



**State of Arizona
Arizona State Approving Agency**

Certifies that

Ashford University

is granted approval for the education and training of veterans and their eligible dependents, using United States Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, in the State of Arizona, in accordance with Section 3675, Title 38, United States Code. This approval is based on the institution's accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission, licensure by the Arizona State Board of Private Postsecondary Education, the provisions of Titles 10 and 38, United States Code, and on the standards of the Arizona State Approving Agency (SAA).

INSTITUTION APPROVAL INFORMATION

Institution Name: Ashford University

Address: 2555 E Camelback Rd., Suite 250, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Phone: 866-711-1700

Approval Action: Initial

Institution Type: IHL

Approval Type: Initial Revised

Facility Code:

Approval Date: 7/6/17

Catalog Version: June 26, 2017

Approval Effective Date: 7/10/17

Catalog Years: 2017

Catalog Start Date: 6/22/17

Catalog End Date: 6/22/18

Note: New institution catalogs must be submitted to the SAA within 30 days of catalog end/expiration date.

Independent Study/Distance Learning: Yes No

Cooperative: Yes No

Practical Training: Yes No

Remedial Courses: Yes No

Accreditation: Yes No

Accredited by: WASC-SCUC

Licensed: Yes No

Licensure by: AZPPE

FAA Air Agency: Yes No

FAA Air Agency Certificate Number:


FAA Air Agency Certificate Date:

Letter of Authority:

Enrollment Limit: N/A

VA-ONCE: Yes No

Branch Locations: N/A

<p>Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Arizona State Approving Agency 3839 North 3RD Street, Suite 209 Phoenix, Arizona 85012</p>	
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CERTIFYING OFFICIALS

Name	Title
Conan Stanley	Director of Veteran & Military Financial Services
Bobbye Stull	Financial Services Manager
Stephanie Cowsert	Director of Financial Aid & Policy

REMARKS

Ashford University is recognized by their Accreditor, WASC-SCUC, a U.S. Department of Education recognized accreditor, as having an online program which is based in the State of Arizona and covered as such. Additionally, Ashford University is licensed in the State of Arizona by the Arizona State Board of Private Post-Secondary Education. Ashford University demonstrates full administrative capability in the State of Arizona. This approval is done in accordance with 38 U.S.C. § 3672 and 38 U.S.C. § 3675.

Ashford University is responsible for maintaining the following approval criteria. The institution:

- Maintains a written record of previous education and training that clearly indicates that appropriate credit has been granted and the training period shortened proportionately;
- Advises the SAA of any changes in institution name/ownership, chief administrative officer(s), VA certifying official(s), licensure, accreditation, programs, facilities, address/location, catalogs, schedules, tuition and fees, or any other pertinent information, as soon as it becomes available;
- Maintains adequate records as prescribed by the SAA to show that satisfactory standards relating to progress and conduct are enforced;
- Maintains these records for at least three years following completion of the training program;
- Makes these records available for inspections by authorized representatives of the Arizona State Approving Agency (SAA) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA);
- Does not utilize advertising, sales, or enrollment practices that are erroneous, misleading or deceptive;
- Offers programs, curriculum, and instruction that are consistent in quality, content, and length with similar programs in other accredited public and private schools in the state;
- Has adequate space, equipment, instructional materials, and instructor personnel to provide training of good quality; and
- Employs instructors and staff that have appropriate education, experience and qualifications.

The VA Certifying Officials at Ashford University are responsible for identifying and correctly certifying all courses and for maintaining and monitoring individual program plans and class schedules for the duration of the approved program. The institution must fulfill all reporting requirements under 38 Code of Federal Regulations 21.4203.

APPROVED PROGRAMS

#	Major or Program Title	Degree or Certificate	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #	Remarks
Degree Programs					
1.	Accounting	BA	120	133	
2.	Business Administration	BA	120	134	
3.	Business Economics	BA	120	135	
4.	Business Information Systems	BA	120	135	
5.	Business Leadership	BA	120	136	
6.	Consumer & Family Financial Services	BA	120	137	
7.	eMarketing	BA	120	138	

#	Major or Program Title	Degree or Certificate	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #	Remarks
8.	Entrepreneurship	BA	120	139	
9.	Finance	BA	120	140	
10.	Human Resources Management	BA	120	141	
11.	International Business	BA	120	141	
12.	Operations Management & Analysis	BA	120	142	
13.	Organizational Management	BA	120	143	
14.	Project Management	BA	120	144	
15.	Public Administration	BA	120	145	
16.	Public Relations & Marketing	BA	120	146	
17.	Real Estate Studies	BA	120	147	
18.	Service Management	BA	120	148	
19.	Sports & Recreation Management	BA	120	149	
20.	Supply Chain Management	BA	120	150	
21.	Sustainable Enterprise Management	BA	120	151	
22.	Early Childhood Education	AA	67	152	
23.	Child Development	AA	120	154	
24.	Cognitive Studies	AA	120	155	
25.	Early Childhood Education	BA	120	157	
26.	Early Childhood Education Administration	BA	120	158	
27.	Education Studies	BA	120	161	
28.	English Language Learner Studies	BA	120	163	
29.	Instructional Design	BA	120	164	
30.	Library Science and Media	BA	120	165	
31.	Adult Development	BA	120	166	
32.	Applied Behavioral Science	BA	120	167	
33.	Complementary and Alternative Health	BA	120	168	
34.	Gerontology	BA	120	169	
35.	Health and Human Services	BA	120	170	
36.	Health and Wellness	BA	120	171	
37.	Health Care Administration	BA	120	172	
38.	Health Education	BA	120	173	
39.	Psychology	BA	120	176	
40.	Nursing – RN to BSN	BS	120	179	
41.	Military Studies	AA	64	180	
42.	Applied Linguistics	BA	120	181	
43.	Communication Studies	BA	120	182	
44.	Cultural Anthropology	BA	120	183	
45.	English	BA	120	184	
46.	Environmental Studies	BA	120	185	
47.	History	BA	120	186	
48.	Homeland Security and Emergency Management	BA	120	187	
49.	Journalism & Mass Communication	BA	120	188	
50.	Law Enforcement Administration	BA	120	189	
51.	Liberal Arts	BA	120	190	
52.	Military Studies	BA	120	191	
53.	Political Science and Government	BA	120	191	
54.	Social and Criminal Justice	BA	120	192	
55.	Social Science	BA	120	193	
56.	Sociology	BA	120	194	
57.	Accountancy	MA	48	218	
58.	Arts in Organizational Management	MA	33	220	
59.	Business Administration	MBA	42	221	
60.	Public Administration	MPA	36	223	
61.	Education	MA	36-39	224	
62.	Education, Instructional Practice	MA	36	227	
63.	Special Education	MA	30	231	

#	Major or Program Title	Degree or Certificate	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #	Remarks
64.	Teaching & Learning with Technology	MA	30	233	
65.	Health Care Administration	MA	36	234	
66.	Psychology	MA	36	235	
67.	Criminal Justice	MS	39	236	

Total Programs Record Count:

67 Approved

PROGRAMS NOT APPROVED

#	Major or Program Title	Degree or Certificate	Credit Hours	Catalog Page #	Remarks
1.	Health Information Management	BS	120	177	Not approvable until accredited by CAHIIM. Without accreditation students will not be eligible to sit for RHIA national certification exam.

Total Non-Approved Programs Record Count:

1

APPROVED EDUCATION SITES

Name	Address
Ashford University	2555 E Camelback Rd., Suite 250, Phoenix, AZ 85016

APPROVAL CERTIFICATION

SAA Approval:	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Leanna DeKing</i></p> <hr/> Leanna DeKing, SAA Director State Approving Agency - Arizona (SAA) 3839 N. 3 rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85012 Phone: 602-653-9026 Email: ldeking@azdvs.gov	7/6/17 Date
VA Acceptance:	VA Form 22-1998, Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS) Document, dated (Enclosed)	
Distribution:	VARO LO File	



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA REGIONAL OFFICE
3333 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2458

AUGUST 3, 2017

LEANNA DEKING
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
ARIZONA STATE APPROVING AGENCY
3839 N 3RD ST SUITE 209
PHOENIX AZ 85012-2068

Dear Ms. DeKing:

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) is unable to accept the notice of approval submitted for programs at Ashford University, 2555 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 250, Phoenix, AZ, 85016, in its current form. As you know, the law requires VA and the State Approving Agencies to cooperate and exchange information pertaining to activities of educational institutions, with specific attention given to the enforcement of approval standards (38 U.S.C. § 3673(a)). The information submitted is insufficient for VA to determine statutory and regulatory compliance in the following areas:

1. 38 U.S.C. §3672(a) states VA education benefits are payable to individuals enrolled in a course of education offered by an educational institution.

The approval package did not include any evidence indicating recognition of the Phoenix, AZ, location as an educational institution offering a course of education. The school's 2016-2017 catalog supplement identifies Clinton, IA, and San Diego, CA, locations as campuses, but identifies the Phoenix, AZ, location as an Online Administrative Center.

The facility's licensor, Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education, identifies Phoenix, AZ, as an Online Administrative and Student Services Center. Additionally, the licensor's approval does not contain a list of programs offered/approved at the facility. VA finds no evidence of instruction emanating from Phoenix, AZ, either in residence or independent study.

2. 38 C.F.R. §21.4253(d)(7) and (8) states the institution must possess adequate space, equipment, instructional material, and instructor personnel to provide training of good quality, and must demonstrate it employs directors, administrators, and instructors with adequate education and experience.

The 2016-2017 Academic Catalog and Supplement do not specifically address the Phoenix location. VA is unable to determine if this statutory requirement has been satisfied.

3. 38 C.F.R. §21.4250(a)(3) states courses offered by independent study may only be approved for VA benefit purposes by the State Approving Agency for the State where the institution's main campus is located.

Main campus is defined in 38 CFR §21.4266(a)(3) as the location where the primary teaching facilities of an education are located. The regulation goes on to state that "If it is unclear which of the institution's teaching facilities is primary, the main campus is the location of the primary office of its Chief Executive Officer." Presumably, the Chief Executive Officer's primary office is located at Ashford's Headquarters at 8620 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego, CA.

Additionally, both the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the U.S. Department of Education recognize Ashford University's main campus as being in San Diego. While the school's 2016-2017 Academic Catalog and Supplement do not identify a main campus, it is stated on page 1 of the catalog that "With the growth of the online student population, the University's leadership decided to move its headquarters from Clinton, IA, to San Diego, CA, and to apply for accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)." For these reasons, VA believes that the CA location to be the main campus for the purpose of approval of independent study.

Furthermore, no information was supplied indicating that the Phoenix, AZ, location meets the definition of a main campus.

If you have any additional information regarding the San Diego, CA, campus and the Phoenix, AZ, location that justifies a conclusion that the San Diego, CA, campus is not the "main campus," but rather, the Phoenix, AZ, location is the "main campus," please provide such information as soon as possible.

4. 38 CFR §21.4266 (c)(2) states the State Approving Agency may only approve courses offered at a branch campus or extension of an educational institution if the location has a certifying official on site.

The Designation of Certifying Officials (VA Form 22-8794) dated June 28, 2017, lists Conan Stanley, Stephanie Cowser, and Bobbye Stull as certifying officials for the Phoenix location. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated June 23, 2017, requests access to VA's Online Certification of Enrollment database (VA-ONCE) for Mr. Stanley and Ms. Cowser. These two individuals are currently designated as certifying officials for Clinton, IA, campus (facility 21000415). The designation form and MOU contain toll-free numbers only. VA finds no other evidence to verify there is a certifying official on site at the Arizona location.

5. 38 C.F.R. § 21.4253(d)(1) requires the institution to submit copies of its catalog or bulletin to the SAA.

The 2016-2017 Academic Catalog has an expiration date of June 30, 2017, which is prior to the SAA's approval effective date of July 10, 2017.

Please provide additional information to correct these deficiencies as soon as possible. Failure to comply with this request promptly may delay the updates to VA IT systems necessary for the submission of enrollment information and adjudication of education awards. Moreover, VA is required to conduct annual evaluations of SAA performance, 38 U.S.C. § 3674A(a)(1)(A). This review includes whether school approvals comply with the terms of the contract for reimbursement between VA and the SAA and with statutory and

regulatory standards. See 38 C.F.R. §§ 21.4152(b)(3), 21.4155. VA is currently without sufficient information to determine whether the AZ SAA is in compliance with the standards and provisions of law and the contract, which could reflect negatively in the annual evaluation of performance conducted pursuant to 38 C.F.R. § 21.4155.

If you have any questions, please contact your Education Liaison Representative at (602) 627-3227 or suzanne.swafford@va.gov.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Swafford

Suzanne Swafford
Education Liaison Representative