



PERMANENT MEMORANDUM 40

MILITARY & VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE

POLICY DIGEST

Monitoring Unit: Office of Academic Affairs
Initially Issued: September 11, 2023

I. PURPOSE

Louisiana State University has a long-standing tradition honoring and supporting the pre-military (i.e., Reserve Officer Training Corps) and active military personnel and the veterans of the United States armed forces. This policy enumerates the educational benefits for active-duty military and veterans as well as their dependents regarding:

1. Pre-admission Services
2. Course Credit
3. Residency for Tuition and Fee Purposes

II. DEFINITIONS

Active Duty in the Armed Forces: any person, either enlisted or commissioned serving in a full-time capacity (other than training) in the U.S. Department of the Army, the U.S. Department of the Navy, the U.S. Department of the Air Force, the U.S. Space Force, the U.S. Coast Guard, or the National Guard at the time of application for admission. The phrases “active-duty” or “on active-duty” apply to persons fitting within this definition.

Child: a person who is under 23 years of age and is a descendant, adoptee, or is under the legal guardianship of a veteran or active-duty member [[38 USC 3311](#)].

Dependent: a person who is under the care and supervision of a veteran or active-duty member and qualifies for benefits under federal and/or state statute, which may include a child as defined in this section. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs classifies the following as dependents: spouse, unmarried minor child, unmarried child under the age of 23 enrolled as a full-time student, or an unmarried child who was disabled before the age of 18.

Spouse: a person, who at the time of application or during enrollment at the University, is legally married to a veteran or active-duty member or was married to a service member when a service-related injury or death occurred.

Resident for Tuition Purposes: a person who is categorized as a resident of Louisiana for tuition and fee purposes and is eligible for the rights and privileges of residency congruent to Permanent Memorandum 31.

Transferred Benefits/Beneficiary: Members of the Armed Forces are eligible to accrue funding for educational purposes, which may be transferred to eligible persons. The term “transferred benefits” means the conferral of educational benefits to another person, and the recipient is known as the “beneficiary” [[38 USC 3319](#)].

Veteran: The term “veteran” is applied differentially in federal and state law and is defined within the applicable sections of this policy. The term shall be construed to apply to those who are recognized as such by the United States Government unless the term “State-Defined Veteran” is specifically used.

State-Defined Veteran: “former or current member of the United States Armed Forces or organized militia of the several states and territories, including but not limited to a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, Air National Guard, Reserves, State Guard, or a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.” [[RS 13:5364](#), [17:3165.2](#)]

III. UNIVERSITY-PROVIDED BENEFITS

A. Pre-admission Services

Veterans, their spouses, their dependents, and other eligible beneficiaries of educational benefits are entitled to pre-admissions services that facilitate their easy entry into the University and appropriate placement within a program of study. Once a person eligible under this section has provided the required information demonstrating their status, the respective institution/campus shall provide an expedited transcript analysis, learning assessments (if needed), portfolio analysis, advising, and testing/evaluation [[RS 17:3165.2](#)]. Any prior college-level work shall be assessed in a manner consistent with other transfer credits.

B. Course Credit for Military Training

The applicability of this section applies to State-defined Veterans, Veterans, active-duty personnel, and students at one of the national service academies [[RS 17:3351E](#)]. The University acknowledges that the training and education provided by the military has qualities and characteristics also found to be consistent with certain curricular requirements for courses and programs. Each LSU institution shall provide to veterans a listing of course equivalency where their military training may be accepted as course credit. The institution may use the standards established by the American Council on Education or an equivalent guideline deemed by the University to be a reputable assessor of skill and knowledge attainment in military training.

C. Residency for Tuition and Fee Purposes

1. Active Duty in the Armed Forces

A member of the Active Duty of the Armed Forces, their spouse, and their dependents qualify as residents for tuition and fee purposes if they meet any of the following criteria:

- a. A member of the Active Duty of the Armed Forces currently stationed in Louisiana, and any of their dependents, may be classified as a resident for tuition purposes upon submission of an appropriate statement signed by the unit commander verifying both active-duty status and station assignment. [[RS 17:2137A](#)]
- b. When a member of the Armed Forces who is on active-duty and stationed in Louisiana is transferred out of Louisiana, the member, their spouse, children, or dependents enrolled at the University shall maintain their status as a resident for tuition purposes if:
 - i. They are admitted while the servicemember is stationed at the location immediately following their Louisiana duty station; or

- ii. They maintain continual enrollment at the University which includes a one-year grace period between the completion of a baccalaureate degree and entry into a graduate or professional degree program; or
 - iii. They maintain residency within Louisiana [[RS 17:2137C\(2\)](#)].
- c. A member of the Active Duty of the Armed Forces who was resident of Louisiana prior to entering the Armed Forces will retain the right to enroll themselves, their spouse, and any dependents as Louisiana residents for tuition purposes as long as they are on active duty in the Armed Forces and for a five-year period after separation from service.

2. Veterans of the Armed Forces

A Veteran of the Armed Forces, their spouse, and their dependents qualify as residents for tuition and fee purposes if they meet certain criteria, though they need not have been residents of Louisiana at any time before, during, or after national service. Individuals meeting the following eligibility criteria shall be categorized as a resident for tuition purposes; this classification shall remain valid for as long as the student remains continuously enrolled:

1. A Veteran or dependent eligible to receive educational assistance administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs through any provision of the United States Code.
2. Children and spouses of veterans of the armed forces who died while in active service or because of a service-related disability incurred during a war time period are eligible for educational benefits per [Louisiana Revised Statute 29:288](#).

Should Congress act or the President of the United States dictate amendments, regulations, or orders in conflict with the federally-defined educational benefits of veterans as defined in this section, those actions shall supersede this policy.

D. Procedures, Determinations, and Appeals

1. It is the responsibility of each chancellor to develop appropriate policies and procedures for implementation of this Permanent Memorandum, and those policies shall establish the chancellor as the final appeals authority.
2. Each chancellor shall designate a liaison for military and veteran inquiry.
3. Each institution shall make publicly accessible the eligibility criteria to receive the educational benefits of this policy. Reasonable documentation may be required, such as the Department of Defense Form 214, letter by commanding officer, or Veterans Affairs disability certification, or other form of documentation as determined by the institution's chancellor.
4. Each institution may make the determination as to the categorization of the student for administrative purposes, so long as the benefits are equivalent (e.g. *Resident*, *Temporary Resident*, *Military Resident*, etc.)

E. Other Information

The University welcomes military personnel and veterans to enroll. In addition to the rights and benefits provided in this policy, veterans typically access additional benefits from a variety of sources.

Congress has enacted through the U.S. Code a number of educational benefit programs primarily administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs

- Chapter 30 – Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty
- Chapter 31 – Veterans Readiness & Employment
- Chapter 33 – Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Chapter 35 – Survivors’ and Dependents’ Assistance
- Chapter 1606 – Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve)
- Chapter 1607 – Reserve Educational Assistance

The Louisiana State Government also maintains resources for veterans, their spouses, and dependents through the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs. Louisiana Title 29 (Dependent’s Educational Assistance) enumerates the programs.

Current Louisiana National Guard members can access tuition exemptions [[RS 29:36.1](#)] and may have their fees defrayed by the Patriot Scholarship Program [[RS 17:4101-4103](#)].

IV. SOURCES

[38 USC 3311](#)

[38 USC 3319](#)

[La RS 13:5364](#)

[La RS 17:3165.2](#)

[La RS 17:3351E](#)

[La RS 17:2137A](#)

[La RS 17:2137C\(2\)](#)

[La RS 29:36.1](#)

[La RS 17:4101](#)

[La RS 29:288](#)