

49-7-102. Waiver of fees and tuition for dependents of POW's or deceased veterans.

Student Requirements:

1. *“Dependent child”* lives in Tennessee and is under twenty-three (23) years of age:
 - a. A natural or adopted child or stepchild of a veteran or service member whom the veteran or service member claims as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.
 - b. Must be enrolled prior to attaining twenty-three (23) years of age
 - i. Is no longer eligible once an undergraduate degree or certificate is attained, or
 - ii. Is no longer eligible once 135 semester hours have been earned (excluding remedial or developmental hours), or
 - iii. Is no longer eligible once 150 semester hours have been attempted (including remedial and developmental hours).
2. *Spouse* of a veteran
 - a. Eligibility shall terminate ten (10) years after the death of the veteran or immediately upon the person's remarriage within the ten-year period.
 - b. When enrolled, eligibility is extended to the end of the term in which the ten-year period expires. (Applies to the first undergraduate degree or certificate only)
 - c. Benefits expire upon
 - i. attainment of an undergraduate degree or certificate, or
 - ii. attainment of 135 semester hours earned (excluding remedial or developmental hours), or
 - iii. attainment of 150 semester hours attempted (including remedial and developmental hours).
3. *Dependent child* or *spouse* must meet the entrance requirement of the state institution of higher education.
4. *Dependent child* or *spouse* must be in pursuit of a specific and declared degree at the institution.

To receive the waiver:

1. The *dependent child* or *spouse* will present an official certification from the United States government establishing that the *parent or spouse veteran*
 - a. was killed or died as a direct result of injuries received while serving honorably as a member of the United States armed forces during a qualifying period of armed conflict, or
 - b. has been officially reported as being either a prisoner of war or missing in action while serving honorably as a member of the United States armed forces during a qualifying period of armed conflict or was formerly a prisoner of war or missing in action under a qualifying period of armed conflict, or
 - c. present a certificate of release or discharge Department of Defense form 214 (DD 214) released or discharged from active duty.
2. The *dependent child* or *spouse* will present verification that the deceased veteran, current or former prisoner of war or missing in action service member is/was a citizen of Tennessee:
 - a. at the time the veteran was killed;
 - b. at the time the fatal injury was sustained, or

- c. at the time the service member was officially reported as being a prisoner of war or missing in action.
- d. If former prisoner of war, then veteran must reside in Tennessee at the time the dependent child or spouse applies for educational assistance benefits.

Definitions:

1. Qualifying period of armed conflict:
 - a. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal;
 - b. Navy Expeditionary Medal;
 - c. Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal;
 - d. Combat Action Ribbon (Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard);
 - e. Army Combat Infantryman Badge;
 - f. Kosovo Campaign Medal with at least one (1) bronze star appurtenance for specific military campaign participation by the veteran;
 - g. Southwest Asia Service Medal with at least one (1) bronze star appurtenance for specific military campaign participation by the veteran;
 - h. Vietnam Service Medal with at least one (1) bronze star appurtenance for specific military campaign participation by the veteran;
 - i. United States Department of Defense Prisoner of War Medal for former prisoners of war;
 - j. Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal;
 - k. Air Force Expeditionary Medal;
 - l. Combat Medic Badge;
 - m. Afghanistan Campaign Medal;
 - n. Iraq Campaign Medal;
 - o. Army Combat Action Badge; and
 - p. Navy Submarine Combat Patrol & SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia;
2. Refunds. In cases where a student qualifies for the educational assistance benefits after the student has paid tuition and fees for a term, there shall be no refund of any moneys by the institution of higher education.
3. *Service member* means a Tennessee resident who is engaged in active military service of the United States
4. *Veteran* means a Tennessee resident who has entered and served honorably in the United States armed forces