

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REVISIONS TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY MANUAL – CHAPTER 8

Action Requested: Consider, as a first and final reading, the proposed revisions to §8.02B(1) of the Board of Regents Policy Manual to align tuition charges for veterans and dependents enrolled in graduate and professional programs at the Regent universities with federal requirements.

Executive Summary: Board of Regents Tuition policy specifies that the rules for classification of a student as a resident or nonresident for tuition and fees purposes are found in the 681 Iowa Administrative Code 1.4. Those rules include general residency guidelines, with specific discussion of military personnel, American Indians, refugees, and immigrants. This policy change will extend the classification of veterans and dependents as residents if they are enrolled in a graduate or professional program and if they are receiving benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill. If approved, the policy change will take effect immediately.

This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and effective.”

Background:

President Obama recently signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”). Section 702 of the Choice Act requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to disapprove programs of education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill at a public institution of higher learning if the school charges qualifying veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students. Section 702 is effective for terms beginning after July 1, 2015.

“To remain approved for VA’s GI Bill, schools must charge in-state tuition and fee amounts to ‘covered individuals.’ A ‘covered individual’ is defined in the Choice Act as:

- ⇒ A veteran who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- ⇒ A spouse or child using transferred benefits who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the transferor’s discharge from a period of active duty of 90 days or more.
- ⇒ A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the service member’s death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

- ⇒ ‘Covered individual’ can include veterans of the regular components of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard; veterans who performed certain full-time service, in, or were called up from, the reserve component or the National Guard; and veterans of the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are also included.
- ⇒ Public institutions of higher learning are required to charge in-state tuition and fee rates for the individuals described above for all approved programs (e.g., certificate, undergraduate, graduate, etc.).”

The current and proposed language to the Regent Policy Manual §8.02B(1) is identified below:

Current language:

8.02 Tuition

B. Classifications of Resident and Nonresidents for Tuition

1. General

The rules for classification of a student as a resident or nonresident for tuition and fees purposes are found in the 681 Iowa Administrative Code 1.4 Those rules include general residency guidelines, with specific discussion of military personnel, American Indians, refugees, and immigrants.

Proposed language:

B. Classifications of Resident and Nonresidents for Tuition

1. General

The rules for classification of a student as a resident or nonresident for tuition and fees purposes are found in the 681 Iowa Administrative Code 1.4 Those rules include general residency guidelines, with specific discussion of military personnel, American Indians, refugees, and immigrants. **The rules for classification are extended to be in full compliance with Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”).**