

# VA Isakson & Roe – Section 1018 Requirements

## Section 1018 of Public Law 116-315

*Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D.* Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, adds new requirements for educational institutions participating in the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These new provisions became effective June 15, 2021 and will apply to Institutions of Higher Learning and Non-College Degree institutions beginning August 1, 2021. Many of the requirements are consistent with the requirements of the Principles of Excellence, currently in [Executive Order 13607](#); however, there are requirements in addition to those embodied in the Principles of Excellence that schools must also satisfy to maintain approval for GI Bill® participation.

Schools must provide a covered individual (a student using benefits under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, U.S.C., or chapter 1606 of title 10, U.S.C.) with a personalized shopping sheet that contains:

**Estimated total cost of attendance that includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, and any additional costs. Estimated cost of living expenses.**

SAU Tech's Financial Aid Office develops and estimate of the Cost of Attendance (COA) that includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, room and board, transportation, and miscellaneous costs associated with attending SAU Tech. Students' actual costs may vary depending on their unique circumstances. To estimate your cost of attendance before applying, multiply the total amount of the cost of attendance by the number of years to complete your academic program.

<https://www.sautech.edu/consumer-information>

*Estimates of future costs and aid eligibility are subject to change based on factors that cannot be reliably predicted. Unforeseeable variables could result in a student's actual costs and aid eligibility being higher or lower than program-length estimates provided.*

**Amount of costs above that are covered by VA Education Benefits.**

To learn more about what costs are covered by your VA Education Benefits, please visit [GI Bill® Comparison Tool: VA.gov](#)

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>

**To learn more about the student aid programs available to SAU Tech students, please visit:**

<https://www.sautech.edu/financial-aid>

**Estimate of Student debt**

For the estimated amount of student loan debt, the individual would have upon graduation, please visit [College Scorecard \(ed.gov\)](#)

**Information regarding graduation rates**

[https://www.sautech.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/31142730\\_student\\_achievement\\_information\\_-\\_2022.pdf](https://www.sautech.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/31142730_student_achievement_information_-_2022.pdf)

**Information regarding job placement rates for graduates if available**

[https://www.sautech.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/31142730\\_student\\_achievement\\_information\\_-\\_2022.pdf](https://www.sautech.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/31142730_student_achievement_information_-_2022.pdf)

**Information regarding the acceptance of transfer credits, including military credits**

For our transfer credits policy, please refer to our catalog.

<https://sautech.smartcatalogiq.com/2021/Student-Handbook>

**Any additional requirements including training, experience, or examinations that are required to obtain a license, certification, or approval for which the course of education prepares the individual.**

For comprehensive information about all academic programs offered, including additional requirements such as certification and licensure examinations, please visit our Academics page and select your program of interest.

<https://www.sautech.edu/programs-degrees/>

**Other information to facilitate comparison by the individual about aid packages offered by different educational institutions.**

Utilize your College Financing Plan to compare your aid package at SAU Tech with other packages offered by different educational institutions. The College Financing Plan is a consumer tool that participating institutions use to notify students about their financial aid package. It is a standardized form that is designed to simplify the information that prospective students receive about costs and financial aid so that they can easily compare institutions and make informed decisions about where to attend school.

[College Scorecard](#)

[College Navigator](#)

[Net Price Calculator](#)

[GI Bill® Comparison Tool](#)

### **Schools must maintain policies that:**

**Inform an enrolled covered individual of the availability of federal financial aid, not administered by VA that is offered by the institution**

SAU Tech encourages all students to complete the FAFSA. Additionally, information about the types of aid available to SAU Tech students is posted on our webpage

<https://www.sautech.edu/financial-aid>

**Alert the individual of the potential eligibility for other federal financial aid before packaging or arranging student loans or alternative financing.**

Student loans are not automatically packaged with federal aid offers. Students must submit a loan application. They are available in the office, or they may print an application at

<https://www.sautech.edu/docs/financialAid/studentLoanApplication.pdf>

Types of loans available through SAU Tech are:

- **Federal Direct Student Loans (Subsidized)**  
Subsidized Direct Loans are based upon financial need. Interest is not charged while the student is enrolled at least half-time, i.e. six credit hours in the fall or spring and three credit hours in the summer. Students are required to enroll at least half-time and make satisfactory academic progress toward a certificate or degree program. The 21-22 academic year interest rate is fixed at 3.73% and repayment of the loan begins six months after the student ceases to pursue at least six credit hours at an institution of higher education.
- **Federal Direct Student Loans (Unsubsidized)**  
These loans are not based upon financial need and the student borrower is responsible for interest accrued while in school and during deferment periods for this type of loan. The current (2021-22) interest rate is fixed at 3.73% and repayment of the principal loan amount begins six months after the student ceases to pursue at least six credit hours at an institution of higher education.

### **Loan Eligibility Checklist:**

1. Enrolled at least half-time (6 or more credit hours) at the time of loan disbursement.
2. Enrolled in an eligible degree program at SAU Tech.
3. Not currently in default on a prior student loan.
4. Completed the FAFSA and submitted verification documents (if required).
5. Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress.

### **Loan Application Process:**

1. Complete Direct Master Promissory Note [www.StudentLoans.gov](http://www.StudentLoans.gov)
2. Complete Entrance Counseling [www.StudentLoans.gov](http://www.StudentLoans.gov).
3. Complete the loan application  
<https://www.sautech.edu/docs/financialAid/studentLoanApplication.pdf>

### **Loan Approval Process:**

1. Loan application is reviewed by the financial aid office.
2. Loan is approved (certified) by the financial aid office if the student meets the criteria listed above in the Loan Eligibility Checklist.
3. Certified loan application is sent to the Federal Government for approval.
4. Approved loan funds are disbursed in two equal disbursements during each semester.

**Prohibit automatic renewal of a covered individual in a course and/or programs. Ensure each covered individual approves of the enrollment in a course.**

SAU Tech requires students to complete an application for admissions. Once admitted, the student must enroll each semester. The student is enrolled unless he/she request to withdraw.

**Allow enrolled members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components and National Guard to be readmitted if such members are temporarily unavailable or must suspend enrollment by reason of serving in the Armed Forces. Accommodate short absences for such services in the Armed forces.**

SAU Tech allows for students to suspend enrollment for the reason of serving in the Armed Forces. For more specific information, please refer to the course catalog.

<https://sautech.smartcatalogiq.com/2021/Student-Handbook>

**Schools must provide covered individuals with the requirements for graduation and a graduation timeline.**

All students are provided with graduation requirements and timeline. Please visit our Academics page and select program of interest. Graduation requirements may also be found in the course catalog.

<https://www.sautech.edu/programs-degrees/>

<https://sautech.smartcatalogiq.com/2021/Student-Handbook>

**Accredited education institutions agree to obtain approval of the respective accrediting agency for each new course or program.**

SAU Tech is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). All new courses or programs must be approved by both the HLC and the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE).

**Schools must designate an employee of the educational institution to serve as a point of contact for covered individuals and family members seeking assistance with**

**Academic Counseling** – SAU Tech Advisors

**Financial Counseling** – Shannon Green, Financial Aid Advisor and Veterans Education Certifying official

**Disability Counseling** – Jenny Sanders, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Services

**Other information regarding completing a course of education at the educational institution** – SAU Tech Financial and Academic Advisors

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