

## **Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Out-of-State Fee Waivers for Veterans**

### **1. What is the statutory language?**

- a. "1009.26(12): There is established the Congressman C.W. Bill Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program. A state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, or a charter technical career center shall waive out-of-state fees for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard who physically resides in this state while enrolled in the institution. Tuition and fees charged to a veteran who qualifies for the out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection may not exceed the tuition and fees charged to a resident student. The waiver is applicable for 110 percent of the required credit hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student is enrolled. Each state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, and charter technical career center shall report to the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, respectively, the number and value of all fee waivers granted annually under this subsection.

### **2. What are the United States Armed Forces?**

- a. The U.S. Armed forces consist of the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy.

### **3. What are the United States Reserve forces?**

- a. The U.S. Reserve Forces are the Marine Forces Reserve, the U.S. Navy Reserve, the U.S. Army Reserve, the Air Force Reserve and the Coast Guard Reserve.

[http://www.army.mil/article/110950/U S reserve forces model example to world vice chairman of Joint Chiefs says/](http://www.army.mil/article/110950/U_S_reserve_forces_model_example_to_world_vice_chairman_of_Joint_Chiefs_says/)

### **4. What are the National Guard components?**

- a. The Army National Guard and the Air National Guard are the components.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/AbouttheGuard.aspx>

### **5. What documentation must a veteran present to the university in order to be considered for the waiver?**

- a. Veterans are expected to provide the following documentation:
  - i. Proof that the veteran physically resides in the state. This may include, but isn't limited to, copy of annual lease reflecting the veteran's name.
  - ii. Proof that the veteran is honorably discharged. Information may be found on the veteran's DD214 or discharge certificate.

### **6. May a currently active National Guard member receive an out-of-state waiver?**

- a. The statute specifies veteran. Section 1009.21, F.S. specifies that active drilling members of the Florida National Guard are classified as residents for tuition purposes.

### **7. Is it possible for the same student to receive both of the Purple Heart waiver and the out-of-state fee waiver?**

- a. Perhaps. The Purple Heart waiver is for a recipient who is currently, or was at the time of the military action that resulted in the awarding of the Purple Heart or other combat decoration superior in precedence, a resident of this state. A veteran could qualify for the Purple Heart waiver of undergraduate tuition and still be moving back to Florida after establishing residency in another state after his/her discharge from service.
- 8. Is the waiver automatically transferable from one institution to the next or would the student have to reapply for the waiver if transferring to a new institution within the state?**
  - a. Each institution must verify eligibility. This is due, in part, to the requirement of proof of physical presence in Florida.
- 9. Can an eligible veteran apply the waiver towards the required repeated enrollment fee per s. 1009.285, F.S.? This is the fee that required a student who enrolled in the same undergraduate college-credit course more than twice to pay tuition at 100% of the full cost of instruction.**
  - a. No.
- 10. The waiver is applicable for 110 percent of the required credit hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student is enrolled. What does this mean?**
  - a. Students may enroll using the waiver for the number of credit hours that would equal 110% of the number of required credit hours of the student's degree program.
  - b. This means the number of credit hours may fluctuate depending on how a student changes his or her major. For example, if a student starts out in an engineering program at 130 credit hours for the degree, the 110% total is 143 credit hours. If this same student decides to change his/her major to history (requiring 12 hours for the degree), the total falls down to 132 hours. Credit hours used in the count are the credit hours, after drop/add, for which the student is registered.
- 11. Does an institution have to notify veterans of this available option other than the usual inclusion on websites and catalogs?**
  - a. The statute is silent on this issue. At minimum institution should promote the waiver to the same extent as other waivers. Universities will probably also want to ensure that their veterans' certifying officer is aware of the opportunity.
- 12. Must institutions award the waiver?**
  - a. Yes. The statute is phrased such that it creates a mandatory waiver for any student who requests the waiver and is eligible.
- 13. Will we be required to report data on this waiver?**
  - a. Yes. The number and values of fee waivers must be reported to the Board of Governors. Further information on this matter will be given to institutions as to how to report.
- 14. Can a veteran's spouse or dependents use this waiver?**
  - a. No.
- 15. When must institutions begin using this waiver?**

- a. The statute is effective July 1, 2014. If your institution has any summer sessions beginning July1, 2014, or after, qualified veterans may receive the waiver if she/he would have had to pay the out-of-state fee along with tuition and fees.

**16. Do we have to review a student's documentation every semester in order to ensure that the student is qualified for the waiver?**

- a. Because of the physical presence requirement, universities should at least check annually. As a student approaches the 110% limit, institutions may need to review student eligibility more often as this may be an auditable requirement.

**17. May veterans receiving funding from Chapter 33 or other GI Bill chapters receive the waiver?**

- a. Yes, assuming that they meet the physical presence requirement.