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4-405 Spouses of Military Veterans' Tuition Scholarship

A. Scholarship

1. Subject to available funds, a scholarship awardee receives a financial aid award equal to the remaining amount of tuition and mandatory fees charged by the university or community college in which the awardee is enrolled as calculated below.
2. An awardee who is eligible for benefits under 38 United States Code Chapter 33 may elect to accept those benefits instead of this scholarship.
3. The award is limited to a maximum of eight semesters in support of an awardee's progress towards a certificate or an associate or bachelor's degree. The maximum number of semesters for the award does not increase if the awardee transfers institutions.
4. Tuition scholarship funding is a last dollar scholarship that cover the cost of tuition and fees after all other gift aid is received.
 - a. The award amount is reduced by the amount of any federal aid, scholarships or public grants and any other financial gifts, grants or aid received by that person.
 - b. The universities and community colleges will calculate the scholarship award amount one time, and after that initial award, the granting institution will not recalculate the award amount unless it is to benefit the student or otherwise required by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 or 38 United States Code Chapters 31-36.

- B. Initial Scholarship Eligibility: Subject to available funds, to qualify for the award, an individual must meet through demonstration of sufficient documentation all of the following criteria:

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1. Be enrolled in a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents or in a community college as defined in Section 15-1401;
 2. Be the spouse of an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States as verified by:
 - a. Documentation of honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions of the individual's spouse or by the Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (ADVS); and
 - b. Documentation demonstrating a current valid spousal relationship with the veteran.
 3. Be classified as an in-state student under A.R.S. § 15-1802 at the time of applying for the tuition scholarship;
 4. Timely complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the applicable academic year;
 5. Be enrolled in a certificate program, an associate degree program or a bachelor's degree program; and
 6. Complete and submit a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) release form for each university or community college in which the person is enrolled to authorize the release of personally identifiable information required to determine continued tuition scholarship eligibility.
- C. Scholarship Renewal Criteria: To qualify for the award renewal an individual must meet all the following criteria:
1. Remain classified as an in-state student;

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2. Meet the standards of satisfactory academic progress for the university or community college in which they are enrolled; and
3. Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid each year by April 1st of the preceding academic year.

D. Distribution of Spouses of Military Veterans' Tuition Scholarship Fund:

1. The board executive director shall allocate the scholarship appropriation to eligible institutions.
 - a. Each year, board staff shall notify each eligible institution of its proposed scholarship allocation for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - b. Each participating institution shall verify its actual scholarship distribution and provide any information as requested by the board office
 - c. After timely verification and documentation of any requested information by the participating institutions, the board will reimburse each institution up to its scholarship allocation.
 - d. The executive director may reallocate any unused scholarship funds among the eligible institutions.
2. Any scholarship allocation or reimbursement is subject to legislative appropriations and any other sources of revenue.

E. Data Collection and Reporting

1. To receive a scholarship reimbursement, an eligible institution shall provide any requested information to the board at a date specified by the executive director or designee.

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2. A failure to timely provide information as requested by the board office may result in a forfeit of scholarship reimbursement to the institution for that fiscal year.