

Chapter 115B.

Tuition and Fee Waivers.

§ 115B-1. Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

- (1) Correctional officer. – An employee of an employer who is certified as a State correctional officer under the provisions of Article 1 of Chapter 17C of the General Statutes.
- (1a) Employer. – The State of North Carolina and its departments, agencies, and institutions; or a county, city, town, or other political subdivision of the State.
- (2) Firefighter or volunteer firefighter. – The same as provided in G.S. 58-86-25 for "eligible firemen".
- (3) 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 Article 1 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.
- (4) 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, correctional 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 Carolina resident, and (iii) who has been determined to be permanently and totally disabled for compensation purposes by the North Carolina Industrial Commission.
- (5) Rescue squad worker. – The same as provided in G.S. 58-86-30 for "eligible rescue squad worker".
- (6) Survivor. – Any person whose parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or spouse: (i) was a law enforcement officer, a correctional 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, correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or a rescue squad worker if the widow or widower has remarried.
- (7) 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. (1975, c. 606, s. 1; 1977, c. 981, s. 1; 1997-505, s. 2; 2003-230, s. 1; 2015-296, s. 1; 2019-235, s. 3.5(a).)

§ 115B-2. Tuition waiver authorized.

(a) The constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and the community colleges as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2) shall permit the following persons to attend classes for credit or noncredit purposes without the required payment of tuition:

- (1) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, s. 8.11(a), effective July 1, 2009.

- (2) Any person who is the survivor of a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker killed as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.
- (3) The spouse of a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.
- (4) Any child, if the child is at least 17 years old but not yet 24 years old, whose parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian is a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. However, a child's eligibility for a waiver of tuition under this Chapter shall not exceed: (i) 54 months, if the child is seeking a baccalaureate degree, or (ii) if the child is not seeking a baccalaureate degree, the number of months required to complete the educational program to which the child is applying.
- (5) Any child, if the child (i) is at least 17 years old but not yet 24 years old, (ii) is a ward of North Carolina or was a ward of the State at the time the child reached the age of 18, (iii) is a resident of the State; and (iv) is eligible for services under the Chaffee Education and Training Vouchers Program; but the waiver shall only be to the extent that there is any tuition still payable after receipt of other financial aid received by the student.
- (6) Any child enrolled in a regional school established pursuant to Part 10 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes who enrolls in classes at a constituent institution or community college which has a written agreement with the regional school.

(b) Persons eligible for the tuition waiver under subsection (a) of this section must meet admission and other standards considered appropriate by the educational institution. In addition, the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina shall accept these persons only on a space available basis. (1975, c. 606, s. 2; 1977, c. 981, s. 2; 1997-505, s. 3; 2003-230, ss. 1, 2; 2005-276, s. 9.30(a); 2009-451, s. 8.11(a); 2010-31, s. 9.26; 2011-241, s. 3; 2015-296, s. 2; 2019-235, s. 3.5(b).)

§ 115B-2.1: Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, s. 8.11(b), effective July 1, 2009.

§ 115B-2.2. Senior citizens may audit classes.

Any person who is at least 65 years old may audit courses offered at the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and the community colleges as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2) without payment of any required registration fee or tuition for the audit provided the audit is approved in accordance with policies adopted by the Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges for their respective institutions, and there is no cost to the State. A person shall be allowed to audit a class under this section only on a space available basis. Persons auditing classes under this section shall not be counted in the computation of enrollment for funding purposes. This section does not apply to audits of courses provided on a self-supporting basis by community colleges. (2017-57, s. 10.12(a).)

§ 115B-3. Rules.

The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the State Board of Community Colleges shall each, with respect to the institutions governed by it, promulgate rules necessary for the implementation of this Chapter. (1975, c. 606, s. 3; 1977, c. 981, s. 3; 2003-230, s. 3.)

§ 115B-4. Enrollment computation for funding purposes.

Except as provided in G.S. 115B-2.2, persons attending classes under the provisions of this Chapter, without payment of tuition, shall be counted in the computation of enrollment for funding purposes. (1975, c. 606, s. 4; 1977, c. 981, s. 4; 2017-57, s. 10.12(b).)

§ 115B-5. Proof of eligibility.

(a) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, s. 8.11(c), effective July 1, 2009.

(b) The officials of the institutions charged with administration of this Chapter shall require the following proof to insure that a person applying to the institution and who requests a tuition waiver under G.S. 115B-2(a)(2), (3), or (4) is eligible for the benefits provided by this Chapter.

(1) The parent-child relationship shall be verified by a birth certificate, legal adoption papers, or other documentary evidence deemed appropriate by the institution.

(1a) The legal guardian-child relationship shall be verified by an order from a court proceeding that established the legal guardianship.

(1b) The legal custodian-child relationship shall be verified by an order from a court proceeding that established the legal custodianship.

(2) The marital relationship shall be verified by a marriage certificate or other documentary evidence deemed appropriate by the institution.

(3) The cause of death of the law enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker shall be verified by certification from the records of the Department of State Treasurer, the appropriate city or county law enforcement agency that employed the deceased, the administrative agency for the fire department or fire protection district recognized for funding under the Department of State Auditor, or the administrative agency having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all counties and cities.

(4) The permanent and total disability shall be verified by documentation deemed necessary by the institution from the North Carolina Industrial Commission.

(c) The officials of the institutions charged with administration of this Chapter may require proof to verify that a person applying to the institution under G.S. 115B-2(a)(5) is eligible for the benefits provided by this Chapter. (1975, c. 606, s. 5; 1977, c. 981, s. 5; 1997-505, s. 4; 2003-230, s. 1; 2005-276, s. 9.30(b); 2009-451, s. 8.11(c); 2015-296, ss. 3, 3.5; 2019-235, s. 3.5(c).)

§ 115B-5.1. Student to be credited for scholarship value.

If a person obtains a tuition waiver under G.S. 115B-2(a)(2), (3), or (4) and the person also receives a cash scholarship paid or payable to the institution, from whatever source, the amount of the scholarship shall be applied to the credit of the person in the payment of incidental expenses of the person's attendance at the institution, and any balance, if the terms of the scholarship permit, shall be returned to the student. (1997-505, s. 5; 2003-230, s. 1; 2009-570, s. 13; 2015-296, s. 3.7.)

§ 115B-5A: Recodified as G. S. 115B-5.1 by Session Laws 2009-570, s. 13, effective August 28, 2009.

§ 115B-6. Misrepresentation of eligibility.

Any applicant who willfully misrepresents his eligibility for the tuition benefits provided under this Chapter, or any person who knowingly aids or abets such applicant in misrepresenting his eligibility for such benefits, shall be deemed guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. (1975, c. 606, s. 6; 1977, c. 981, s. 6; 1993, c. 539, s. 879; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)