



Missouri Returning Heroes Education Act: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Missouri Returning Heroes Education Act?

The Missouri Returning Heroes Education Act is a Missouri law adopted in August 2008 that requires public post-secondary institutions to limit eligible combat veterans' tuition to \$50 per credit hour.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- A veteran must have served in an armed combat zone anytime between September 11, 2001 and the present. The combat zone is designated by the U.S. Department of Defense and can typically be found on a veteran's DD-214.
- When first entering the military, a veteran must have been a Missouri resident.
- A veteran must have been honorably discharged from military service.
- A veteran must be enrolled in a program that is leading to a certificate or an associate degree.

Can a member of the Reserves or National Guard be considered for tuition reduction?

Yes, if he/she served in an armed combat zone under a call of active service and in a full-time capacity for more than 30 consecutive days.

How do I apply for Missouri Returning Heroes?

An application can be picked up in the MACC Financial Aid Office, and MACC off-campus location and also on the MACC website at <http://www.macc.edu/index.php/veterans-benefits>. Complete the form, return it to the Financial Aid Office with a copy of your DD-214 (Member-4 copy).

What is the value of Missouri Returning Heroes?

The value is determined for each individual based on enrollment and other financial assistance. Typically, the value will be calculated by multiplying the number of credit hours in which the student is enrolled by \$50; then subtracting that amount from the charges assessed for tuition and fees (not including Student Activity/Support Service, Technology, or lab fees).

How will the tuition reduction be applied?

Three calculations will be made to determine eligibility before the waiver will be applied. First, from the tuition and fees we will subtract any tuition-restricted aid such as (but not limited to) Federal or State Tuition Assistance, or Post-9/11 benefits. If tuition and fees are covered by a restricted resource, there will be no Heroes' waiver because the charges are already covered 100% by another source. Second, we will subtract from the school-determined cost of attendance (COA) any gift aid that is designated for tuition and fees, such as (but not limited to) Federal Pell Grant and Access Missouri Grant. Third, we will multiply the number of credit hours in which the veteran is enrolled by \$50 (the tuition limit established by the legislation),

and then subtract that amount from the charges assessed for tuition and fees (not including Student Activity/Support Services, Technology and Lab fees). Any remaining amount will be credited to the student's account. If the amount of the waiver, when combined with all other financial aid (including loans and certain VA benefits) exceeds the COA, the Financial Aid Office will re-evaluate the student's eligibility for all financial aid programs which may result with a reduction in previously awarded financial aid.

The following is an example of how MACC will determine benefits based on 2012-2013 fees.

Example #1:

Jacob is enrolled in 12 credit hours and tuition is \$109 per credit hour. He is receiving \$2,000 in Pell Grant, \$5,200 in Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits that are not designated solely for tuition and fees and \$2,000 in Stafford Loans. His tuition waiver will be \$528.

	\$1,308	Tuition (12 x \$109)
Less	\$ 0	Tuition-only aid
Less	<u>\$ 600</u>	Capped tuition rate (12 x \$50)
	\$ 708	Heroes' Tuition Waiver
	\$7,136	<i>Cost of Attendance (full-time, out of district, independent student)</i>
Less	<u>\$2,000</u>	Federal/State Grants/other aid designated for tuition
	\$5,136	Remaining COA
Less	<u>\$ 708</u>	Heroes' Tuition Waiver
	\$4,428	Remaining eligibility for loans

Example #2:

Mary is enrolled in 12 credit hours, 9 traditional at \$109 per credit hour and 3 on-line at \$134 per credit hour. She is receiving \$2,000 in Federal Pell Grant, \$5,200 in Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits and Federal Tuition Assistance for \$1,539. Her tuition waiver will be \$0.

	\$1,383	Tuition (9x109/3x134)*(does not include SA/SS or Tech fees)
Less	<u>\$1,539</u>	Federal Tuition Assistance specifically allocated for tuition
	\$ (156)	100 % of the tuition was covered by FTA

What financial programs will be applied to the veteran's account before determining the amount of Missouri Returning Heroes for which he/she may be eligible?

Included, but not limited to:

- A+
- Federal or State Tuition Assistance
- WIA
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Veteran's Vocational Rehabilitation
- Post-9/11 GI Bill

Is the amount of the benefit subject to change?

Yes. Because the final amount is determined after financial assistance is considered, a tuition waiver may be adjusted as additional financial assistance is awarded.

Is a veteran required to apply for financial aid or GI Bill benefits?

No, the state does not require a veteran to apply for either. If a veteran does apply and is eligible for federal financial aid, the amount of the grant aid is used in the calculation for the Heroes' award.

Is there a GPA requirement to be eligible?

Although there is no initial GPA requirement, a veteran must maintain a 2.50 cumulative grade point average in order to be eligible the following semester.

Do I have to establish Missouri residency to receive the Missouri Returning Heroes' benefit?

No, so long as you were a Missouri resident when first entering the military, this information will be identified on the DD-214.