

VA Benefits and Multiple Program Enrollment at PPSC: What You Need to Know

Overview

Starting **January 1, 2026**, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will change how it approves and PPSC certifies programs for students enrolled in more than one program.

While PPSC will continue to allow students to declare multiple degrees and certificates, **VA benefit students must ensure that their enrollment and declared programs clearly show which program they are pursuing for VA purposes.**

This update applies to **all students using VA education benefits** at PPSC.

What's Changing

VA education benefits will cover:

- Up to **two degree programs** (Associate or Bachelor's) at the same time, or
- **Temporarily preapproved** degree and certificate combination

Note: We are requesting special approval for students with **existing** degree and certificate combinations through completion of those programs.

For example:

Allowed: Associate of Science in Business and Associate of Applied Science in Accounting

Not Allowed: Basic Criminology Certificate and Business Management Certificate

What You Need to Do

To prevent delays in certification and payment:

1. Review your declared programs in the [myPikesPeak Portal](#).
2. If you have more than one active program, make sure it meets one of these options:
 - One degree program
 - One certificate program
 - Two degree programs
3. If your combination doesn't fit these options, submit the [Program Update Request Form](#) to adjust your declared programs.
4. If you plan to **self-fund** an additional program that is not VA-eligible, submit the same form to clearly state your plans.

Communication Timeline

- Current VA benefit students with multiple declared programs that do not meet these new eligibility requirements will receive a **targeted email** with instructions and a link to the Program Update Request Form.
- All other MVP students will receive an email **prior to the start of the Spring 2026 registration window** with information about the new policy.
- Students who do not update their programs by **early November** will receive follow-up communication to ensure continued eligibility for certification.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What is the new VA dual objective policy?*

Beginning January 1, 2026, the VA will change how it approves programs for students pursuing more than one program at a time. VA benefit students will only be eligible for up to two degree programs at the same time. Dual objectives, such as a degree and certificate or two certificates, will no longer be approved for VA benefits.

2. *How do I know if I'm affected?*

Log in to your **myPikesPeak Portal** and check your declared programs. If you have more than one program listed and it includes a certificate, you'll likely need to make updates.

3. *What combinations are allowed?*

- One Associate or Bachelor's degree
- One certificate
- Two Associate or Bachelor's degrees (dual major or dual degree)

4. *What should I do if I have a degree and certificate declared?*

Submit the [Program Update Request Form](#) to update your records so your School Certifying Official can certify your enrollment without delay.

5. *What if I want to pursue two certificates?*

You can still pursue these at PPSC, but VA benefits will only apply to one of them. You'll need to choose which program will be covered by VA and fund the other on your own. Submit the [Program Update Request Form](#) to clarify your plans.

6. *What if I want to pursue a degree and a certificate?*

This is possible for a limited time. PPSC will request special approval of degree and certificate combinations for students who wish to continue both programs. Students with approved combinations should be able to remain in those programs through completion. Notify us of those plans by submitting the [Program Update Request Form](#).

7. *What happens if I don't update my programs?*

If your declared programs are not updated before the certification period, your School Certifying Official will need to pause processing until your record is clarified. This may delay your VA payments.

8. *What if I plan to self-fund my additional program?*

If you plan to self-fund an additional certificate or degree, submit the [Program Update Request Form](#) to confirm your intent. This ensures your certification can move forward smoothly.

9. *Who can I contact for help?*

Contact MVP at 719-502-4100 or via email at mvp@pikespeak.edu for additional guidance.