

Waiver of fees and tuition for dependents of POW's or deceased veterans

TCA 49-7-102 Checksheet

When, a *parent or spouse veteran* was killed, died as a direct result of injuries received or 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. (see pg. 2)

A *dependent child or spouse* “is entitled to a waiver of tuition, maintenance fees, student activity fees and required registration or matriculation fees and shall be admitted without cost to any of the institutions of higher education owned, operated and maintained by the state.”

Student Requirements:

1. I am a “*Dependent child*” and
 - a. I am a natural or adopted child or stepchild of a veteran or service member for federal income tax purposes.
 - b. I am under the age of twenty-three (23) or will turn 23 the semester I am enrolled
 - c. I am a full-time student pursuing my first undergraduate degree (specific and declared) or certificate
 - d. I have less than 135 semester hours earned (excluding remedial or developmental hours)
 - e. I have less than 150 semester hours attempted (incl. remedial & developmental hours).
2. I am the *Spouse* of a veteran and
 - a. It has been less than ten (10) years since my veteran spouse’ death or the 10-year mark will be reached in the current semester that I am enrolled.
 - b. I am not remarried
 - c. I am pursuing my first undergraduate degree (specific and declared) or certificate
 - d. I have less than 135 semester hours earned (excluding remedial or developmental hours)
 - e. I have less than 150 semester hours attempted (incl. remedial & developmental hours).
3. As a *Dependent child or spouse* I meet the entrance requirement of the state institution of higher education at which I am applying.

Documentation of Eligibility:

1. As a *dependent child or spouse*, I have the following documentation:
 - a. Birth certificate or adoption papers verifying relationship to service member, **or**
 - b. Marriage certificate
 - c. An official certification from the United States government establishing that my *parent or spouse veteran* 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**
 - d. An official certification from the United States government establishing that my *parent or spouse veteran* 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**
 - e. A certificate of release or discharge, Department of Defense form 214 (DD 214) released or discharged from active duty.

2. As the *dependent child* or *spouse* I have verification (Ex. voter's registration, driver's license, utility bill) that the deceased veteran, current or former prisoner of war or current or former 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.

TCA 49-7-102 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. *Dependent child* means 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.
4. *Service member* means a Tennessee resident who is engaged in active military service of the United States
5. *Veteran* means a Tennessee resident who has entered and served honorably in the United States armed forces