The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has informed School Certifying Officials that Congress has introduced legislation that will alleviate the impact to GI Bill beneficiaries from a switch to pursuit solely through distance education. **As a result, there will be no impact to the monthly housing allowance for students transitioning from on-campus to online this semester.**

A full explanation of the legislature is as followed:

If the school remains open *(virtually, rather than physically)*, and students are transitioned to pursue solely through online classes, then benefit payments will be impacted as follows:

- If the switch from training in-residence to online classes occurs during the term, and the program has been approved by the State Approving Agency for delivery through an online modality, then benefit payments (including the Monthly Housing Allowance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill) **will remain unchanged** for the remainder of that term.

- However, for **any subsequent terms pursued solely online**, the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) under the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be reduced to one-half of the national average of DoD’s Basic Allowance for Housing rates for an E-5 with dependents. The limitations on MHA rates are codified in statute (38 U.S.C. § 3313(c)(1)(B)(iii). Tulane has not made a determination concerning subsequent terms at this time.

- Lastly, if the **program has not been approved by the State Approving Agency** for delivery through an online modality, benefit payments will completely stop (including the Monthly Housing Allowance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill) when students begin training online. *Note: This does not affect Tulane University as we have reviewed our current SAA approval, and it includes distance education.*

The VA has instructed all schools to temporarily refrain from making any adjustments to enrollment certifications if training has changed due to COVID-19 unless the student withdraws. If additional guidance is published, updates will be made available at [https://registrar.tulane.edu/student-veterans-services](https://registrar.tulane.edu/student-veterans-services).