



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

GREGORY BIALECKI  
SECRETARY OF HOUSING  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Division of Professional Licensure  
Office of Private Occupational School Education  
1000 Washington Street • Boston • Massachusetts • 02118

BARBARA ANTHONY  
UNDERSECRETARY OF OFFICE  
OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND  
BUSINESS REGULATION

MARK R. KMETZ  
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

**NOTICE: New Protections for Students of Private Occupational Schools Who Cannot Complete Courses Due to Military Service**

On April 3, 2014, Governor Patrick signed into law *An Act Relative to Veteran's Allowances, Labor, Outreach, and Recognition*, also known as "[VALOR Act II](#)." Included within this new law is a provision that protects students enrolled in private occupational schools, or post-secondary academic courses at a public or private institution of higher education, from incurring academic or financial penalties as a result of performing military service.

Specifically, where a student is unable to complete an academic course because that student is called to, or enlists in, active duty, schools must allow that student the option of:

- Completing the course at a later date without penalty; or
- Withdrawing from the course with a full refund of fees and tuition paid.

If a student chooses to complete the course at a later date and the course is no longer available upon the student's return, the student must be allowed to complete a replacement course for equivalent credit without penalty. If a student chooses to withdraw from the course, the student's record must reflect that his or her withdrawal is due to active duty military service.

Please note that this provision of [VALOR Act II](#) is now in effect, and can be found in the General Laws at M.G.L. c. 15A § 43(a). Thank you for your attention to this matter.

