

# VRIS UPDATE

## Updated Post Secondary Guidance beginning with Fall 2010 semester/quarter

Updated: August 2, 2010

Effective: July 1, 2010

Number 278

### ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE: 8/2/2010

We're offering additional guidance based on questions that have been submitted. We have updated this VRIS Update so all the information is in one document.

- QUESTION:** Do we enter the total number of hours the consumer is taking in the Post Secondary screen or just the number we are paying for?

**ANSWER:** The total number of hours the consumer is taking would be entered in the Post Secondary Screen. This is important because the total number of hours taken each term is then automatically deducted from the total hours needed for the program that you have previously entered. The number of hours we are paying for is what we would set aside on the Post Secondary Set Aside screen.
- QUESTION:** If the consumer owed VR hours from a previous term is the number of hours owed deducted from the total number the consumer is taking or from the 12 hour cap?

**ANSWER:** The number of hours owed to VR would be deducted from the 12 hour cap not from the total number of hours the consumer is taking.
- QUESTION:** For example, if a consumer decides to take 15 hours, pays for the 3 additional hours over the 12 hour cap, but only completes 12 hours, do we deduct 3 hours from the 12 hours we paid for or consider the 3 hours they didn't complete the 3 hours they paid for?

**ANSWER:** In the scenario described we would consider the 3 hours not completed the 3 hours they paid for so no deduction from the 12 hours we can pay for the next term.

### SUMMARY OF UPDATES

The Post Secondary committee submitted a cost saving recommendation that the training allowance be capped at 12 hours per school terms beginning this fall. Mark has decided to implement this recommendation. If you have students who were planning to take more than 12 hours, it is important you communicate with them directly, rather than through email, texting, or letters.

For consumers attending post secondary institutions whose next semester or fall term begins August 1, 2010 or after:

1. College/Technical Training semester programs: 12 hours fall and spring semesters for a total of 24 hours
2. College/Technical Training quarter programs: 12 hours fall, winter, spring, summer quarters for a total of 48 hours.

3. Post secondary training as an assessment service is also limited to 12 semester or 12 quarter hours.

**Exceptions:**

1. Consumers who are in the last semester or quarter of their program and need more than 12 hours to graduate.
2. If a fall semester or quarter authorization for more than 12 hours has been printed and sent to the consumer and/or school. Exception is for the fall term only.
3. If an SFAR has been received from the school with their budget and we have recorded our VR allowance, signed and returned the SFAR to the school.  
**Exception is for the fall term only (added 8/2/2010)**
4. For Southeast Community College or any other school whose first term of the 2010-2011 year begins in July the exception is for this term. The next term will be capped at 12 hours.
5. If a solid commitment for more than 12 hours for fall has been discussed with the consumer, take the request for an exception to the Office Directors with the Area Administrator privilege as outlined in Rule 72.
6. Does not affect students attending Gallaudet or NTID.
7. Office Directors with the Area Administrator privilege as outlined in Rule 72 can make exceptions if these limits will severely impact the continuation of the consumer's program.
8. A decision has **not** been made for summer 2011 terms. The Post Secondary Committee is discussing this topic. Summer 2010 terms are not affected by this policy change.

**Talking Points you may use in planning with consumers:**

- All state agencies are experiencing financial difficulties and have been instructed to reduce costs and spending.
- College training is our biggest budget expense.
- Post secondary hours are being capped on a statewide basis in order to help us continue to provide services.
- We are committed to assist you in the completion of your program and achieve your job goal.

**VRIS POSTING**

The Post Secondary chapter will be revised.

**FORMS REVISED**

None

**QUEST UPDATE**

None

**MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

All staff will be responsible for working with our consumers to convey this change to the number of hours we can support.

## **TEAM COMMUNICATION**

Discussion at team meetings

## **LEADERSHIP CONTACT**

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