

Waiver for Recipients of Purple Heart or Superior Combat Decorations
Eligibility and Procedures

Beginning August 2006 legislation provides a fee waiver to recipients of the Purple Heart or other combat decoration superior in precedence **if** the recipient is enrolling in a Florida public community college or state university, and provided he or she meets **all** of the following criteria:

1. Admitted as a full-time or part-time student in a program of study leading to a degree or certificate;
2. Is currently, and was at the time of the military action that resulted in the awarding of the Purple Heart or other superior combat decoration, a resident of Florida; and
3. Submits the DD-214 form, issued at the time of separation from service, as documentation that he or she has received a Purple Heart or other combat decoration superior in precedence.

Which combat decorations are included in this waiver provision?

- Purple Heart
- Bronze Star *
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Legion of Merit *
- Silver Star
- Air Force Cross
- Navy Cross
- Distinguished Service Cross
- Medal of Honor

*To be considered a “combat decoration superior in precedence to the Purple Heart,” the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit must include the “V” designation or device.

Are students enrolled in Associate in Science (AS), Associate in Applied Science (AAS), or community college certificate programs eligible for this fee waiver?

Yes, a student enrolled in any associate degree or career education certificate program at a community college would qualify. The waiver is applicable for 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student is enrolled.

What evidence should be required to show residency at the time of the military action that resulted in the awarding of the Purple Heart or other superior combat decoration?

The burden of proof is on the student to provide one of the following documents evidencing residency in Florida at the time of the military action that resulted in the awarding of the combat decoration:

- DD-214 form, military separation document
- DD-2058 form, military state of legal residence certificate
- Leave and Earning Statement (LES) or the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Form 702, which specifies place of residence
- Letter or affidavit from the military administrative office verifying residence at the time of combat
- One or more state or federal documents evidencing legal ties to Florida (e.g., homestead exemption, driver’s license, vehicle registration)

What evidence is required to show residency at the current time?

The student must meet the requirements of residency for tuition purposes specified in section (s.) 1009.21, F.S., and Rule 6A-10.044, Florida Administrative Code.

Is continuous residence in Florida from the time of the military action to the time of enrollment in a postsecondary institution required? No.

What evidence is acceptable to show receipt of the Purple Heart or other combat decoration superior in precedence?

A Department of Defense Form 214 (DD-214) documenting the appropriate combat decoration is the standard eligibility verification document.

In situations where admissions or financial aid application deadlines preclude providing a DD-214 in time to meet such a deadline, the official (service specific) transmitting correspondence that would normally accompany such an award to a

previously discharged service member would suffice until an updated DD-214 could be obtained and presented to the college. However, the updated DD-214 must be submitted by the start of the student's next term of enrollment for continued eligibility for the waiver.

In situations where a service member is on active duty and has not been issued a DD-214, the official (service specific) transmitting correspondence that would normally accompany such an award or a certification of the appropriate combat award by the service specific administrative record holder [e.g., Adjutant, G-1 (general staff officer - personnel), or JAG (Judge Advocate General)] would meet the documentation requirement.

Are active duty military personnel eligible for this waiver?

Yes, certain active duty military personnel may be eligible for this waiver. Since they will not have the DD-214 form they may submit other evidence as clarified above.

Does this waiver include tuition and fees? Yes.

Does this waiver include "user" or lab fees? NO! Example, the lab fee for BSC1010L is not waived.

Does this waiver constitute "countable aid"?

Yes, this waiver is considered "countable aid" for student financial aid purposes.

Can I receive both VA benefits and this waiver? Yes, this waiver is from the state of Florida.

How do I apply for the waiver? If you believe you are eligible:

- 1) You need an active application for admission to Pensacola State College--currently attending, attended (or submitted application w/payment) within the last 12 months
- 2) Complete the *Purple Heart Waiver* request form
- 3) Register for your courses for the upcoming term
- 3) Attach to your request form: a) the appropriate documentation as described above and b) a copy of your degree audit for the upcoming term that you wish to use the waiver. Log into Spyglass www.pensacolastate.edu for degree audit.
- 4) Submit your request with documentation and degree audit to the Admissions/Registrar's office at least 15 business days before your tuition is due.
- 5) You will be notified by PirateMail regarding your request.

Do I need to reapply each term? No, the form allows you to request the waiver for each of the terms during the academic year (fall through summer). If you will be continuing into the next academic year you will need to submit another form requesting the waiver; however you will not have to submit the documentation of eligibility with that form.

Is there anything I need to do each term I receive the waiver? Yes, this is very important. This waiver can only be applied toward the fees of courses in the degree or certificate you have indicated you will be following. You should early register as soon as possible for the upcoming term(s). After you have registered, printout a copy of your degree audit (see above). Check your audit to make sure your courses are part of your degree, pay close attention to the any courses listed as not applying to your program. If you are taking college preparatory courses (ex, College Prep Algebra) due to your placement test scores, those courses will be considered part of your program and covered by the waiver. Courses, other than this exception will not be covered by the waiver. If you are unsure about a course please consult with your academic advisor.

After you complete your registration each term please email veterans@pensacolastate.edu with PHW in the subject line. In the body of the email provide your name, Student ID and that you want to use your PHW for the next term. This should be done NO LATER THAN ten (10) business days prior date your tuition is due.

Thank you for your service to the United States of America.

We very much appreciate that you are allowing Pensacola State to assist you in your education.