

Veterans' Activities

By LARRY QUINLIN
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Most World War II veterans have less than four months in which to enroll in GI courses of education or training — or lose these benefits forever. July 25 is the deadline for all veterans who were discharged prior to July 25, 1947; those discharged after that date have four years from the date of their discharge to start GI training.

The Veterans Administration says a veteran actually must be enrolled in a course prior to July 25, if he is to keep his rights intact beyond that date, and once he quits his course after that time, he's through. The only exceptions to this ruling are:

1. Normal summer vacation interruption. If a veteran is in college this spring and plans to return next fall, he's safe; however, if he intends to change to another field of study next fall, he should apply to the VA immediately.
2. The veteran who interrupted his GI course to enter military service can enroll again after his discharge.
3. A veteran who has completed a premedical or pre-dental school course and can't gain admission to a medical or dental school by July 25, can enter under the GI bill at a later date, provided he shows the VA that he had applied for and was denied admission.
4. A school teacher who takes summer training leading to a degree, can enroll under the GI bill each summer, even though his GI training is interrupted for the purpose of teaching school the remainder of the year.
5. The veteran who completes an undergraduate course this spring under the GI bill and intends to take graduate training in the same field next fall, may do so.

Unless a veteran fits one of these exceptions, then, how can he enroll in college under the GI bill next fall? The VA says there's one way to do it, and that's by enrolling in a residence course of training before the July 25 deadline. In other words, he will have to enroll in a summer school course, in the same field that he intends to pursue in college. He should check with the colleges now or with the General Extension Division of the State System of Higher Education, either in Eugene or Portland, to find out what colleges are offering summer courses in his field of study.

Can a veteran start a correspondence course now and switch to college next fall? No, the VA says. It has to be a residence course, even though such course need not be full time. A veteran taking a correspondence course which continues after July 25, cannot change over to residence studies. He may remain in the correspondence course until its completion and may take an advanced correspondence course after that, provided it is considered a "normal progression" from his present course and provided he still has GI entitlement.

The July 25 deadline applies to technical studies, on-the-job training, on-farm training, business and professional schools, etc., so the veteran planning to enter courses in any of these subjects should check immediately with the school of his choice and get enrolled before the deadline.

At the same time, he should get his application for entitlement in to the Veterans Administration regional office, Portland. He can do this by mail, by personal contact with VA, or through his local veterans' service officer.

IS THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU AN OSEA MEMBER?