



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
VETERANS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTION

JB PRITZKER  
GOVERNOR

TERRY PRINCE  
ACTING DIRECTOR

February 25, 2022

*Delivered via email to [paul.johnson@ctichicago](mailto:paul.johnson@ctichicago) and certified mail.*

Withdrawal of Approval of Facility  
Facility Code – 2-5-0805-13

Future Tech Career Institute  
Mr. Paul Johnson  
200 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Mr. Johnson:

The Illinois State Approving Agency is withdrawing the approval of the following facility and all programs, issued under U.S. Code, Title 38, Chapters 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and Title 10 Chapters 1606 and 1607, with an effective date of February 28, 2022:

Future Tech Career Institute (2-5-0805-13)

- Amazon Web Services - Admin & Architect (288 Clock Hours)
- Business Administration Career Program (900 Clock Hours)
- Business Management Career Program (900 Clock Hours)
- Creative & Digital Arts Career Program (900 Clock Hours)
- Cyber Security & Certified Ethical Hacking (288 Clock Hours)
- Health & Information Technology Career Program (900 Clock Hours)
- Information Career Program (900 Clock Hours)
- IT Cloud – CompTIA Microsoft Server & Azure Combo (288 Clock Hours)
- Microsoft Data & Business Analyst (288 Clock Hours)
- Adobe Graphics Design & E-Learning Combo (288 Clock Hours)
- Apple IOS & Android App Developer (288 Clock Hours)
- Autocad (288 Clock Hours)
- Business Administration – MS Office & Quickbooks Combo (288 Clock Hours)

- Business Administration – PMP & Six Sigma Combo (288 Clock Hours)
- Cisco CCNA & CCNP Combo (288 Clock Hours)
- CompTIA & MCSA Combo (288 Clock Hours)
- Medical Billing Health & IT Technician (288 Clock Hours)
- Microsoft Sharepoint & SQL Database Combo (288 Clock Hours)
- Sales Force Administrator (288 Clock Hours)
- Social Media Administrator (288 Clock Hours)

The Illinois State Approving Agency is taking this action based on findings concerning the following regulations specifying requirements for the approval of programs of education at a nonaccredited educational institution.

- 38 CFR 21.4254(c)(1): The courses, curriculum, and instruction are consistent in quality, content, and length with similar recognized standards.
  - FTIC courses frequently failed to follow a syllabus or curriculum.
  - FTIC courses did not adhere to set course schedule dates.
  - FTIC changed course lengths, frequently restarting courses, to accommodate the addition of new students after the start of the course.
  - FTIC failed to hire additional staff and instructors required to provide quality instruction resulting in the assignment of instructors to teach multiple classes at the same time.
  - FTIC students enrolled for 18 hours a week and frequently, only have the instructor present in the online classroom for 6 to 8 hours a week.
  - FTIC courses frequently start without an instructor for up to 1 to 2 weeks.
  - FTIC curriculum and instruction is not leading to industry credentials or certification with only 6 students in the past year passing one certification exam, although the enrollment is around 400 students during this time.
  
- 38 CFR 21.4254(c)(2): There is in the school adequate space, equipment, instructional material, and instructor personnel to provide training of a good quality.
  - FTIC failed to hire the additional staff and instructors required to provide quality instruction resulting in the assignment of instructors to teach multiple classes at the same time.
  - FTIC students enrolled for 18 hours a week and frequently, only have the instructor present in the online classroom for 6 to 8 hours a week.
  - FTIC courses frequently start without an instructor for up to 1 to 2 weeks.
  - FTIC frequently failed to provide students with access to books, labs, and computers in a timely manner.
  - FTIC frequently forced students to take night courses due to a lack of instructors, although their enrollment agreement specified day courses.
  
- 38 CFR 21.4254(c)(3): Educational and experience qualifications of directors, administrators, and instructors are adequate.
  - Several FTIC instructors have not earned industry credentials/certifications for courses they are instructing.

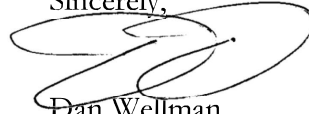
- 38 CFR 21.4254(c)(4): The school maintains a written record of the previous education and training of the veteran or eligible person and clearly indicates that appropriate credit has been given for previous education and training, with the training period shortened proportionately, and the veteran or eligible person and the Department of Veterans Affairs so notified.
  - FTIC states it provides credit for prior training when a veteran has earned an industry credential; however, FTIC failed to maintain a written record of previous education or training awarded and documentation showing that training period shortened proportionately. There is also no documentation showing a current system exists to evaluate and award such credit.
  
- 38 CFR 21.4254(c)(6): Upon completion of training, the veteran or eligible person is given a certificate by the school indicating the approved course and indicating that training was satisfactorily completed.
  - FTIC recently started awarding certificates of completion for successful completion of training but failed to provide such certificates to past students.
  
- 38 CFR 21.4254(c)(7): Adequate records as prescribed by the State approving agency are kept to show attendance and progress or grades, and satisfactory standards relating to attendance, progress, and conduct are enforced.
  - FTIC records are disorganized, incorrect, and often in conflict with other records at the school. It is difficult, if not impossible, to verify how attendance, grades or progress are enforced due to condition of records.
  - FTIC could not provide accurate class rosters for all courses since June 2021. Course rosters were inaccurate, not listing all enrolled students. Moreover, not one student from the student files reviewed appeared on provided class rosters.
  - FTIC students were directed to punch in each day for 4.5 hours of instruction, so that they may continue to receive their monthly housing allowance benefit from USDVA although no instructor or instruction was occurring.
  - FTIC failed to accurately report the dates beneficiaries commenced training at FTIC.
  - FTIC failed to report program dates correctly.
  - FTIC failed to promptly report enrollment certifications.
  - FTIC failed to report promptly when beneficiaries terminate or interrupt training.
  - FTIC failed to report program enrollment information correctly, frequently certifying enrollment in courses not listed on a student's enrollment agreement.
  - FTIC awarded final passing grades to students who terminated or withdrew from a course.
  
- 38 CFR 21.4254(c)(11): The school does not exceed its enrollment limitations as established by the State approving agency.
  - The enrollment limitation is 20 students per 1 instructor for all approved programs of education at Future Tech Career Institute. Per student interviews and documentation, there were frequently more than 20 students in a class. The violation of the enrollment limitation confirmed by two instructors, one who said he had 45 students in one class, and another said he averaged 20 to 22 students in each

class.

- Furthermore, FTIC engaged in substantial misrepresentations as defined by 38 USC 3696: An educational institution with a course or program of education approved under this chapter, and an entity that owns such an educational institution, shall not engage in substantial misrepresentation.
  - FTIC advertises that it provides online instruction, although this authorization is only temporary due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
  - FTIC misrepresented to students and potential students on the availability, frequency, and appropriateness of courses of education.
  - FTIC did not have an appropriate number of instructors available to teach the number of students enrolled.
  - FTIC advertises no out-of-pocket expenses incurred by students, although Future Tech Career Institute has erroneously reported scholarships, laptops, and certification costs to USDVA, which are not covered by USDVA.
  - FTIC advertises students will earn 4-7 certifications through their training program. Since March 2021, only 6 students have earned one certification, although there are close to 400 enrolled students during this time.
  - FTIC pressured veterans into signing up for VRRAP, and concomitantly with Future Tech, using statements such as Time is Running out, Funds are Running Out, or that there is limited space in the program
  
- Moreover, FTIC failed to meet reporting requirements specified by 38 CFR 21.4203.
  - FTIC failed to accurately report dates beneficiaries commenced training at FTIC.
  - FTIC failed to report program dates correctly.
  - FTIC did not report tuition and fees correctly, including the cost of certification exams, which are not a part of the curriculum, charges for a laptop not charged to every student, or received by every student.
  - FTIC failed to accurately report program costs in enrollment agreement.
  - FTIC certified enrollment of beneficiaries prior to execution and signature of enrollment agreement.
  - FTIC violated enrollment agreement by forcing students signed up for day courses to enroll in night courses.
  - FTIC student ledgers or account statements fail to account for payments from USDVA.
  - FTIC failed to promptly report enrollment certifications.
  - FTIC failed to report promptly when beneficiaries terminate or interrupt training.
  - FTIC failed to report program enrollment information correctly, frequently certifying enrollment in courses not listed on a student's enrollment agreement.
  - FTIC had two enrollment agreements with the same beneficiary during the same timeframe for two different programs.
  - FTIC maintained enrollment agreement without a student's signature.
  - FTIC enrolled students without an enrollment agreement.
  - FTIC maintained enrollment agreements with the school official signature in place of where students should sign.

This withdrawal is without prejudice. If you do not agree with this withdrawal, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Illinois State Approving Agency within ten calendar days in writing or phone at (217) 782-7838.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Wellman', written over a large, loopy scribble.

Dan Wellman

Administrator

State Approving Agency

Veterans' Education & Training Section (VETS)