

- A Guide for School Certifying Officials
- Version 1.3 July 2004

## Obtaining, completing & submitting the MOU

- The MOU is an agreement between your school and VA.
- An MOU can be downloaded from www.GIBILL.va.gov/ONCE.
- A signed MOU must be received by your ELR before you will be issued a password in order to access VA-ONCE.
- It must be signed by someone from the school who has the authority to enter into a legal contract for the school.
- The MOU should be mailed not faxed.

Once we receive and process your MOU, your school will be added to the VA-ONCE database, and you will receive your User ID and temporary password.

(Each user must have his/her own user ID. User IDs cannot be shared.)

Once you have this information, you're ready to begin using VA-ONCE... www.GIBILL.va.gov/ONCE or direct:

https://vaonce.vba.va.gov/vaonce\_student/default.asp

## Using ID and password (once received by school official).



#### Welcome to VA-ONCE

What is VA-ONCE? VA-ONCE is a new, enhanced alternative for submitting VA Forms 22-1999, 22-1999b, and 22-6553c. It is a complete Internet based application. A team of schools and RPO representatives helped to develop the requirements used to build the application.

What is needed to run VA-ONCE? To use VA-ONCE, you must be using a recent version of either the Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE 5.5 SF higher) or Netscape Navigator (NN v6.02 or higher) browsers.

What is needed to submit forms using VA-ONCE? Your school must sure an MOU, please contact the VA-ONCE VBA Representative to acquire Representative (ELR) will be contacting you with the appropriate login in Start VA-ONCE using text only mode (This of Start VA-ONCE using text only mode)

Start VA-ONCE

Start VA-ONCE

Start VA-ONCE

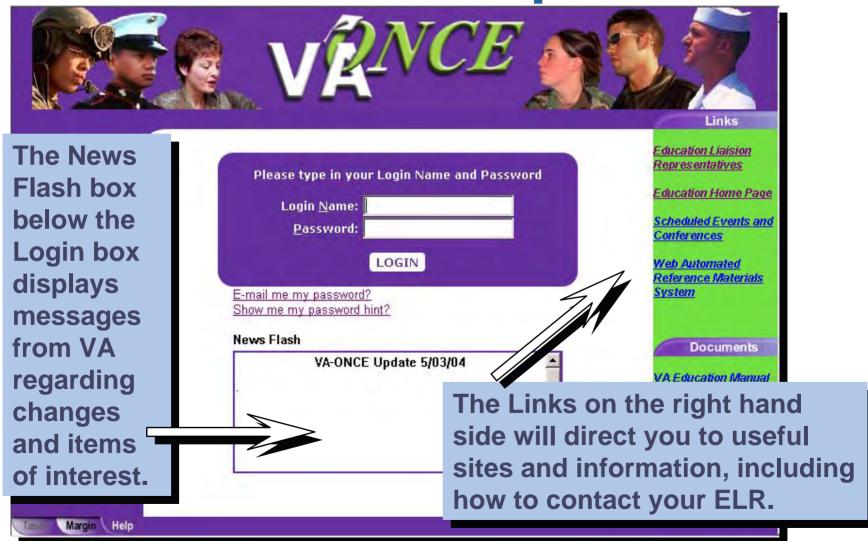
Start VA-ONCE

Start VA-ONCE using text only mode (This of Start VA-ONCE)

VA-ONCE, you can find an option for it in the start only mode (This of Start VA-ONCE)

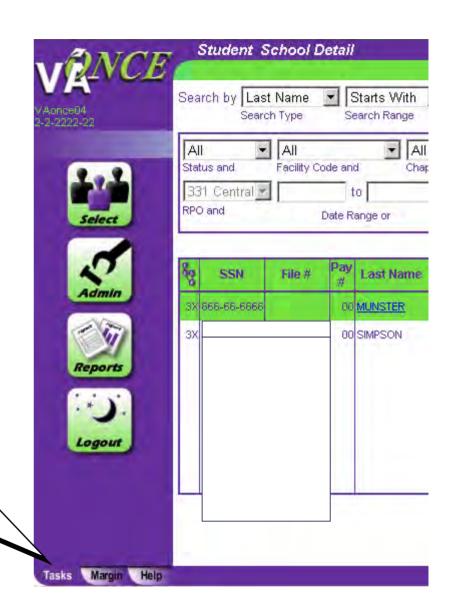
- 1. Click on Start VA-ONCE.
- 2. Click on the Login button.
- 3. Type in your temporary password.

#### **Online Help**



#### **TASK OPTION**

Tasks Default -- gives you access to main buttons.



#### Margin Text

Clicking on the **Margin**button at the bottom of the screen
gives you an explanation of the
contents of that screen.



This page contains a list of your students. You can find a particular student from this page by scrolling down, or by using "Search by". You can search by last name or social security number.

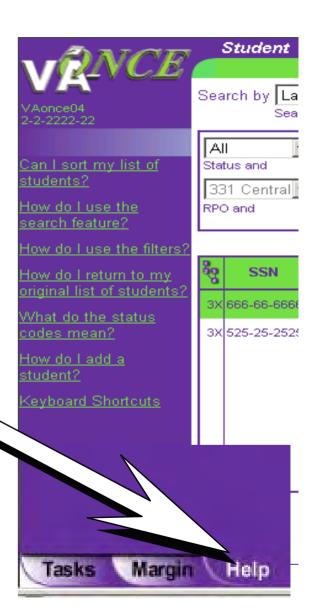
You can narrow the list of students, or create reports, by selecting one or more of the filters. For instance, all Chapter 30 students in a particular program.

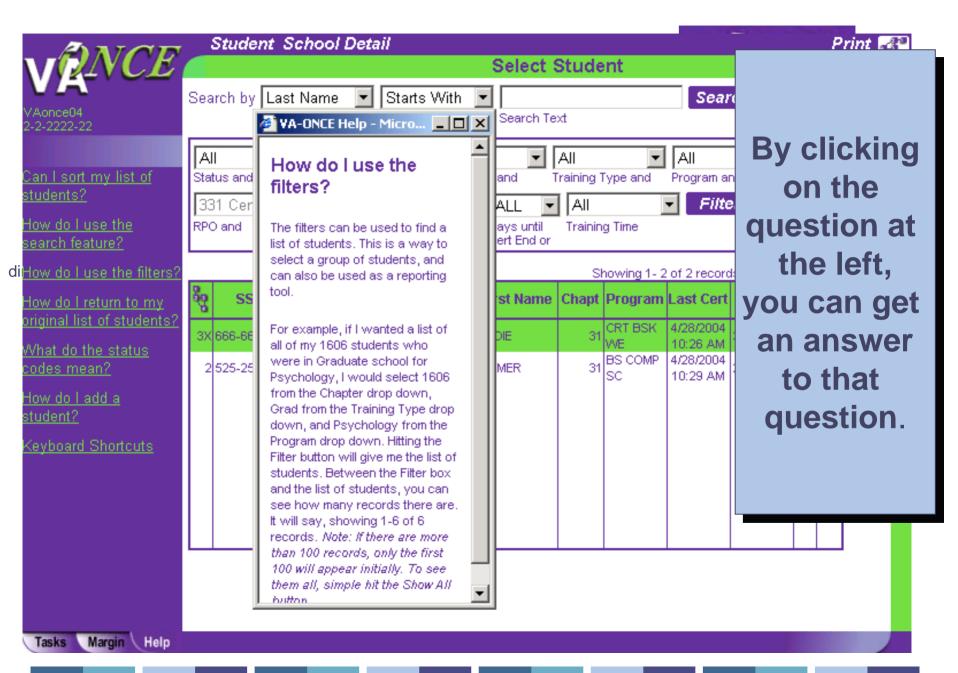
Once you have located the student you wish to work with, double click on the name to bring up the details about that student.



#### Help Text

Clicking on the **Help** button gives you a list of questions you may have regarding the screen.



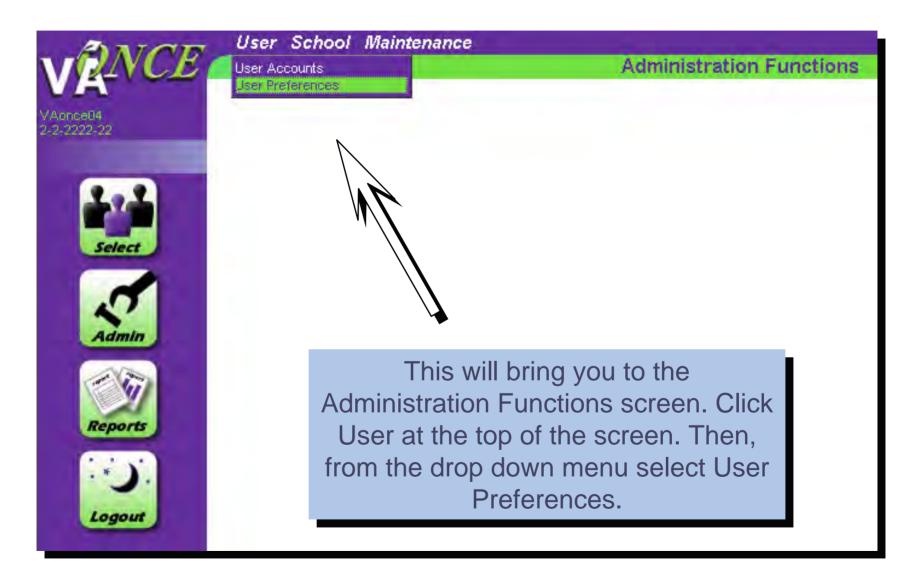


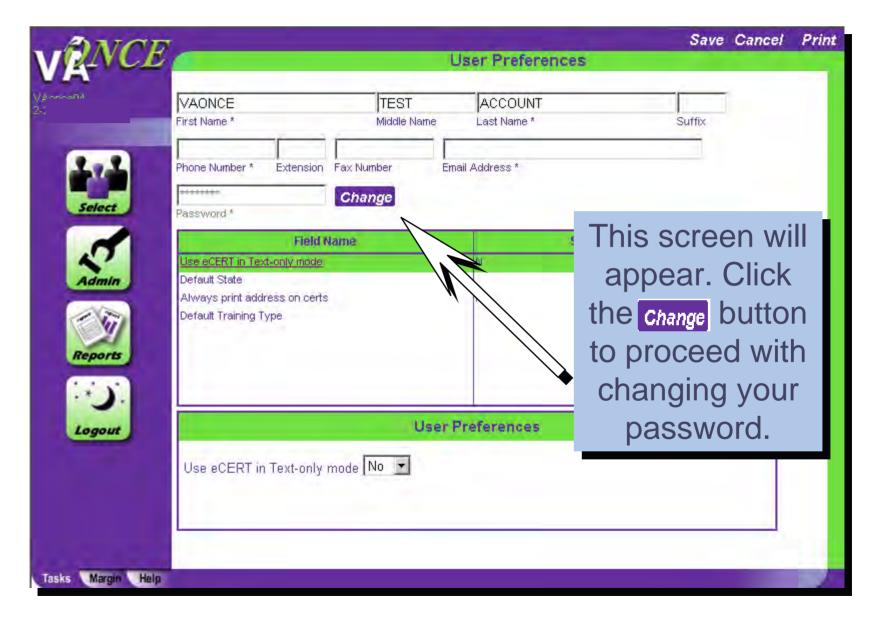
#### **Administrative Functions**

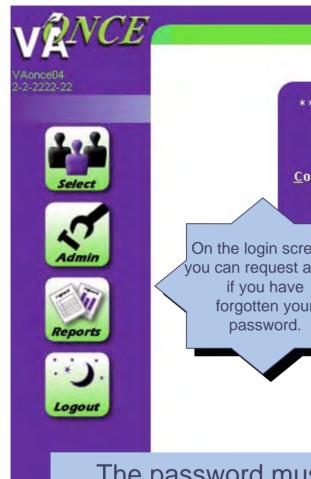
#### **Changing your Password**

Once you've used your temporary password for your initial login, you will want to select a new password. To change your password, click the Admin button on this screen.

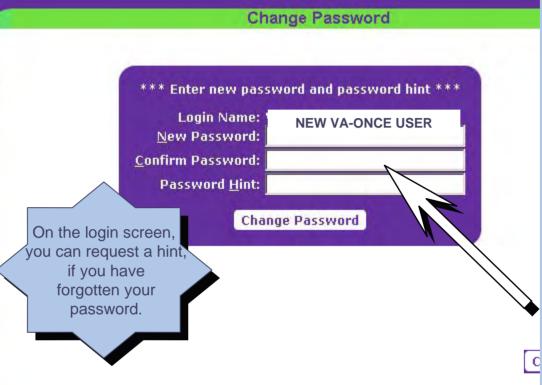
	9	WW 11	Pay				howing 1-4	Lock	Facility	
200	SSN SSN	File#	#	Last Name	First Name	Chapt	Program	Cert	Code	4
min	2 525-25-2528		DO.	BOND	JAME	:30	AAS MAN EN	9/9/2003 9:40:57 .AM	11111111	
orts	2 939-29-9392	939-29-9392	00	SIMPSON	HOMER	30	BS SCIEN CE	10/29/ 2003 8:31:28 AM	11111111	
	2 343-24-5613		00	SMITH	JOHN	30	BS SCIEN CE		111111111	
jout	2 987-65-4321		00	TEST	NEVV	30	THE STORES	8/26/2003 10:41:11 AM	11111111	







Tasks



The password must be 8 characters long and contain 3 of the following 4 characters: Upper case letter, Lower case letter, Number, Non-Alpha Numeric character (for example, %, #, @,...).

This screen will appear. Enter your desired new password, confirm it, and then enter a password reminder hint. Click

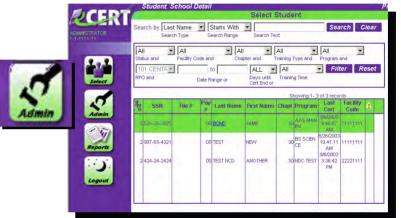
Change Password

to complete this change.

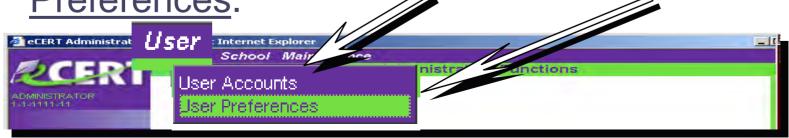
#### **Administrative Functionalities**

When you first begin using VA-ONCE, follow this order:

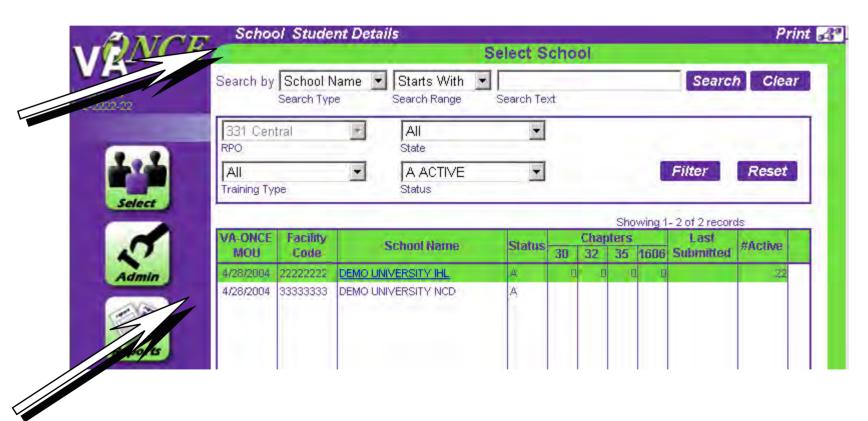
Click the
 "Administration"
 button on the left
 side of the screen.



2. Click "**User**" at the top of the screen. The drop down menu shows <u>User Accounts</u> and <u>User</u>
Preferences.

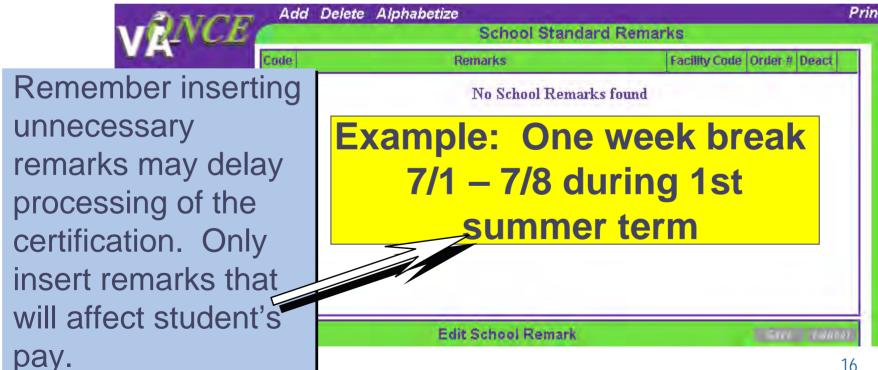


3. Click on "Admin" at the left of the screen. Then click on "School". This is the area which contains information pertinent to your school, which the ELR entered when your school was set up in VA-ONCE.



4. Click on "Admin". Click on the "Maintenance" drop down menu and select School Standard Remarks.





#### "Standard Terms"

#### In this area you will add:

Standard Terms (These terms should match the dates in your current catalog and be approved by the SAA. If your school does not have standard terms, you may choose not to utilize this feature.)

Standard Terms								
Term Name	Facility Code	Begin Date	End Date	Drop Date	Break Days	Order#	Deact	
spring 03	11111111	06/15/2003	07/15/2003			2		
Fall 03	11111111	08/16/2003	12/14/2003			1		
Fall 03a	22221111	08/20/2003	12/17/2003			3		
Fall 03a	11111111	08/20/2003	12/17/2003	08/21/2003		4		

	Edit Term	Save Cancel
spring 03 Term Name*		2 VOrder Number
11111111 (ECERT UNIVERSITY Facility Code	IHL)	
06/15/2003	07/15/2003	
Begin Date*	End Date* Semester ▼	Drop Date
Break Days	Term Type*	Deactivated

#### "Standard Programs"

You will also add:

Standard **Programs** (The programs offered at your school and approved by the SAA)

Edit Program

Program Name

Deactivate

AAS MAN EN

Facility Code

Program Abbreviation

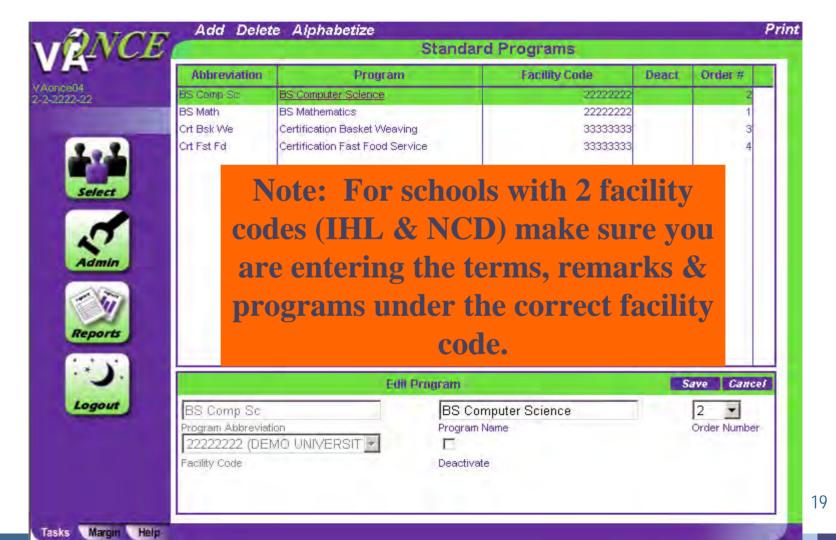
11111111 (ECERT UNIVERSIT



User School Maintenance

**Note**: The programs you enter will show up on the Student's Bio Data page in the drop down menu above "Program\*".

Once you Click on "Standard Programs" under the Maintenance Drop Down box, you can Add, Delete or Alphabetize your Programs. You can also edit your Programs.



## Deactivate a Program

You may click on the "Deactivate" box if a program is no longer approved or available, but may be offered/approved at a later date.

Remember

BS Math
Program Abbreviation
Program Abbreviation
Deactivate

Edit Program

BS M thematics
Program Name
Order Number

Order number reflects
the sequence in which the programs
were entered.

to save any changes you

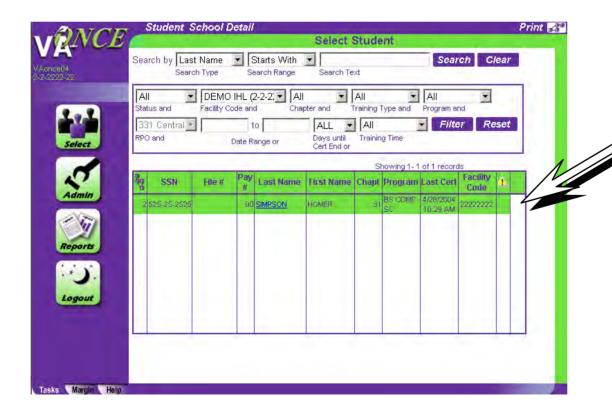
have made.

#### **User Defined Fields**

- Also under "Maintenance" in the drop down menu is the "User Defined Fields" option.
- There are three text boxes and one check box at the bottom of each student's Bio Data page that may be labeled and used at your discretion.

#### Student Records

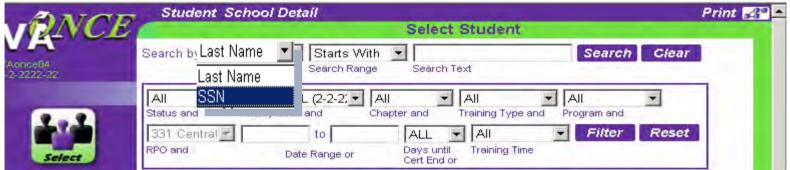
Click on the "Select" button. This take you to the "Select Student" screen.



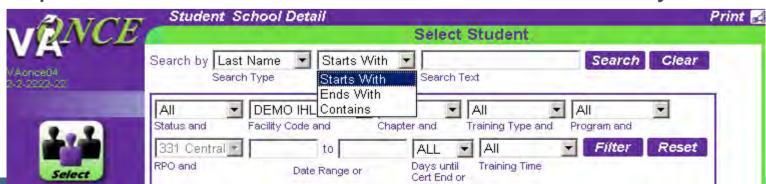
This page contains a list of all of your students who were prepopulated into the system from the VA database.

## Selecting a Student Record

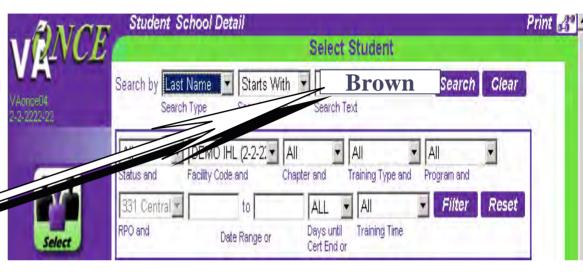
From the "Select Student" page, to search for an individual student you may go to the drop down box by "Search by." You have the option of searching by Last Name or SSN. Select the desired option.

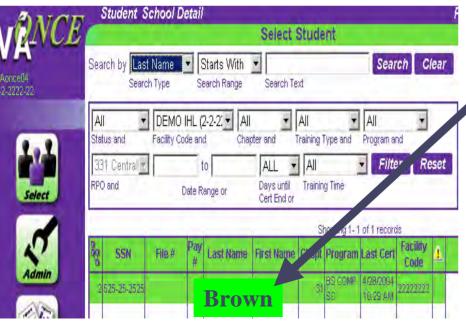


Then, identify the search range you will use from the next drop down box. Then, enter the search criteria you will use.



For example, if you're looking for David Brown, you would type "Brown" in the "Search Text" box. This would show a list of all students with the last name of Brown.





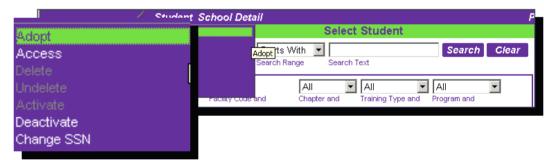
Or you may access a student's records by clicking on the student's name in the list of students. So if, you wished to work with the record of a student with the last name "Brown", you would simply click on that student's name in the list.

## Student Records (Cont'd)

In order to update your list, you may need to add new students and delete students who are no longer in school.

- 1.To add a student, click "Student" at the top of the screen.
- 2.From the drop down menu, choose "Adopt."
- 3. You are now at the "Adopt a Student" screen.



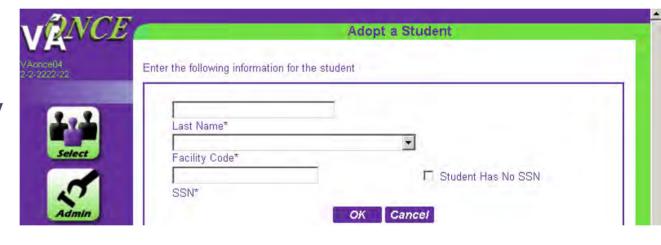




## Student Records (Cont'd)

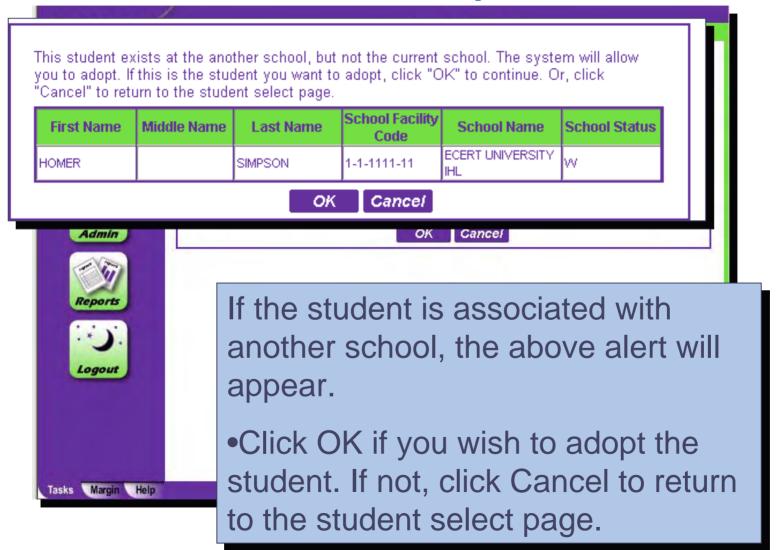
In order to update your list, you may need to add new students and delete students who are no longer in school.

Enter the student's last name, select the appropriate facility code and enter the student's SSN. Then click "OK."



VA-ONCE will now scan the database to see if this student is associated with any other school. If the student is associated with another school, VA-ONCE will alert you to the duplication.

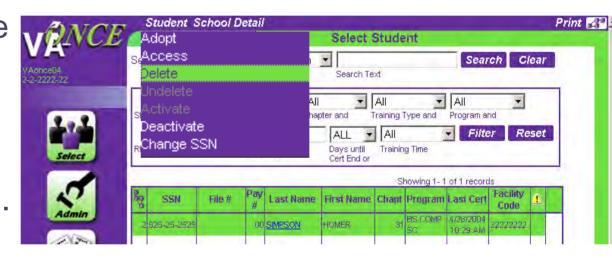
### Student Duplication



## Student Records (Cont'd)

Upon returning to the "Select Student"

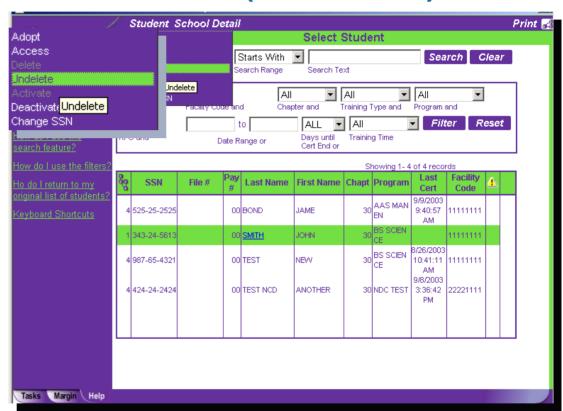
page, you may delete students who are no longer attending school, if necessary. First, select the student to be deleted. Upon selection, their name should be highlighted in green. Then, go to the Student drop down menu and select "Delete".



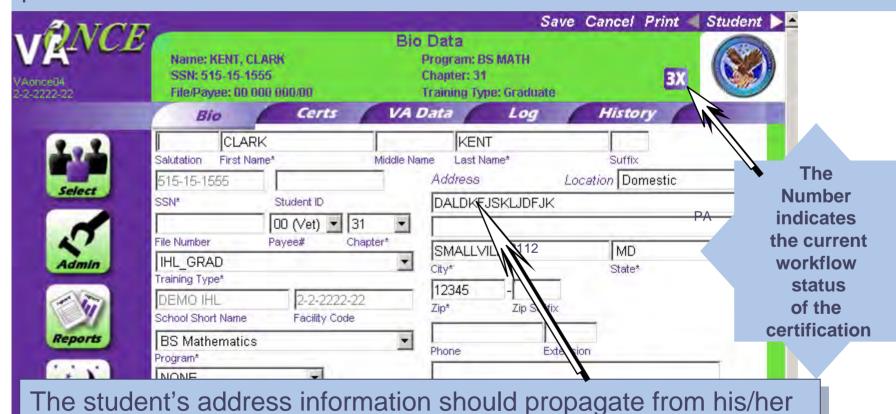
Some records may not be available for deletion, because of their processing status.

### Student Records (Cont'd)

Once you have selected "Delete," the subsequent screen will still display the student's name highlighted in green. However, this time you will have the option to "Undelete" on the Student drop down menu.



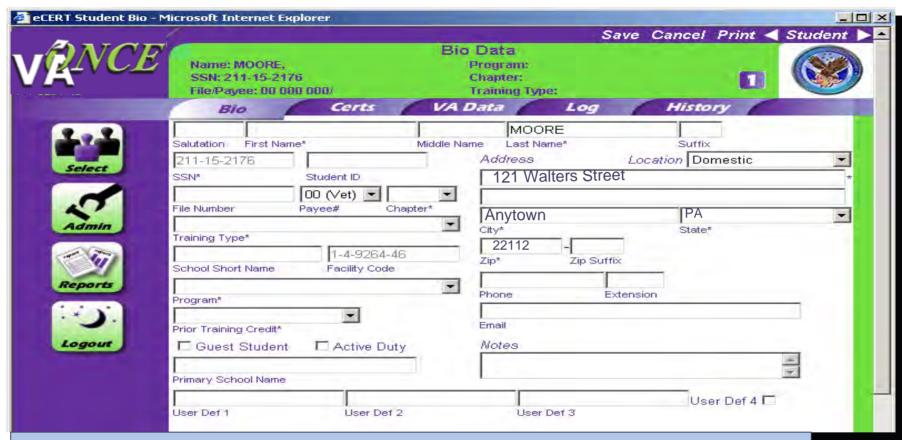
Once in the "Bio" section, you should input the required (\*) fields for the student. Click "Save" (top right) when you are finished. You may also Cancel your input, Print the screen, or go to the previous student's records or the next student's records.



record. If not, you may input it. Then you simply need to complete

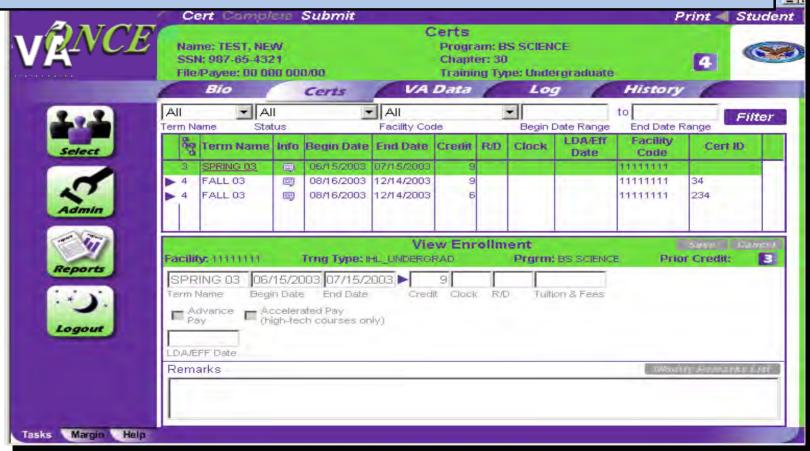
the other information.

30

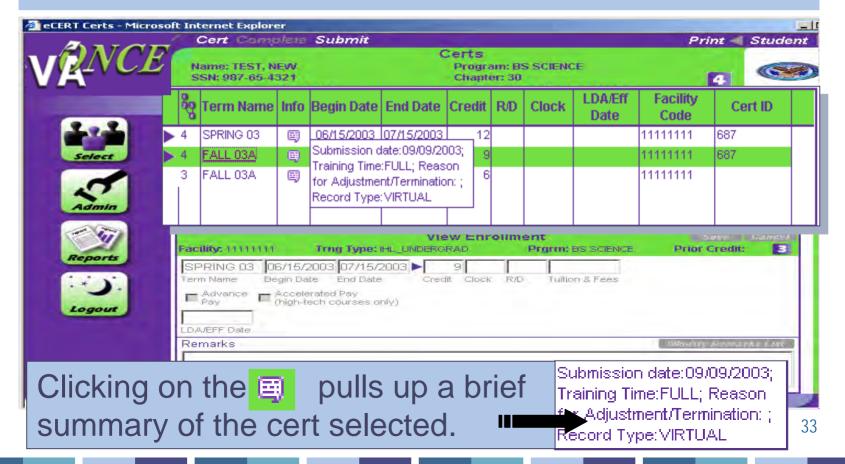


Notice the User Defined Fields at the the bottom of the Bio Data screen. These items are for school use only—they will not be transmitted to VA wit the student's certification. Use them to record the name of a student's faculty advisor or any other data of use to the school.

Certs: Here you may complete a new enrollment certification, amend or adjust an existing certification, terminate a student, or delete a certification—as long as it has not been submitted—Status "4".



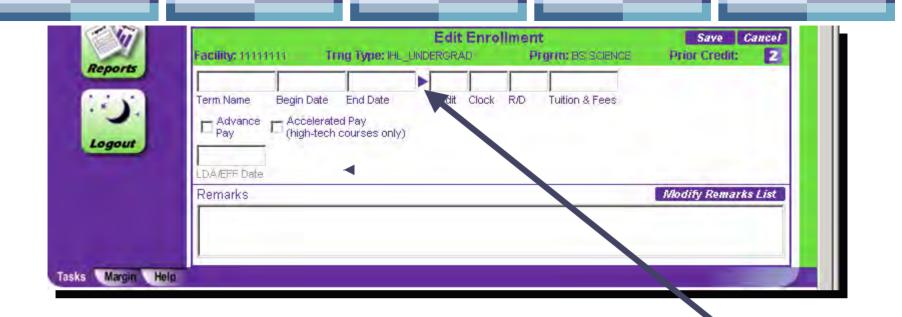
The "Certs" page features a summary of all certifications on the student's record (referred to as the Virtual Record). To see greater detail about a specific certification, you can click on the in the Info column.



# Completing an Enrollment Certification

Click on "Cert"- this will bring up a list of the certifications that have been done for this student. If there are none, select New under the drop down menu.



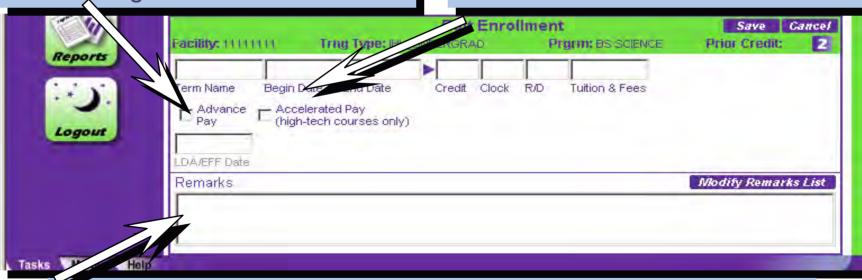


- To access your "Smart Dates/Terms" click on this arrow and they will appear. You may also type the terms in manually.
- Next enter either credit hours or clock hours (for non-degree programs).
- If TV or Independent Study, enter as credit hours.
- Enter Remedial/Deficiency (R/D) hours.
- Enter Tuition and Fees (if the student is on active duty or training less than half-time.)
  35

If requesting Advance Payment for the student, click here.

Remember that your school must be approved for this by your ELR and you must have the student's signature on file.

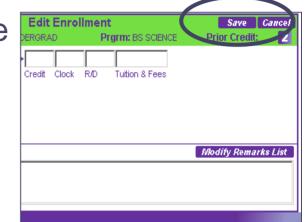
If requesting Accelerated Payment, click here. This is for high tech/high cost schools only and you must have student's signature and statement must be on file.



Sonly add necessary remarks in this section, as the addition of remarks may delay processing of the student's certification.

### Completing the Certification:

Now click on the Save button in the upper right hand corner. Or, if for whatever reason you decide not to input this enrollment, click on the Cancel button.



• If all information is correct, then click on the **Complete** button at the top of the screen. This indicates that your enrollment is complete and you are ready to submit it. It is now a Status "3" cert.



By clicking Complete, but not submitting, you may hold a cert and submit it at a later time for processing.

### Submitting the Certification:

When you are ready to send it to your Regional Processing Office, click on **Submit** at the top of the screen. This will change your cert to a Status "4."

	9 99 9	Term Name	Info	Begin Date	End Date	Credit	R/D	Clock	LDA/Eff Date
	3	SPRING 03	圝	06/15/2003	07/15/2003	9			
•	4	FALL 03	圓	08/16/2003	12/14/2003	9			
•	4	FALL 03	■	08/16/2003	12/14/2003	6			
>	4	FALL 03	圑	08/16/2003	12/14/2003	9			

Note: If you are sure you have entered the data correctly, you can skip the Save and Complete steps and simply click on "SUBMIT".

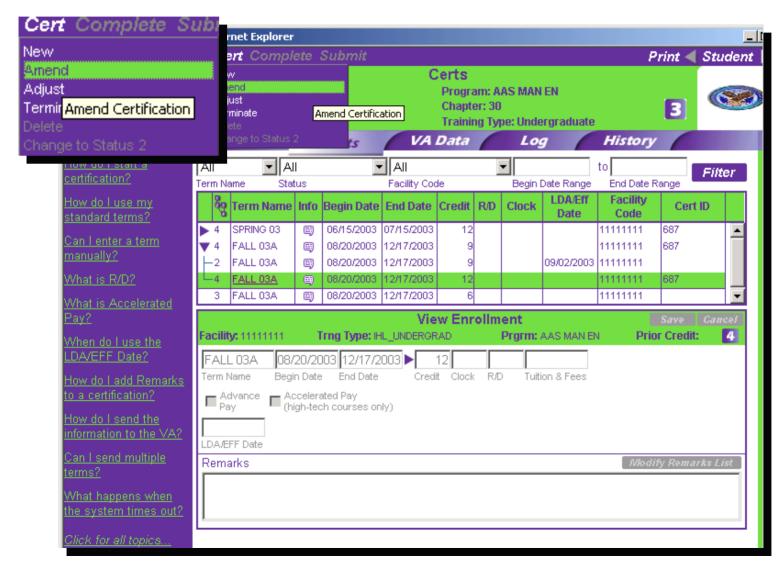
### Chapter 31 Certifications

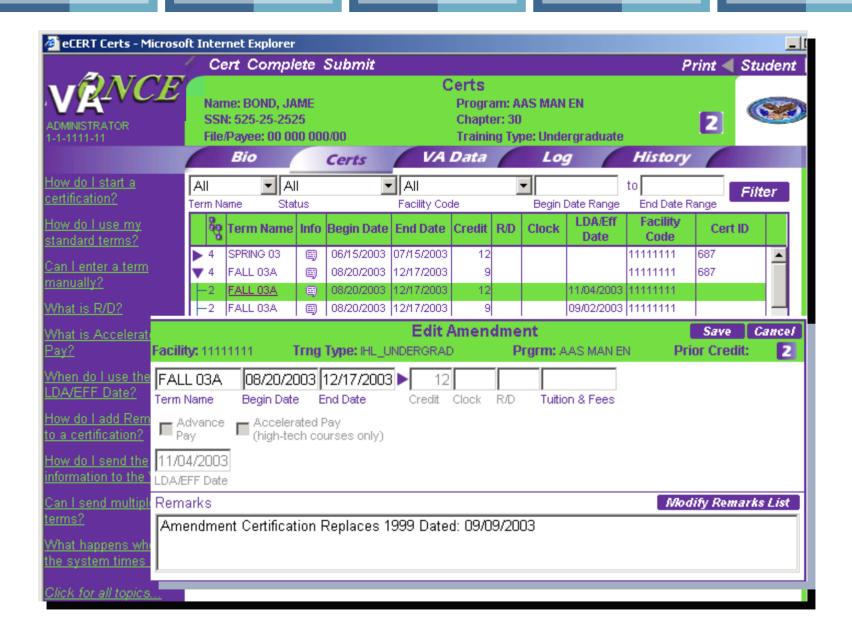
- You may also use VA-ONCE to generate enrollment certifications for your Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehab.) students. When you hit "Submit" the system will automatically change it to a Status "3X" and it will not be transmitted to your RPO. You will be able to print it out and mail it to the appropriate RO.
- Caveat: Be sure your Voc. Rehab. Counselor will accept a VA-ONCE generated enrollment certification in lieu of VA Form 28-1905.

### Under the **Cert** drop down menu at the top left of the screen, you can also opt to:

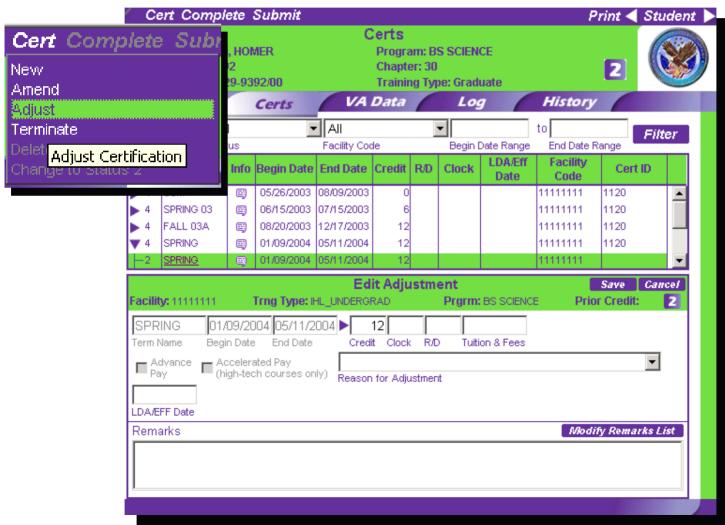


 Amend, Terminate, or <u>Delete</u> a cert or <u>Change to a Status 2</u> cert. Amend a cert: This allows you to change the beginning date, ending date or tuition and fees on a previously submitted VA Form 22-1999.

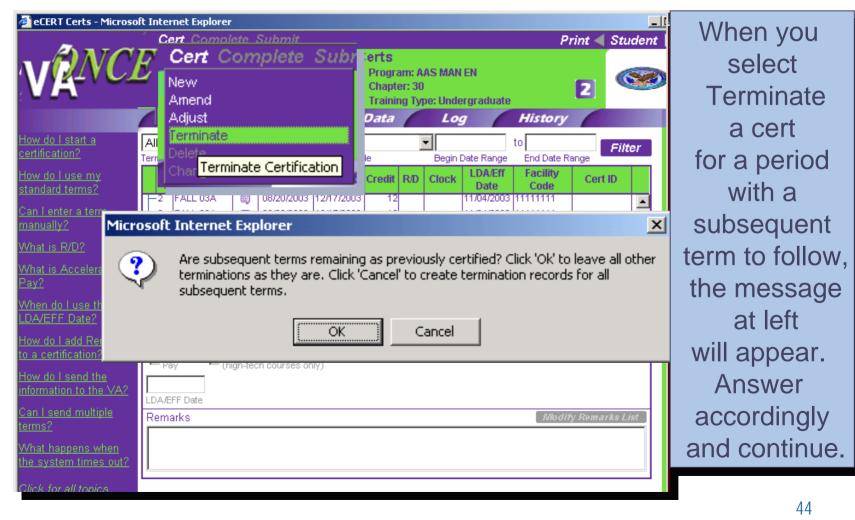


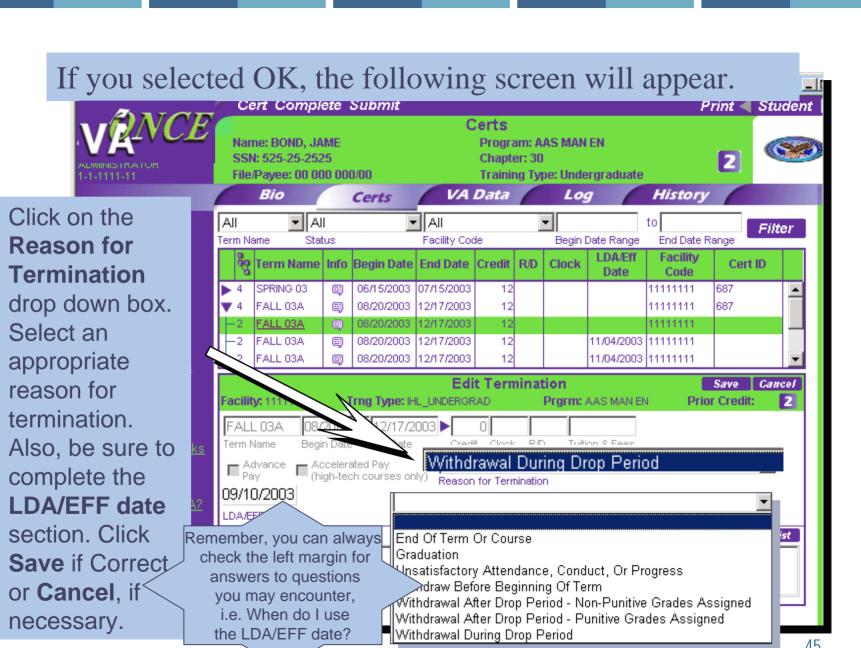


Adjust: This allows you to change the number of hours being pursued, as you would on a VA Form 22-1999b. This command should not be used to reduce a student to 0 hours or completely withdraw a student.

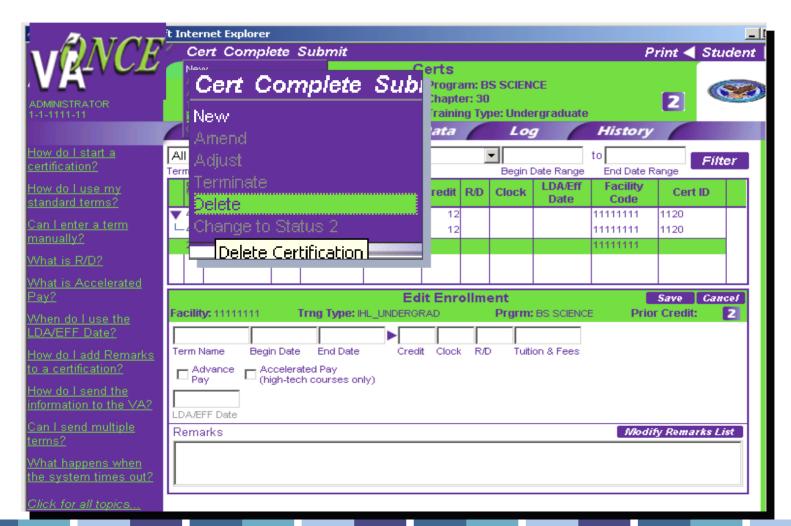


### Terminate a cert: Here you can terminate a student's enrollment, as you would on a VA Form 22-1999b.

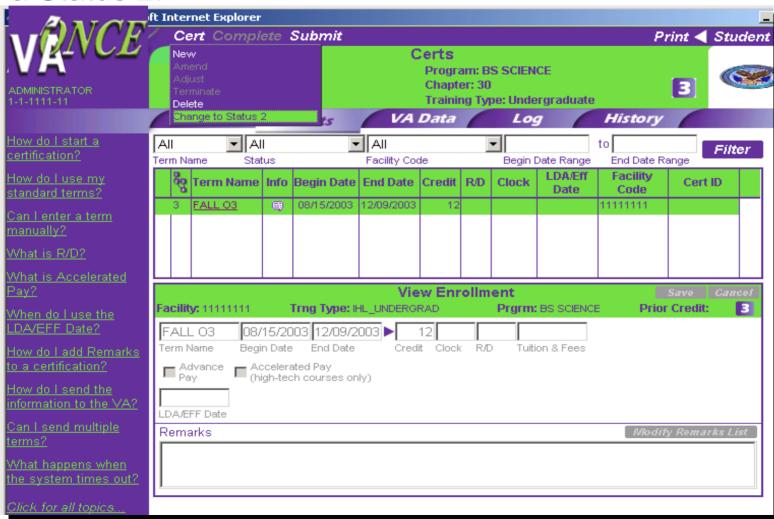




# Delete a cert: This allows you to delete a cert. **Note**: A Status "4" Cert may not be deleted.



Change to a Status 2 cert: Use this feature if a cert has already been completed, but you wish to convert it back to a Status 2.



Once you click on Change to Status 2 in the Cert drop down menu, the following screen will appear. Notice that status has changed from [3] to [2].

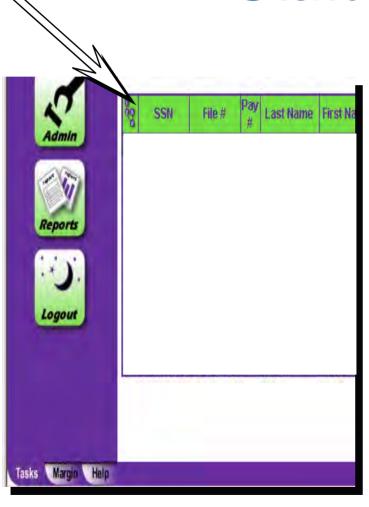


## Checking the Status of a Certification:

Submitting the certification is the final action required of you in the certifying process. However, you can check the status of a student's certification, by checking the status column in a student's record.

80	SSN	File #	Pay #	Last Name	First Name
4	987-65-4321		00	<u>TEST</u>	NEW

### Status Chart

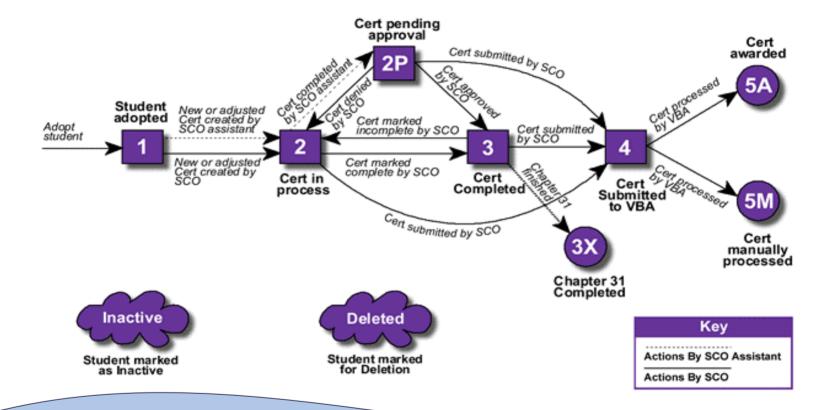


The first column on the left indicates the work flow status.

- 1 New Student
- 2 Pending
- **2P** Pending Approval
- 3 Completed
- 4 Submitted to RPO
- **5A** Cert Awarded
- **5M** Cert Manually Processed

This info updates automatically in the system.

#### The VA-ONCE Process



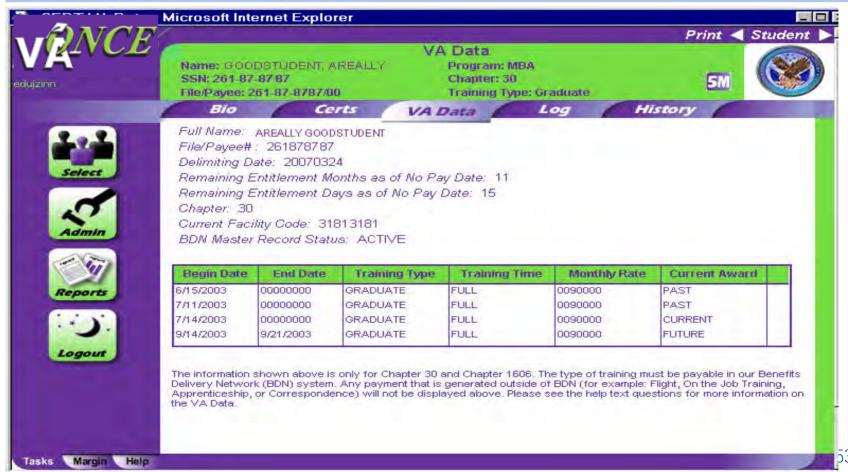
An outline of the VA-ONCE process can be viewed by clicking the button in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

### **RPO Processing**

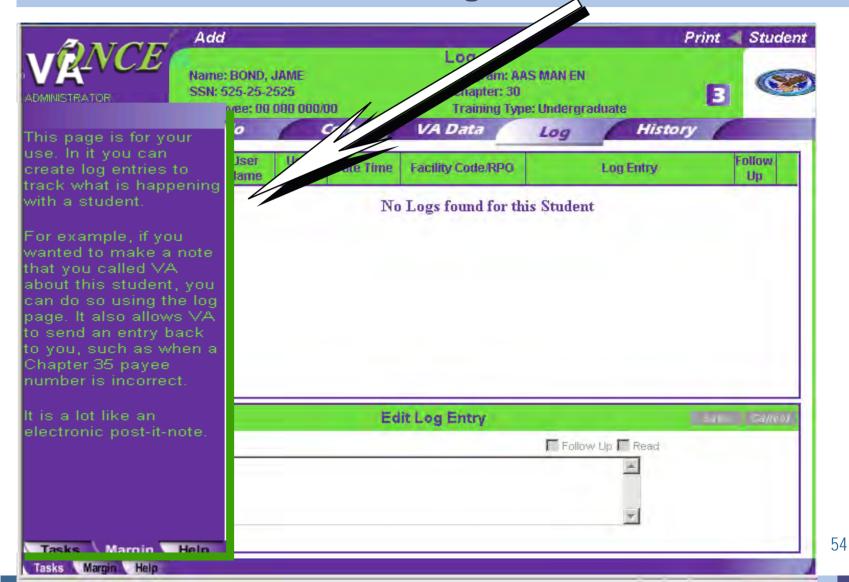
80	SSN	File # Pag	Last Name	First Name	Chapt	Program	Last Cert	Facility Code	<u> </u>
4	987-65-4321	C	O TEST	NEVV	30	BS SCIEN CE	8/26/2003 10:41:11 AM	11111111	

- ◆ 5A in the column indicates the certification was processed automatically. In most instances, the veteran will receive payment. However, if there is an overpayment, he/she may not be due payment at this time.
- 5M in the column indicates that the certification was received and will be processed manually by a VA employee. Schools should allow sufficient time for this processing to occur. Processing times may vary.

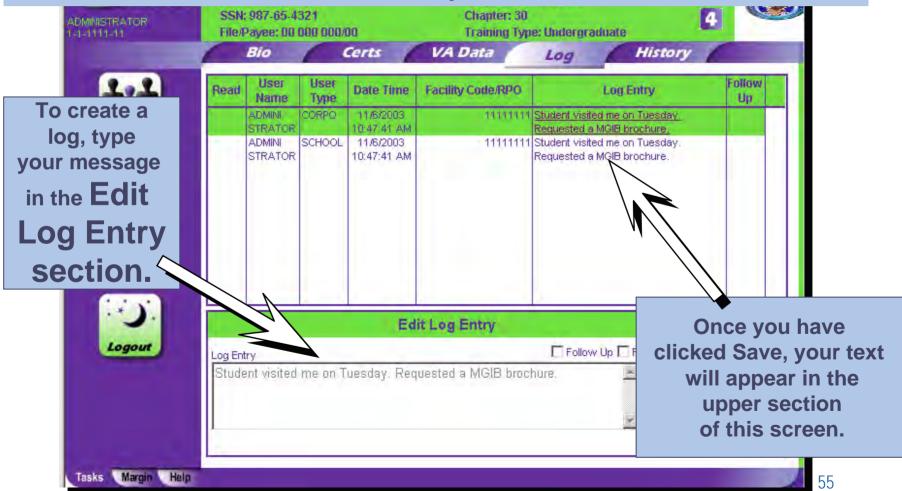
VA Data: This page displays information taken from the VA payment system. From this section, you can locate information including the student's delimiting date, remaining entitlement and the last 3 award lines from the student's BDN history. \*Note that this information will only be present for Ch. 30 and Ch. 1606 students.



Log: Here you may create log entries to track what is happening with a particular student. See "Margin" text notes for details.



The Log page allows you, the school user, to place messages on the student's record for other school users. When you create a log, it automatically records your user name, the facility code and date of the entry.



#### History: This page shows you a system-generated history for the student.



History

Program: AAS MAN EN

Chapter: 30

Training Type: Undergraduate

3

Print Student



Bio

TRATOR ADMINIS

TRATOR

Name: BOND, JAME

File/Payee: 00 000 000/00

SCHOOL

SSN: 525-25-2525

Certs

9/9/2003 9:39:

VA Data

Log

History

This page shows you a system generated history of this student.

You can use this as an audit trail to see exactly when a certification was created or submitted.

User Nam S	elect to ac	cess Student biographic i	nformation Code	Event Type	Event Description
ADMINIS TRATOR	SCHOOL	10/29/2003 9:47:24 AM	1-1-1111-11	Complete	The term starting on 8/20/2003 and ending on 12/17/2003 was completed.
ADMINIS TRATOR	SCHOOL	10/29/2003 9:47:05 AM	1-1-1111-11	Enroll	A new Enrollment was created on 10/29/2003.
ADMINIS TRATOR	SCHOOL	9/22/2003 2:29:58 PM	1-1-1111-11	Submit	The term starting on 6/15/2003 and ending on 7/15/2003 was submitted.
ADMINIS TRATOR	SCHOOL	9/22/2003 2:29:42 PM	1-1-1111-11	Enroll	A new Enrollment was created on 09/22/2003.
ADMINIS TRATOR	SCHOOL	9/9/2003 9:41:08 AM	1-1-1111-11	Adjust	An Adjustment was added to the term starting on 08/20/2003 and ending on 12/17/2003.
ADMINIS TRATOR	SCHOOL	9/9/2003 9:40:57 AM	1-1-1111-11	Submit	The term starting on 8/20/2003 and ending on 12/17/2003 was submitted.
ADMINIS	SCHOOL	9/9/2003 9:40:		. (   (!	_

The student's history is automatically created by the system. Each entry will include the appropriate User Name, User Type, the date and time, Facility Code, Each Type and Event Description for the event it is recording.

Tasks

Margin Help

If you have questions or run into difficulties using VA-ONCE, you should consult your ELR for assistance.

