December 1, 2024

Western Governors University
College of Information Technology
4001 S 700 East, Suite 700
Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Dear DoD CSA Scholarship Committee,

As Associate Dean of the Cyber Security programs at Western Governors University (WGU), I invite you to learn more about our competency-based education model and how it relates to the GPA requirement of the scholarship.

WGU's Competency-based education means that students progress through courses as soon as they can prove they've mastered the material, rather than advancing only when the semester or term ends. If students can learn faster, spend more time on schoolwork, or have prior knowledge from previous work or school experience, then they can accelerate through the courses.

WGU's competency-based academic approach utilizes a variety of assessments to measure the skills and knowledge. These assessments require students to demonstrate that they understand concepts and can perform them in real-life situations. Assessments can take many forms, including objective exams, research papers, assignments, projects, and essays. Assessments at WGU are developed using a rigorous process that conforms to accreditation requirements and professional testing standards. The evaluation process includes psychometricians and outside experts that yields high-quality exams, reliable scores, and supports valid conclusions about each student's level of competence.

According to WGU's policy, a "Pass" refers "to a B or better." Our Academic transcripts state "GPA: This student completed each of the listed courses with a GPA between 3.0 and 4.0 on a 4.0-scale."

For purposes of the DoD CSA Scholarship application, I encourage students to mark the School Grading Scale as "4.0 to 0.0" and the GPA as "3.5" for both Undergraduate and Graduate students. This is a fair representation of the competency-based education model we represent.

Our programs provide outstanding opportunities for non-traditional and disadvantaged students to demonstrate their competency through real-world experience and their capacity to learn. As an added advantage, we include nationally recognized certifications that are in high demand in the cybersecurity industry.

Sincerely,

Mike Morris

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