



CSAAVE

CALIFORNIA STATE APPROVING AGENCY FOR VETERANS EDUCATION

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FACT SHEET

TO ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING WESTWOOD COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA USING THE GI BILL

January 25, 2016

Today the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) withdrew approval for four California educational institutions owned and operated by Alta Colleges, Inc. (Alta), doing business as Westwood College (Westwood), located in Anaheim, Upland, Los Angeles, and Torrance. Withdrawal of approval precludes Westwood from receiving Veterans' GI Bill education benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA).

The California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE), a division of CalVet, sent a Withdrawal of Approval notification to USDVA's San Diego Regional Office and to all Westwood College campuses.

In November 2015 Alta publicly announced it was closing all California Westwood College campuses. November 23, 2015, as required by Code of Federal Regulations (38 CFR §21.4259), CSAAVE issued a Notice of Suspension of Approval to all California Westwood campuses owned and operated by Alta. The suspension allowed Westwood 60 days to demonstrate that Westwood met the approval standards prescribed by law.

Alta notified CSAAVE that the Westwood schools intend to continue and/or complete the ongoing educational programs for students currently enrolled. Alta did not provide the required documentation and CalVet was unable to verify Westwood's compliance by the January 23, 2016, deadline. Consequently, CSAAVE has withdrawn approval for California Westwood campuses.

HOW THE WITHDRAWAL AFFECTS YOU:

Withdrawal of CSAAVE approval means USDVA will not pay education benefits for your enrollment at a Westwood College in California. GI Bill benefits may be utilized by Veterans and eligible dependents (such as spouses and children) only at approved institutions.

You are encouraged to visit the GI Bill Website at www.gibill.va.gov to access the GI Bill Comparison Tool which streamlines information into an easy-to-use online tool that provides information to calculate benefits and research approved programs, tuition/fees, housing allowance, graduation, and loan default rates.

All questions regarding eligibility and payment of GI Bill benefits must be directed to USDVA at **1-888-GIBILL1**.

"CalVet takes very seriously our duty to ensure California Veterans receive the education and training they are paying for with their earned GI Bill benefits," said Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary, Veterans Services, at CalVet. "Our swift action removes uncertainty for Veteran students and allows them to move forward in finding alternatives for continuing their educational path while protecting their GI Bill benefits."

VA AUTHORITY:

USDVA administers the GI Bill and makes all determinations related to Veteran education benefit eligibility and payments. USDVA also regulates entitlements paid to Veterans and performs all calculations. All questions regarding eligibility and payment of GI Bill benefits must be directed to USDVA at **1-888-GIBILL1**.

CalVet is unable to answer questions or provide assistance with issues regarding eligibility or payment of VA education benefits.

SUMMARY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Effective January 25, 2016, CSAAVE has withdrawn approval for all Alta Colleges, Inc. institutions in California doing business as Westwood College.
- USDVA will not pay GI Bill education benefits at an unapproved institution.
- Only USDVA can provide assistance or address questions related to GI Bill eligibility or payment.
- Questions or concerns related to Alta Colleges, Inc. and its schools should be directed to Alta representatives.
- Visit USDVA's GI Bill website at www.gibill.va.gov to access education benefit information.
- Visit our CalVet website at www.calvet.ca.gov to obtain assistance for other Veteran benefits.
- Questions about the withdrawal of CSAAVE approval at your campus may be e-mailed to CSAAVE at: csaaveinfo@calvet.ca.gov.

To assist you in determining your educational path, a list of qualified institutions may be found by visiting CalVet's website: <http://publicauthors/VetServices/Pages/GI-Bill-Suspension-Information.aspx>