



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

NOV 10 2005

Dr. Robert W. Mendenhall
President
Western Governors University
4001 South 700 East, Suite 700
Salt Lake City, UT 84107-2533

Dear Dr. Mendenhall:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 18th, which documents Western Governors University's (WGU) commitment to adjust its program delivery so that WGU students can qualify for military tuition assistance (TA). We commend WGU for working diligently with us to resolve our long-standing concerns on transferability of WGU's credit, advanced payment of TA for courses inherent in its domain concept, the potential for double payment for credit already "earned," payment of fees not paid to other institutions, as well as issues attendant to the transcribing of grades.

The agreement we have arrived at allays our concerns in each case. We are satisfied that WGU has resolved the transferability issue that has long been a concern. Also, we appreciate WGU's willingness to offer our students the ability to enroll in 6-unit domains. Further, we appreciate that WGU now accepts degree-relevant DANTES and CLEP exams and ACE-recommended credit for military coursework and training. The fact that WGU no longer includes fees of any type in its tuition charges brings this part of its program into compliance with DoD policy. The notation now on WGU's transcripts that equates a grade of "passing" to a B or better resolves our concern about that issue.

We will inform the Services that resolution of these issues ensure military personnel who desire to attend WGU now qualify for military TA. Whether they choose to do so will depend upon their ability to afford or complete the course load involved. Questions concerning this matter should be referred to Mr. Gary A. Woods, Director, Educational Opportunities. He may be reached by telephone at (703) 602-4945 or by e-mail at gary.woods@osd.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Molino".

John M. Molino
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)

cc:

The Honorable Chris Cannon