

Record Keeping at Flight Schools
OMB 2900-0613

A. Justification

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection of information.**

Educational institutions are required by statute (38 U.S.C. 3690(c)) to maintain records and accounts of eligible veterans and other eligible persons who receive educational assistance, and the records of other students that are necessary to determine if the educational institution is complying with the provisions of law governing approval of courses for VA training. This requirement is implemented by 38 CFR 21.4263(h)(3) which sets forth records VA expects a flight school to maintain in order to retain approval for its courses.

While 38 CFR 21.4263(h)(3) establishes the records that VA expects a flight school to maintain, there is not a uniform method or instrument of collection because VA does not have control over the form or format of the records. The flight school may retain the records in any form or format it depends fit, such as but not limited to a ledger or a cabinet full of papers. However, when the VA completes a compliance survey at the flight school, the flight school is required to produce all of its records.

- 2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purposes the information is to be used; indicate actual use the agency has made of the information received from current collection.**

The State approving agencies that approve courses for VA training use these records to determine if courses offered by flight schools should be approved. VA representatives use the records to determine the accuracy of payments made to VA students at flight schools.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

The regulation does not require any reports. It only requires record keeping. Flight schools have the option to store these records electronically.

- 4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

Program reviews were conducted to identify potential areas of duplication; however, none were found to exist. There is no known Department or agency which maintains the necessary information, nor is it available from other sources within our Department.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The average number of students enrolled in each flight school to which the information collection may apply will be less than ten. Consequently, the cost of record storage to each flight school for complying with the information collection will be low. Hence, the information collection does not have any impact on a substantive number of small entities.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

If flight schools do not keep these records, State approving agencies may not know whether to approve a course. VA will not be able to verify the accuracy of VA educational payments made to students training at flight schools.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted more often than quarterly or require respondents to prepare written responses to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it; submit more than an original and two copies of any document; retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years; in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study and require the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB.

There is no special circumstance requiring collection in a manner inconsistent with 5 CFR 1320.6 guidelines.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the sponsor's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the sponsor in responses to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

The Department notice was published in the Federal Register on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, Volume 82, No. 74, pages 18536-18537. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts to respondents have been made under this collection of information.

10. Describe any assurance of privacy, to the extent permitted by law, provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

Our assurance of confidentiality is covered by 38 U.S.C. 5701 and our System of Records, Compensation, Pension, Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA (58VA21/22/28), which are contained in the Privacy Act Issuances, 2011 Compilation.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature (Information that, with a reasonable degree of medical certainty, is likely to have a serious adverse effect on an individual's mental or physical health if revealed to him or her), such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private; include specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of the hour burden of the collection of information:

This does not impose any reporting burden (where a school must submit records at a given time interval); it does impose a record keeping burden on flight schools.

Estimate of Information Collection Burden.

- a. Number of Respondents: 1,717 students.
- b. Frequency of Response: Annual
- c. Annual Burden Hours: 572
- d. Estimated Completion Time: 20 Minutes (VA continues to consider that a school will need approximately 20 minutes (one third of an hour) to generate and store the records pertaining to each student that would not be kept in the ordinary course of business or in compliance with FAA regulations.)
- e. The respondent population is composed of employees at flight schools. VBA cannot make further assumptions about the population of respondents because of the variability of factors such as the educational background and wage potential of respondents. Therefore,

VBA used general wage data to estimate the respondents' costs associated with completing the information collection. The Bureau of Labor Statistics gathers information on full-time wage and salary workers. Accordingly, the median weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers is \$954.40. Assuming a forty (40) hour work week, the median hourly wage is \$23.86 based on the BLS wage code – “00-0000 All Occupations.” This information was taken from the following website: (http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#00-0000, May 2016). Legally, respondents may not pay a person or business for assistance in completing the information collection and a person or business may not accept payment for assisting a respondent in completing the information collection. Therefore, there are no expected overhead costs for completing the information collection. VBA estimates the total cost to all respondents to be \$13,647.92 (572 burden hours x \$23.86 per hour).

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

Most of the records required by this information collection would be kept in the normal course of business. Other records would be kept if the flight school wishes to comply with FAA rules (14 CFR part 141, 14 CFR part 142 or both). The additional record keeping imposed by this information collection would take less than a square foot of space. Therefore, the record keeping burden is near zero.

14. Provide estimates of annual cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operation expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

Grade	Step	Burden Time	Hourly Rate	Cost Per Response	Total Responses	Total
10	5	.25 hours	\$ 29.38	\$ 7.35	343	\$ 2,521.05
Overhead at 100% Salary						\$ 2,521.05

Overhead costs are 100% of salary and are same as the wage listed above and the amounts are included in the total.

Processing / Analyzing Costs	\$ 2,521.05
Printing and Production Cost	\$0
Total Cost to Government	\$ 2,521.05

Note: The hourly wage information above is based on the hourly 2017 General Schedule (Base) Pay (https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2017/GS_h.pdf). This rate does not include any locality adjustment as applicable.

The processing time estimates above are based on the actual amount of time employees of each grade level spend to process to completion a claim received on this form. The within-grade step (3) of each employee represents the average experience of employees within each grade.

15. Explain the reason for any burden hour changes since the last submission.

There has been an increase in the number of students in flight programs.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

The information collection is not for publication or tabulation use.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

We are not seeking approval to omit the expiration date for OMB approval.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions," of OMB 83-I.

This submission does not contain any exceptions to the certification statement.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

This collection of information does not employ statistical methods.