

Docket Item:

Approve Permanent Rule Chapter 575: Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program

Summary:

House Bill 2817, passed in 2019, expands the current tuition assistance grant program for members of the Oregon National Guard. This program is used for resident tuition at Oregon public universities and community colleges, once all state and federal aid has been utilized. HB 2817 allows eligible Oregon National Guard members to use the grant program at Oregon Health and Science University and qualifying private institutions that meet the criteria set forth in ORS 348.597 (2). The program will also allow eligible Oregon National Guard members to use the grant program for undergraduate certificate programs at eligible institutions. Under HB 2817, expansion of the program will apply to tuition assistance for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Materials:

Rule Text.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approving permanent rule Chapter 575: Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Division 67 - OREGON NATIONAL GUARD STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE

Statutory/Other Authority: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

Statutes/Other Implemented: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

History:

OSAC 3-2019, adopt filed 05/07/2019, effective 05/07/2019

575-067-0001 Definitions

575-067-0005 Student Eligibility Requirements

575-067-0010 Application Process

575-067-0015 Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance Calculation

575-067-0020 Record Keeping

575-067-0002

Definitions

(1) "Eligible institution" means any Oregon community college operated under ORS chapter 341, ~~or any Oregon public university listed in ORS 352.002, Oregon Health and Science University, or a qualifying private nonprofit institution which meets the criteria defined in ORS 348.597(2) for exemption from ORS 348.597 to 348.615.~~

(2) "Good standing" means the qualified student has a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher or is maintaining satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution in accordance with federal Title IV regulations and guidelines.

(3) "Home Institution" means the institution that grants a certificate or degree upon the student's completion of an eligible program. It is the institution that determines the student's eligibility for federal and state financial aid, disburses funds to the student, and is responsible for determining applicant eligibility.

(4) "Tuition" means the amount charged to a student for a course and is based upon the number of credit hours for which the course is offered.

~~(5) "Certificate programCertificate of completion" means a program or curriculum where a form of recognition is awarded by an eligible institution for meeting the minimum occupational course, curriculum or proficiency requirements at the undergraduate level. Certificates of completion for certificate programs must be state-approved, if so required by OAR 589-006-0300, have a defined job entry point, represent collegiate-level work, be credit bearing, and meet Commission standards (ORS 350.075, Powers, duties and functions; rules) and criteria. For the Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance, only certificate programs below a baccalaureate degree are eligible to be used by qualified students.~~

575-067-0006

Student Eligibility Requirements

(1) In order to be eligible, a student must:

- (a) Not have achieved a baccalaureate or higher degree from any post-secondary institution;
- (b) Be enrolled and in good standing in a program or curriculum designed to lead to a certificate of completion, as defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission by rule, an associate degree granting program, or an undergraduate baccalaureate degree granting program at an eligible institution;
- (c) Be a member of the Oregon National Guard and attending all scheduled unit training assemblies and annual training periods and not currently the subject of any adverse actions under the provisions of any Army, Air Force or National Guard Regulations;
- (d) Have completed any military basic training in the United States Armed Forces;
- (e) Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (~~FAFSA~~) for each academic year, if eligible to file the application, and accept all state and federal aid grants available;
- (f) Have completed a National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance (~~FTA~~) or Military Tuition Assistance(MITA) request, if eligible, and have accepted all state and federal aid grants available, including but not limited to federal grants offered by the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Defense; and
- (g) Not be in default on any federal Title IV loan or owe a refund on federal Title IV funds previously disbursed, unless the institution disbursing funds determines that the student has made satisfactory arrangements to repay and has regained federal eligibility.

(2) The Oregon National Guard will confirm subsections (c), (d) and (f) of section 1 of this rule. Eligible institutions will confirm subsections (b) and (g) of section 1 of this rule. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission will confirm subsections (a) and (e) of section 1 of this rule.

~~(3) It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Higher Education Coordinating Commission of any FTA awards or federal grants.~~

~~(4)~~ A student continues to remain eligible to receive an Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance award until the student has 90 credit hours ~~attempted~~ completed at an eligible Oregon community college, or 180 credit hours ~~attempted~~ completed at an Oregon public university or the equivalent number of semester credit hours completed at a qualifying private nonprofit institution, but not both calculated cumulatively. If a student is currently enrolled in a degree program when first applying for Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance, only the student's previous ~~attempted~~ completed credit hours for that specific degree program will be counted towards the maximum allowable ~~attempted~~ completed credit hour limit.

~~(5)~~ In order to remain eligible for the Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance, students must remain in good standing.

~~(6)~~ Students attending eligible institutions may not receive an award in excess of the amount of resident tuition ~~minus~~ after first subtracting all state and federal aid grants available to the student. The source of the relevant tuition information shall be published annually by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

575-067-0011

Application Process

(1) Students shall submit an Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance application in addition to submitting a ~~Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)~~ by August 1 the deadline published by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Office of Student Access and Completion on the program website prior to enrollment in the next academic ~~year~~ term. The deadline is 5:00 pm (PST or PDT). If a deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, it will automatically be extended to 5:00 pm (PST or PDT) on the following business day.

(2) HECC may waive the requirement set forth in section (1) of this rule for a student who was unable to complete an Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance application due to a significant hardship or whose completion of active duty basic training requirements occurs after ~~August 1 the deadline published by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Office of Student Access and Completion on the program website~~ prior to the academic ~~year~~ term for which they wish to enroll.

575-067-0016

Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance Calculation

(1) An eligible student shall receive an award in an amount that equals the resident tuition charges at ~~the eligible institution~~ Oregon public universities, the Oregon Health and Science University, and community colleges that the student is attending. For qualifying private nonprofit institutions, the award amount shall equal the average base resident tuition rate of all Oregon public universities.

~~(a) For students who are dually enrolled in two or more colleges, the Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance award will be based on the tuition charged by the student's home institution.~~

(2) For the Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance program, a dually enrolled, or co-enrolled, student is a student who attends more than one eligible institution during the same academic term or year under a written consortium agreement or concurrent enrollment program.

~~(3) For students who are dually enrolled in two or more colleges, the Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance award will be based on the tuition charged by the student's home institution.~~

~~(3) A student can only be awarded program funds for courses that are a requirement for the declared degree-granting program they are enrolled in in which they are enrolled~~

575-067-0021

Record Keeping

(1) Each eligible institution shall maintain sufficient records to document its activities relating to the program ~~by rule regarding student financial aid records (OAR 166-450-0045, OAR 166-475-0055).~~

(2) Each eligible institution shall make its academic and financial records available to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission upon request at reasonable times for the purpose of assuring that the institution is complying with the rules relating to the administration of the program