



2005.003

Public Service Tuition Waiver

Authority: Associate Vice Chancellor for Financial Services

History: First Issued: October 31, 2016
Last Revised: 1/18/2023

Related Policy: [Chapter 115B: Tuition and Fee Waivers](#)
[G.S. 17E-2 Law Enforcement Definition](#)
[G.S. 58-85-25 Firefighter Definition](#)
[G.S. 58-85-30 Rescue Squad Worker](#)
[UNC GA Policy Manual 1000.2.1- Tuition Waivers for Certain Family of Deceased or Disable Emergency Workers](#)

Additional References:

- 1) Purpose: North Carolina General Statute section 115B authorizes the Board of Governors to provide a waiver of tuition for certain family members of emergency workers deceased or permanently disabled in the line of duty under certain conditions. The UNC System Board of Governors has adopted regulations to implement the waiving of tuition for qualified family members. The purpose of this standard operating practice is to define the eligibility criteria for a Public Service Tuition Waiver and the process for providing East Carolina University the necessary documentation for determining eligibility for the waiver.
- 2) Definitions: The following definitions apply to this Standard operating practice:
 - a) Employer: The State of North Carolina and its departments, agencies, and institutions, or a county, city, town, or other political subdivision of the State.
 - b) Firefighter or volunteer firefighter: The same as provided in G. S. 58-86-25 for "eligible firemen."
 - c) Law enforcement officer: An employee or volunteer of an employer who possesses the power of arrest, who has taken the law enforcement oath administered under the authority of the State as prescribed by G. S. 11-11, and who is certified as a law enforcement officer under the provisions of Chapter 17C of the General Statutes or certified as a deputy sheriff under the provisions of Chapter 17E of the General Statutes. "Law enforcement officer" also means the sheriff of the county.
 - d) Permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty: A person: (i) who as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker suffered a disabling injury while in active service or training for active service, (ii) who at the time of active service or training was a North

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- Carolina resident, and (iii) who has been determined to be permanently and totally disabled for compensation purposes by the North Carolina Industrial Commission.
- e) Rescue squad worker: The same as provided in G.S. 58-86-30 for "eligible rescue squad worker".
 - f) Survivor: Any person whose parent or spouse: (i) was a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a volunteer firefighter, or a rescue squad worker, (ii) was killed while in active service or training for active service or died as a result of a service-connected disability, and (iii) at the time of active service or training was a North Carolina resident. The term does not include the widow or widower of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or a rescue squad worker if the widow or widower has remarried.
 - g) Tuition: The amount charged for registering for a credit hour of instruction and shall not be construed to mean any other fees or charges or costs of textbooks.
- 3) Applicant Eligibility: The Public Service Waiver shall be available only to the following applicants:
- a) A survivor who is a child of the deceased emergency worker, without regard to the survivor's legal residence or age.
 - b) A survivor who is the widow or widower of a deceased emergency worker – who has not remarried - without regard to the survivor's legal residence or age.
 - i) The tuition waiver shall not be granted in academic term commencing after the remarriage of the widow or widower; and
 - ii) The tuition waiver shall not be denied due to time elapsing between periods of enrollment and non-enrollment.
 - c) The spouse of an emergency worker who became permanently and totally disabled on or after October 1, 1997 as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty as an emergency worker.
 - i) The tuition waiver shall not be denied due to time elapsing between periods of enrollment and non-enrollment; and
 - ii) Neither the legal residence nor the age of the emergency's worker's spouse is material in determining the spouse's eligibility for the tuition waiver.
 - iii) A child, at least 17 but not yet 24, whose parent became permanently and totally disabled on or after October 1, 1997 as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty as an emergency worker, provided that the waiver;
 - (1) Shall not be extended beyond 54 consecutive calendar months incident to an educational program in pursuit of a baccalaureate degree.
 - (2) Shall not be extended beyond the time period necessary to complete the relevant education program through consecutive regular-term academic semesters, carrying a "normal" (full) academic load, if incident to an educational program in pursuit of a certificate, certification, or a degree other than a baccalaureate degree; and
- 4) Shall be available for course enrollments after the student reaches age 23 if the enrollments are part of an educational program in pursuit of a degree, certificate, or certification that was begun before the student reached age 23 and all other pertinent requirements of

Chapter 115B are met. Proof of Eligibility: The University will require proof of eligibility to ensure the person who requests a Public Service Tuition Waiver is eligible for benefits.

- a) A parent-child relationship shall be verified by a birth certificate or legal adoption papers.
 - b) The marital relationship shall be verified by a marriage certificate.
 - c) The cause of death of the law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer fighter, or rescue squad worker shall be verified by certification of records from
 - i) Department of State Treasurer; or
 - ii) The appropriate city or county law enforcement agency that employed the deceased; or
 - iii) The administrative agency for the fire department or fire protection district funded under the Department of State Auditor; or
 - iv) The administrative agency having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all counties and cities.
 - d) The permanent and total disability shall be verified by documentation deemed necessary by the institution from the North Carolina Industrial Commission.
 - e) The University may ask for other documentation deemed necessary to verify that a person applying for the Public Service Waiver is eligible for the benefit.
- 5) Receipt of cash scholarship in addition to qualifying for waiver:
- a) If a person is determined to be eligible for a Public Service Waiver per G.S. 115-B-2(a)(2), (3), or (4), and
 - b) Receives a cash scholarship paid or payable to the institution from whatever source; then
 - c) The scholarship shall be applied to the student's account at ECU to pay other charges on the student's account; and
 - d) Any credit balance remaining after all charges are paid will be returned to the student.
- 6) Completion of Form: Applicant must complete the attached Emergency Worker form and submit the form and all supporting documentation to the Cashier Office (G120 Old Cafeteria Complex) on or before the last day for schedule changes for the semester in question.
- 7) Applicants that willfully misrepresent eligibility for this tuition waiver provided under N.C. General Statutes Section 115B or aiding or abetting an applicant to misrepresent his or her eligibility for this tuition waiver is a misdemeanor carrying a penalty of a \$50.00 fine and/or 30 days in imprisonment.
- 8) Timely Application. Application for the tuition benefit shall be permitted with respect only to academic terms commencing on or after the date on which the applicant delivers in proper order, an application for the benefit, including all supporting forms, documents, and materials.

III. Distribution

Cashiers
University Cashier
Student Financial Services Director
Cashier Web Page
Student Accounting

Revision 10/31/2016: Updated to reflect State Statute 115B-2 (a) (4) - age of child at least 17 but not yet 24 and (i) shall not exceed 54 months

3/8/2017: Change the title of application to apply to tuition only

1/18/2023: Add timely application as indicated in the UNC GA Policy Manual



**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
EMERGENCY WORKER TUITION WAIVER**

- Complete, sign, and date this application.
- Attach all documents required for proof of eligibility (see attached policy and procedure).
- Submit this application with all required attachments to the Cashier Office (G120 Old Cafeteria Complex) no later than the last day for schedule changes for the term in question.

SECTION 1: Applicant Information

Full name _____ Banner ID # _____

Contact Number: _____

Semester and Year the Waiver is to Begin: _____

Relationship to Emergency Worker: (Circle) Child Spouse

If "Spouse," have you remarried: (Circle) Yes No

If you circled "Child," attach a copy of your birth certificate or legal adoption papers.
If you circled "Spouse" and "No," attach a copy of your marriage certification.

Have you received this waiver at any other institution? (Circle) Yes No

If yes, name of institution _____ and the semesters used _____.

SECTION 2: Emergency Worker Information

Full Name _____

Type of Emergency Work: Firefighter Volunteer Firefighter
 Law Enforcement Officer Rescue Squad Member

Name of NC Employer at the time of death or disability: _____
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Was he/she a legal NC resident at the time of active service/training? (Circle) Yes No

Attach copy of NC Tax Return for the tax year of disability or death.



Permanent Address at the time of active service/training: _____

SECTION 3: Complete this section only if the Emergency Worker was Permanently and Totally Disabled

Date of permanent and total disability: _____

Attach documentation of permanent and total disability from the North Carolina Industrial Commission.

Did the disability occur in the line of duty: (Circle) Yes No

SECTION 4: Complete this section only if the Emergency Worker was deceased in the line of duty

Date of Death: _____

Did the death occur in the line of duty: (Circle) Yes No

Attach documentation of cause of death from (1) Department of State Treasurer; or (2) the appropriate city or county law enforcement agency that employed the deceased; or (3) the administrative agency for the fire department or fire protection district funded under the Department of State Auditor; or (4) the administrative agency having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all counties.

I hereby certify that all information provided is true to the best of my knowledge and acknowledge that the institution may verify the information set forth above. I have attached to this application the documents required as proof of eligibility for this tuition waiver.

I also understand that willfully misrepresenting my eligibility for this tuition waiver provided under N.C. General Statutes Section 115B or aiding or abetting an applicant to misrepresent his or her eligibility for this tuition waiver is a misdemeanor carrying a penalty of a \$50.00 fine and/or 30 days in imprisonment.

Applicant Signature

Date



Standard
Operating
Procedure



Standard
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