Shared by Kristy Slusser, WCU Assistant Director of Financial Aid and School Certifying Official.

Thinking of Withdrawing from a class after the drop and add period is over, did you know you could receive a Debt Letter from the VA?

Anytime a Chapter 33 student makes changes to their schedule, the University is required to notify the VA of that change. If a student withdraws from a course or withdraws from school after the drop and add period and receives a non-punitive grade (W, Z, NG, etc) VA may reduce benefits effective the first day of the term unless mitigating circumstances are found. Also, the VA automatically grants mitigating circumstances for up to 6 credits for the first time a student reduces or terminates and mitigating circumstances must be considered.

For Example, if a student starts the semester with 12 credits and withdraws to 9 credits after drop and add period, and receives a ‘W’ for the class, the University is required to report that change and what the tuition and fees **would** have been reported for the 9 remaining credit hours. The VA will then send the student a Debt Letter for that class. Since the class has already been paid for by the VA, this will then create an overpayment. It is the student’s responsibility to pay back the VA even if our tuition and fees do not change. The University will not refund any funds since our tuition and fees do not change, it will be the student’s responsibility to refund the VA.

This is important information since students are scheduling for Spring Semester. Please talk to your academic advisor for guidance regarding selection of courses and if you have to withdraw from a course, please do so during drop/add period so you do not incur any student debt with the VA.

Here are some helpful links to explain Mitigating Circumstances and the 6 credit hour exclusion:

<https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/403/kw/1437/related/1>

<https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1450/kw/1437/related/1>

Thank you,