

B 10-03

To: CSU Chief Fiscal Officers

From: Robert Turnage, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget 

Copy: Benjamin F. Quillian, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Administrative Officer
Ephraim Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
Provosts/Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, Vice Presidents for Student Affairs, Directors of Admissions and Records, State University Registrars, Cashiers, Budget Officers, Accounting Officers
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Date: September 21, 2010

Subject: Supplemental Instructions on Federal Veterans Benefits and Fees

Coded Memorandum AA-2010-12 provided information to campuses on readmission of members of the Armed Forces, National Guard, or Reserve to the university if their separation was caused by active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days. This supplemental memorandum provides information related to the application of fees to these readmitted veterans.

Restrictions on Tuition and Fees for First Year of Student's Return

For eligible readmitted veterans, regulations for the Higher Education Opportunity Act require that campuses “....must designate one or more offices at the institution that a student may contact to provide notification” of his or her intent to return to the campus under the readmission terms of the act. The regulations also impose certain restrictions on “tuition and fees” (in CSU’s case, the State University Fee and campus mandatory fees). Specifically, the Code of Federal Regulations section 668.18 (a)(2)(iii)(E) states that to readmit a person with the “same academic status” includes the following restrictions on tuition and fees:

(E) (1) If the student is readmitted to the same program, for the first academic year in which the student returns, assessing—

- (i) The tuition and fee charges that the student was or would have been assessed for the academic year during which the student left the institution; or*

(ii) Up to the amount of tuition and fee charges that other students in the program are assessed for that academic year, if veterans' education benefits, as defined in section 480(c) of the HEA, or other service member education benefits, will pay the amount in excess of the tuition and fee charges assessed for the academic year in which the student left the institution; or

(2) If the student is admitted to a different program, and for subsequent academic years for a student admitted to the same program, assessing no more than the tuition and fee charges that other students in the program are assessed for that academic year.

In most instances, we expect that eligible veterans readmitted to the CSU would qualify for veterans' education benefits that are more than sufficient to make up whatever difference exists between current levels of CSU tuition and fees and levels that were in place when the veteran last attended a CSU campus. In such instances, assessing and collecting the current level of tuition and fees is permitted under the federal regulations. In a few instances, however, an eligible readmitted veteran might not qualify for sufficient veterans' education benefits to bridge this difference. Given our expectation that such situations will be relatively few in number, and the fact that it will be impractical at the time of student registration to determine each individual circumstance, we recommend that campuses assess current State University Fee and campus mandatory fees at the time of registration. In the unlikely event the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determines there are insufficient funds in the veteran's education account to cover the current year CSU fee rate, and/or there are no additional funds from VA resources to pay the "current year versus academic year the student left" fee differential, the campus will need to revise the assessed tuition/fees in order to comply with the federal regulations. It may then use its own non-General Fund resources to cover the differential or create an Allowance for Doubtful Receivable in their General Fund accounting records.

California Veterans Fee Waivers in Conjunction with Veterans Benefits

Campuses are advised that the procedure for applying the California Veteran Fee Waiver for veterans or their dependents should be as follows: Federal veterans benefits should be applied to tuition/fees first. The California Veteran Waiver should then be applied in whole or in part to cover applicable eligibility. Campuses are reminded that partial waivers should carry partial full-time equivalency equal to the waiver proportion of fees in the CSU student reporting system (ERSS).

Questions

Campuses can view the Federal Register regulations regarding readmission and fee policy at the following website: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-25373.pdf> . Questions concerning any of these fee instructions can be directed to Rodney Rideau at (562) 951-4559, Eric Forbes at (562) 951-4726, or Dean Kulju at (562) 951-4737.