogers) accomplishments |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **5**  **EXPLAIN the basis for the STEM scholarship. Training in the high demand fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math typically requires more credit hours than other fields. The Rogers STEM Scholarship offers students the opportunity to finish their STEM degree program or teaching certification with significantly less student debt or out-of-pocket costs.**  **The Scholarship provides a maximum of nine months or $30,000 whichever is met first.** |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **6**  **DISTINGUISH** Eligibility. Students might be eligible if they are enrolled in a STEM program which will lead to an undergraduate degree or have completed a STEM undergraduate degree and are enrolled in a teaching certification program. There are credit hour requirements and the STEM program must be a VA approved program. |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **7**  **SUMMARIZE there is a cap on funds per fiscal year therefore there are a maximum of scholarship recipients per year. Those chosen to receive the scholarship will have up to 2 years from the date of application to begin using funds.**  **Priority is given to individuals who require the MOST credit hours and are entitled to CH33 at the 100% benefit level.** |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **8**  **INDICATE** the STEM scholarship is not applicable to Transfer of Entitlement. Only the Veteran or Fry Scholar are eligible for STEM.  STEM is paid at the benefit level last held at the time of exhaustion. Any call up(s) after exhaustion will not change the benefit level. IE. Exhaust at 60%, STEM paid at 60%.  The 48-month rule applies to STEM, therefore if they have used 45 months of combined entitlement, they would only be able to receive up to 3 months of STEM.  The school can pay Yellow Ribbon however VA will not match. |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **9**  **IDENTIFY** office of Jurisdiction. Any STEM application, enrollment or activity should be processed at the Buffalo RPO by the specialized team regardless of the program location or the Veteran’s home address.  After a STEM claim has been adjudicated in Buffalo and the claimant is deemed ineligible, the claimant will return to the RPO of jurisdiction based on established rules. The claimant must reapply for STEM. Exhausted entitlement is only one of the determining factors of STEM eligibility. |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **10**  **DISTINGUISH a STEM Claim. They are identified by a checkbox on the VA22-1995 in Part 2, a STEM enrollment being a STEM 1999 or STEM 99B, or any other type of correspondence annotated as STEM** |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **11**  **EXPLAIN** the processing steps if a STEM related document is received. Check first for any pending documents. Complete all non-STEM related actions and PCLR the pending EP. Then route the claim to the ‘STEM Buffalo’ queue. |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **12**  **SHARE** resources used are found via the links shown. |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **13**  **SUMMARIZE** |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **14** |
|  | **DISPLAY** slide **15**  **CONFIRM** that thestudents know how to access the assessment and survey in TMS.  **EXPLAIN** that the assessment is TMS# and will cover what they learned in class today.  **REMIND** them that they must complete both the assessment and the survey in order to receive credit in TMS for their training. |

Questions about this training should be directed through your supervisor and management or Training Coordinator to the [National Training Team-Processing](mailto:EDUOPERMGMT.VBAVACO@va.gov)