



**DIRECTIVE 2020-008**

January 16, 2020

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO REDUCE TUITION BY 10% FOR QUALIFYING MILITARY VETERAN STUDENTS, THEIR SPOUSES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

§375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly required any waiver of tuition for a student or class of students not otherwise permitted by law at a state-assisted institution of higher education be approved by the Chancellor of Higher Education (the “Chancellor”). On April 17, 2009, the Chancellor signed Directive 2009-011 establishing procedures for institutions to follow when requesting to waive standard tuition rates. §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly continues this authority of the Chancellor for this biennium.

Pursuant to the continued authority in §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 and Directive 2009-011, Cuyahoga Community College (“Tri-C”) has requested that for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to reduce tuition by 10% for qualifying military veteran students, their spouses and dependents.

- Tri-C has demonstrated the following:
- Tri-C’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver at its meeting on May 23, 2019. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- Tri-C has submitted a specific request to reduce tuition for Military veteran students, and their spouses and dependents, that complete one or more Tri-C credit courses, provided the student continues to meet the tuition waiver program.
  - Students wishing to participate in this program would be subject to the application process, criteria and guidelines set forth by the College’s Department of Veterans Initiatives.
  - Earned discounts would be refunded at the end of term in which the discount was earned, provided the student did not have an open or delinquent balance with the College. If a student has an open or delinquent balance, the refund would first be applied to the amount owed.
- Tri-C’s current tuition rates are as follows:

Residency Status	Current Instructional Fee	Current General and Technology Fee	Current Surcharge	Current Total Tuition	Current Tuition with Waiver
Cuyahoga County Students	\$95.04	\$19.50	-	\$114.54	\$103.09
Out of County Students	\$95.04	\$19.50	\$29.54	\$144.08	\$132.63
Out of State Students*	\$95.04	\$19.50	\$156.65	\$271.19	\$259.74

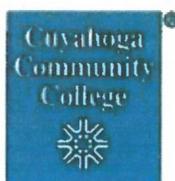
- Any increase in tuition rates in any term or academic year will result in increasing the specific amount to be waived such that the waiver remains 10% of total tuition rate.
- This tuition waiver would provide assistance to those veteran students, their spouses, and their dependents who have exhausted their military education benefits but wish to enroll in credit courses at Tri-C. This would have the most impact on veterans who completed their service prior to the attacks of September 11, 2001, by helping to remove financial barriers for these students.
- Tri-C proposes that the duration of the continued waiver be for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, including summer terms beginning before June 30, 2021.
- It is estimated that the proposed waiver will continue to affect approximately 125 students.
- The goals of this waiver are:
  - Increases in student veteran access as well as increases in degree, certificate, and program completion;
  - Decreases in time from enrollment to completion for this population of veteran students;
  - Educational costs savings for veteran students
- Tri-C will track access rates, graduation rates and student loan debt of program participants and compare those to students not participating in the program.

Agency staff reviewed the request and posted its recommendations to the ODHE website for the purpose of providing a public comment period before final approval by the Chancellor. No public comments were received.

Based upon my review of staff recommendations and public comments received, I hereby approve the continuation of the tuition waiver request from Cuyahoga Community College to reduce tuition by 10% to qualifying military veterans, including their spouses and dependents for terms beginning before June 30, 2021.

This directive will take immediate effect.

Randy Gardner  
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education



## Where Futures Begin

June 3, 2019

Mr. Randy Gardner  
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education  
25 South Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chancellor Gardner:

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) proposes the implementation of a tuition waiver program for veteran and active duty and reserve personnel, their spouses, and their dependents who have exhausted all military education benefits and wish to enroll in Tri-C credit courses. The tuition waiver would begin in fall of 2019 and would continue through summer terms that begin prior to June 30, 2021; however, we anticipate the waiver to be ongoing, subject to the continued authority of the Chancellor to approve such waivers. Our formal request for the tuition waiver is outlined below.

### Specific tuition waiver request:

Military veteran students, their spouses, and their dependents Students who successfully complete one or more Tri-C credit courses would be given a ten percent (10%) discount on instructional and general and technology fees, equivalent to \$11.45 per credit hour, provided the student continues to meet the requirements of the tuition waiver program. Out of County and out of State students in this population would also be provided with the 10% discount but would still be required to pay appropriate out of county surcharges as noted below using Tri-C's 2019/2020 per credit hour tuition and fees as an example:

Residency Status	Instructional Fee	General and Technology Fee	Surcharge	Total Tuition	Tuition with Waiver
Cuyahoga County Students	\$95.04	\$19.50	-	\$114.54	\$103.09
Out of County Students	\$95.04	\$19.50	\$29.54	\$144.08	\$132.63
Out of State Students*	\$95.04	\$19.50	\$156.65	\$271.19	\$259.74

*\*Veteran students, their spouses, and their dependents that are eligible for in-state tuition under the Ohio GI Promise are not subject to the out of State surcharge.*

Earned discounts would be refunded at the end of term in which the discount was earned, provided the student did not have an open or delinquent balance with the College. If a student has an open or delinquent balance, the refund would first be applied to the amount owed.

Students wishing to participate in this program would be subject to the application process, criteria and guidelines set forth by the College's Department of Veterans Initiatives.

Office of the President  
District Administrative Services | 700 Carnegie Avenue | Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2878  
216-987-4850 | Fax 216-987-4848

**Rationale for this request:**

This tuition waiver would provide assistance to those veteran students, their spouses, and their dependents who have exhausted their military education benefits but wish to enroll in credit courses at Tri-C. This would have the most impact on veterans who completed their service prior to the attacks of September 11, 2001, by helping to remove financial barriers for these students. This waiver aligns with the recommendations set forth by the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education to incentivize timely graduation while helping students accumulate less student debt and with the Ohio Department of Higher Education's commitment to support Ohio's veteran students.

**Time period during which the waiver would be in effect:**

This tuition waiver program would be implemented beginning in the 2019 fall semester and would continue through summer terms that begin prior to June 30, 2021; however, as previously stated, we anticipate the waiver to remain ongoing subject to the continuing authority and approval of the Chancellor. Students, provided they maintain eligibility, could participate in the Program provided they are enrolled for up to six consecutive semesters.

**Number of students that are anticipated to be served under the request:**

In FY18, approximately 100 veteran students who had exhausted military education benefits were enrolled in credit courses at Tri-C. Inclusive of spouses and dependents, we estimate that this waiver program will impact approximately 125 students each year.

**Goals to be realized by virtue of the implementation of the waiver and methods that will be used to gather data and make determinations about whether such goals are accomplished:**

The College expects to realize three main goals associated with the implementation of this Program:

- Increases in student veteran access as well as degree, certificate and program completion
- Decreases in time from enrollment to completion for this population of veteran students
- Educational cost savings for veteran students

Access rates, graduation rates and student loan debt of program participants will be monitored and compared to those students not participating in the program.

A document outlining additional terms and requirements for participation in the tuition waiver program is attached, as is the certified Board of Trustees resolution.

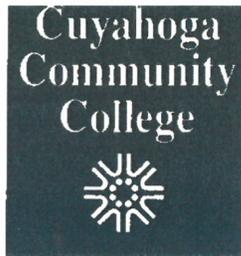
Thank you for taking the time to review our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Alex Johnson  
President

Cuyahoga Community College



**BOARD RESOLUTION**  
**R2019-98**

Now, therefore, it is resolved by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District that:

- (A) The Board authorizes the implementation of a ten-percent tuition waiver to be applied to instructional and general and technology fees for eligible students participating in the Veterans Tuition Waiver Program.
- (B) This tuition waiver will be implemented subject to the authority of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.
- (C) The Executive Vice President of Administration & Finance, or his designee, is authorized to take all steps necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District on May 23, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Cuyahoga Community College District

*Board of Trustees*

District Administrative Services

700 Carnegie Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2878

216-241-0032

# ***Veterans Tuition Waiver Program***

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## **General Provisions:**

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C<sup>®</sup>) offers the veterans tuition waiver program to encourage student veterans, their spouses and their dependents to enroll in Tri-C credit courses. This program provides a ten percent (10%) discount on tuition and general fees for credit courses that are successfully completed. All veteran students, their spouses, and their dependents who have exhausted military education benefits and enroll in Tri-C for credit courses and meet the program criteria are eligible to participate in the program.

To participate in the veterans tuition waiver program, students must enroll in at least one credit course. Eligible students can take advantage of this program for up to six consecutive academic semesters, with summer considered an optional semester. At the end of each semester in which a student has successfully completed eligible coursework, the student will receive the discount as a refund via the payment method selected by the student (e.g., direct deposit)

To participate in the program, students must sign an agreement accepting the following terms:

- Enroll in at least one credit course each semester for up to six consecutive academic semesters (summer optional);
- Successfully complete the Tri-C course(s) with a grade of C (2.0 GPA) or better or receive a passing grade for pass/no pass courses;
- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Follow the application process, criteria and guidelines set forth by the College's Department of Veterans Initiatives.

Students whose tuition and fees are paid for by a third party sponsor and students who are receiving remission of fees are not eligible for this program.

Participation in this program does not preclude students from participating in other tuition incentive programs, provided the student meets the specified eligibility requirements for the incentive programs.

The College acknowledges that there may be exceptions to the general provisions of the veterans tuition waiver program. As such, the following known exceptions have been outlined:

## **Procedures for Known Exceptions:**

### **Military Service Leave**

- Students who have withdrawn from school due to military call-up will not be impacted by the consecutive semester requirement provision of the program. Military leaves of absence are beyond a student's control and may take place for an extended period of time. Therefore, students who have entered the program and have had to withdraw from the college due to military call-up will be afforded the opportunity to return to the College and re-engage in the tuition waiver program to complete remaining semesters (up to six consecutive semesters total).
- Provided that the College is a continued participant in the tuition waiver program, the student will be provided the 10% discount on the tuition and general/technology fees that are in effect at the time of the student's return.
- Students will be required to provide sufficient proof of military leave.

**Cancelled Courses**

- On occasion, the College may cancel courses due to institutional factors that are beyond students' control. The College will make every effort to contact students to assist with enrollment in alternate courses to ensure students can maintain enrollment in at least one credit course.
- Students who demonstrate that reasonable efforts have been made, yet the student is unable to maintain enrollment in at least one credit course will not be penalized for cancelled courses for which they had previously enrolled. The college will ensure appropriate and timely communication to students following assurance dates and notification of course cancellations.
- These situations will be handled on an exception basis and documented by the Deans of Student Affairs Office or designee.

**Outstanding Balance from Prior Term**

- Students who have an outstanding balance are required to resolve their balance in order to register for the upcoming term. Any refund due to a student as a result of the tuition waiver benefit will be applied to the prior term's charges. In accordance with the College's procedures for registration, students will have to resolve any outstanding charges prior to registering for subsequent semesters.

**Withdrawal Exception (One-Time)**

- In accordance with the College's withdrawal exception procedure, students who have withdrawn from all courses or take an approved leave of absence for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control (i.e. illness, personal family reasons, etc.) may be afforded a one-time separation from the veterans tuition waiver program and regain eligibility to continue participation upon their return.
- Students who return to the program after such a leave will be provided no more than the equivalence of six academic semesters of enrollment under the veterans tuition waiver program.
- Provided that the College is a continued participant in the veterans tuition waiver program, the student will be provided the 10% discount on the tuition and general/technology fees that are in effect at the time of the student's return.