

## CT Veterans Tuition Waiver

By: Jessica Callahan, Associate Analyst  
November 14, 2022 | 2022-R-0268

### Issue

Describe the CT Veterans Tuition Waiver and how Connecticut Public Higher Education Institutions implement it.

### Summary

By law, the state's public colleges and universities must waive tuition in excess of federal veterans' benefits covered by the post-9/11 G.I. Bill for wartime veterans who are accepted at an approved institution and live in the state at the time of the acceptance ([CGS § 10a-29](#)). "Tuition" is defined as a direct charge for institutional programs, which is clearly delineated from other fees, and fees charged for educational extension programs and for summer school sessions do not count as tuition ([CGS § 10a-26\(a\)\(2\)](#)).

Although the law does not require waivers for summer sessions, in practice it appears that the state public universities and colleges have adopted policies extending veteran tuition- and fee-based waivers to summer and intersession courses, with amounts varying based on the institution.

### Existing Law

State law requires the state's public colleges and universities to waive tuition in excess of federal veterans' benefits via the post-9/11 G.I. Bill for eligible veterans who are accepted at an approved institution and live in the state at the time of the acceptance.

The tuition waiver applies at the community-technical colleges, the Connecticut State College and University System, and UConn. It covers the cost of tuition for credit-bearing undergraduate and

graduate programs. It does not apply to other charges or fees, such as student activity fees and room and board ([CGS §§ 10a-77\(e\)\(1\)](#), [10a-99\(e\)\(1\)](#), and [10a-105\(f\)\(1\)](#)).

This benefit is available to eligible wartime veterans. To be eligible, a veteran must have (1) been honorably discharged, or released under honorable conditions, from active service in the armed forces, or released with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge based on a “qualifying condition” and (2) served, generally for at least 90 days, during a statutorily specified period of war. (By law, qualifying conditions include a (1) diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, (2) disclosure of military sexual trauma experience, or (3) determination by the Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the other than honorable discharge ([CGS §§ 27-103](#) and [27-102q](#).) For more information on this and other benefits, see OLR report [2022-R-0186](#).

## **Current Practice at Connecticut Public Higher Education Institutions**

According to UConn’s Veterans Affairs and Military Programs [website](#), both the National Guard tuition waiver and the State Veterans tuition waiver can be used for (1) all academic terms, including both the summer and winter sessions, and (2) all approved degree and certificate programs.

The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) Veteran Services [website](#) states that veterans who are admitted to Central, Eastern, Southern, or Western Connecticut State University must be formally admitted for undergraduate or graduate study to receive a 100% tuition waiver for credit courses. A 50% course fee waiver is offered for extension fund courses (summer and intersession credit courses).

The community-technical colleges waive tuition for full- or part-time credit study funded through the state’s General Fund, but the waiver cannot be applied toward summer, intersession, or Extension Fund courses.

Charter Oak State College offers a 50% fee waiver for eligible veterans who are matriculated.

## **Most Recent Legislative Action**

In 2022, the legislature passed [PA 22-101](#), which entitles certain veterans and dependents of armed forces members living in Connecticut to in-state college tuition rates regardless of their state of residence (§ 1).

JC:co