



Florida State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education and Training

9500 Bay Pines Blvd., Room 214, Bay Pines, FL 33744 Phone: (727) 319-7406

Updated March 11, 2019

Important Information for Argosy University Students and Other Interested Parties

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs received notice that Argosy University, Tampa, closed its doors on March 8, 2019, and will no longer offer education and training after that date. Approximately 41 Florida GI Bill® benefit recipient students and hundreds of non-veteran students were enrolled in programs at this facility which was approved to administer VA Education Benefits.

The following information is intended to provide resources and identify services and assistance available to Florida students affected by the Argosy University closure. Please know that you are not alone during these trying times. As you will see on the following pages, the school is providing guidance and is offering information as to where you may acquire your transcripts as well as other pertinent information. Other resources included in this document include information from the web pages of the U.S. Department of Education, the Florida Department of Education, the school's accrediting agency, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Hopefully, the information provided below will help you find the resources that you need to proceed with your education plan. Topics addressed are transcript acquisition, federal student loan forgiveness, transfer of credit, prospective schools to transfer into, and general guidance and information pertinent to GI Bill benefit students. If you require assistance where a resource/contact is not provided to you below, please contact the Florida State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education and Training (SAA) and we will do our best to locate the individuals who can best address your issues. You may contact the Florida State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education and Training by calling Paul Smith at (727) 319-7406 or by emailing him at smithpa@fdva.state.fl.us He will make every effort to determine who can best assist you.

Argosy University Offerings: Please go to: <https://www.argosy.edu/closed-school-information>

Transcripts are currently available by contacting Argosy University. Please follow directions in link provided above. After the school ceases operations, student transcripts and records will be made available to students through Dream Center Education Holdings (DCEH). Upon termination of services from DCEH and Argosy University, transcripts and records may be available through the Florida Department of Education (see below).

Other services offered by Argosy University and DCEH include enrollment verifications, financial requests, account balance inquiries, 1098 T information, and career services and can be accessed at <https://www.argosy.edu/closed-school-information>

Other pertinent advice:

Retain all syllabi from coursework taken at Argosy University

Obtain your financial aid records – If the school is unable to provide these to you, any school that participates in federal financial aid will be able to provide you with your National Student Loan Data Systems (NSLDS) overview of student grants and loans

Obtain your enrollment documents from Argosy officials

Obtain student account ledgers from Argosy officials to view your tuition charges, student loan disbursements, veteran education disbursements/refunds and credit balance refunds on your student account

Transferring to Another School

Transfer Fairs were offered at the Argosy University, Tampa campus, on March 7, and 8, 2019. Following the fairs, Argosy University is to email transfer opportunities to students. Transfer partners may also be found by visiting <https://www.dcedh.org/partner-institutions>

The school's accreditor, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, has also provided a link for transfer and teach out information at:

<https://www.wscuc.org/news/information-about-argosy-university-students>

If you do choose to transfer to another institution and if you are eligible to use GI Bill(R) education benefits, please be sure to verify that the program you wish to pursue at that institution is approved for veterans' training by the State Approving Agency in that state. To determine program approval, go to Public WEAMS at <https://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchCountryCriteria.do> or to the GI Bill Comparison Tool at <https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool> Please also work with the VA School Certifying Official at the prospective school.

Following the closure of the school, you may also be able to access certain information from the agency listed below:

Florida Department of Education <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/cie/>

Commission for Independent Education (CIE)

- The CIE maintains records, including transcripts, for some independent postsecondary educational institutions that have closed. Institutions that are still currently open are required to maintain and service transcript requests. The CIE does not service transcript requests for public or secondary institutions.
- The CIE has some records for closed schools or may have information about where the records are maintained. If you go to CIE's website (above) and see that the CIE has records for a school that you attended and you would like to see if they can provide you with your transcript, please contact them at:

Samuel Ferguson, Executive Director
Florida Commission for Independent Education
325 W. Gaines St., Suite 1414
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850-245-3200
cieinfo@fldoe.org
www.fldoe.org

Persons eligible for GI Bill® education benefits (see VA's main Education and Training page for news announcements): <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/index.asp>

U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) employees, in conjunction with employees from your State Approving Agency, are committed to assisting the GI Bill education benefit recipients affected by the closure of the Argosy Universities. With the sudden closure of the schools, you may no longer receive GI Bill Education benefits, including the monthly housing allowance (MHA), even if your future enrollment at Argosy University was previously submitted to VA for payment. In the unlikely event that VA pays you for an enrollment period that starts after the school's closure date, VA may create a debt for such payments. If a debt letter is generated to you, you may want to review the debt waiver request process.

VA Authority:

VA administers the GI Bill and makes determinations related to veteran education benefit eligibility and payments. VA also regulates entitlement awarded to veterans and performs all calculations regarding payment made and entitlement charged to your benefits account. All questions regarding eligibility and payment of GI Bill benefits must be directed to VA.

Please note the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Assistance Act of 2017 provided VA with legal authority to restore GI Bill entitlement, during specific situations. For additional information, please go to: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/fgib/restoration.asp>

GI Bill education benefit recipients, may contact the VA Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 or visit the GI Bill website by clicking <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/> and click on “Contact Us” and then “Ask a Question” to send an email to VA.

Western Association of Colleges and Schools (WASC) – the accrediting agency of Argosy University

<https://www.wscuc.org/news/information-about-argosy-university-students>

The Commission and staff of WASC are committed to doing all they can to assist students who have been impacted by the closures. Their top priority is to work with Argosy University and other accredited colleges and universities to facilitate students’ ability to continue their education. Resource pages will be created to provide students with information. The pages will be accessible from the WASC website.

U.S. Department of Education (ED) Information: <https://www.ed.gov>

ED will post information for students on its closed school page located at <http://StudentAid.gov/closures> Information will include a student’s eligibility for a closed school loan discharge, information about transfer options and teach-outs, how to obtain your student records, Federal Pell Grant restoration procedures and state tuition reimbursement fund information. The financial aid office at your new school will be able to determine your remaining 2018-19 Pell Grant eligibility if you are a current Federal Pell Grant recipient who is transferring to a new school. From the aforementioned web page, you will also be able to see Frequently Asked Questions.

ED will also send individual emails to impacted students to describe their options and to let students know about ED sponsored webinars and partners hosting transfer fairs and student meetings.

NOTE: A student who transfers credits to complete their program is generally not eligible for a closed school loan discharge.

Pertinent ED web pages:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/dream-center>

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/closed-school>

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/announcements/closed-school>

To assist you with gathering information from your institution's state higher education authorizing agency about transfer options to continue your education, ED will provide information about scheduled student information sessions and Argosy web landing pages, which are maintained and sponsored by those individual states that host Argosy campus locations.

If you have additional questions or if your federal student aid is being impacted by the funds disbursed at Argosy University, you are encouraged to contact Federal Student Aid online at <http://StudentAid.gov/feedback> or by calling 1-844-651-0077, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

NextStepsEd

Funded by the Lumina foundation, NextStepsEd, is an online ticketing portal where students displaced by school closures can explore their options. You may contact them and talk to a volunteer counselor. Information may be found at <https://nextstepsed.org/>

"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 www.benefits.va.gov/gibill."

The above resources are based on current information available in Florida and are subject to change.