

Regulation on Tuition Discounts for Military-affiliated and Employer-sponsored Students

I. Purpose. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. State § 116-143(d1)(2) and § 116-143(d1)(3)¹ and Section 1000.2.3 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Policy on Tuition Discounts for Military-affiliated and Employer-sponsored Students*, This regulation is intended to provide guidance to constituent institutions regarding the implementation of these tuition discounts.

II. Definitions. The following operational definitions apply to this regulation:

A. “Qualifying Military Student” means a student who is a resident for tuition purposes under G.S. 116-143.1 and receives either (i) federal military tuition assistance funds or (ii) military tuition assistance funds for members of the North Carolina National Guard under Article 15 of Chapter 127A of the General Statutes.

B. “Employer-Sponsored Financial Support Program” means a program in which the employer of a student has committed to provide financial support to the student to offset the costs of tuition or fees in the student’s degree or credential program.

C. “Degree or Credential Program” refers to those degrees, certificates, or credentials approved under Section 400.1 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Policy on Academic Program Planning*.

D. “Enrolling Institution” means a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina in which a qualifying military student or student enrolled in an employer-sponsored financial support program is enrolled and receiving academic credit.

E. “Tuition” means the tuition charged for credit instruction, regardless of when the instruction occurs or by what means it is delivered.

F. “Year” refers to an academic year of fall semester, spring semester, and the summer sessions that follow, unless otherwise specified.

III. Military Tuition Discount. Maximum Allowable Discount and Use of Partial Discounts. In accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-143(d1)(2) the maximum discount that can be offered to a qualifying military student is the difference in maximum amount of military tuition assistance funds and the applicable tuition. Constituent institutions are encouraged to offer the maximum allowable discount to all qualifying military students. However, should a constituent institution determine that it cannot absorb the maximum foregone tuition revenue partial discounts are allowable. This includes but is not

¹ The published North Carolina General Statutes include changes through SL 2024-58. N.C.G.S 116-143 was updated as a part of SL 2025-17. See "Caveats" at <https://www.ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatutes#caveats>.

limited to a reduced discount rate, discounts to targeted student populations (e.g., qualifying military students enrolled in low wage-earning programs or high state workforce need programs), or discounts that are specific to individual degree or credential programs or other offerings.

IV. Employer-Sponsored Financial Support Programs.

A. Maximum Allowable Discount and Use of Partial Discounts. In accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-143(d1)(3) the discount may be up to the difference in the maximum amount provided by the employer and the applicable tuition. Constituent institutions, in their discretion, may offer partial discounts.

B. Requesting Approval for an Employer-Sponsored Financial Support Program. Constituent institutions requesting approval for an employer-sponsored financial support program shall provide the UNC System Office information on the following considerations:

1. Sponsoring employer,
2. Degree or credential program(s) (including title and 6-digit CIP),
3. Prevailing tuition rate for aforementioned degree or credential program(s) (prior to discount),
4. Proposed discount,
5. Estimated student enrollment for Years 1-3 of the program,
6. Estimated tuition discounts for Years 1-3 of the program.

Upon approval, a constituent institution may modify its degree or credential program offerings under the employer-sponsored financial support program without additional approval. This does not apply to any modifications to sponsoring employer and/or discount.

V. Enrolling Institution Responsibility.

A. Eligibility Determination. Each institution must have a clearly defined process to ensure that tuition discounts are only applied to qualifying students.

B. Student Records and Reporting Requirements. Applied discounts will be recorded in institutional student records and include the discount type (i.e., "Military Tuition Discount" or "Employer-sponsored Discount") and the applied discount amount. To meet annual legislative reporting requirements, the UNC System Office will compile data from constituent institution's ERP to determine the number of students and total discount amount by academic term and by discount type.

VI. Fixed Tuition Benefit. Tuition discounts for qualifying military students and qualifying employer-sponsored financial support programs shall not be subject to the fixed tuition benefit provided under N.C.G.S. § 116-143.9 and Section 1000.1.1 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Policy on Tuition Rates*, and may be discontinued, modified, or amended from time-to-time by the constituent institution without notice.

VII. Other Matters.

A. Effective Date. The requirements of this regulation shall be effective on the date of adoption of this regulation by the president.

B. Relation to Federal and State Laws and Policies. The foregoing regulation is meant to supplement, and does not purport to supplant or modify, those statutory enactments, regulations, and policies which may govern or relate to the subject matter of this regulation.