

H.B. 488 | O.R.C. 3345

FAQ

Q: Is there a single set of common definitions for “veterans” and “service members?”

A: No. State-level and federal-level definitions of “veterans” and “service members” vary. The Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) defines *service member* as “a person who is serving in the armed forces of the United States” and *veteran* as “any person who has completed service in the armed forces, including the national guard of any state or a reserve component of the armed forces, and who has been discharged under honorable conditions from the armed forces or who has been transferred to the reserve with evidence of satisfactory service” ([O.R.C. 3345.42](#)). These definitions apply to sections [3345.421](#), [3345.422](#), [3345.423](#), and [3345.424](#) of the O.R.C. and should be utilized when providing services and support to veterans and service members as required by these sections.

Veterans are defined differently for federal financial aid and VA purposes. Federal definitions apply specifically to those programs and benefits, just as the O.R.C. definitions apply specifically to state-level programs and benefits. Neither set of definitions should be applied broadly.

Need further clarification? Contact Danny Eakins, Military & Veteran Policy Director at the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at 614.728.4925 or via e-mail at daniel.eakins@dvs.ohio.gov.

Q: Are institutions required to provide services for those that have not been discharged honorably?

A: No. The O.R.C. defines a veteran as a person who has been “discharged under honorable conditions.” This is also true for federal financial aid purposes and VA benefits purposes. A dishonorable discharge generally precludes an individual from services and benefits.

Need further clarification? Contact Danny Eakins, Military & Veteran Policy Director at the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at 614.728.4925 or via e-mail at daniel.eakins@dvs.ohio.gov.

Q: When are the services and supports outlined within the O.R.C. required to be implemented?

A: **By December 31, 2014**, the following services and supports must be in place: (1) designate a single point of contact (which cannot be the institution’s certifying official), (2) adopt a support and assistance policy, (3) allow the establishment of student-led groups, (4) integrate existing career services, (5) survey student service members and veterans, (6) establish an appeals procedure, and (7) provide priority registration. In addition, **by December 31, 2014**, institutions shall NOT charge student service members and veterans a fee for credit evaluation, transcription, or application. Finally, **by July 1, 2015**, institutions must award equivalent credit to service members and veterans for military training, experience, and coursework. For a more detailed summary of these requirements, please reference [this one-page document](#).

Need further clarification? Contact Eli Faes, at the Ohio Board of Regents at 614.728.8856 or via e-mail at efaes@regents.state.oh.us.

Q: Should any of these services and supports be applied retroactively?

A: No retroactive application or expectation is outlined within the O.R.C. or the original legislative language. Although the legislation does not require that these services and supports be applied retroactively, each institution may determine whether retroactive application is appropriate depending upon the service and/or support being considered.

Need further clarification? Contact Eli Faes, at the Ohio Board of Regents at 614.728.8856 or via e-mail at efaes@regents.state.oh.us.

O.R.C. REFERENCES

O.R.C. 3333.164

Outlines the expectations for the Ohio Board of Regents and state institutions of higher education to award college credit for military training, experience, and coursework

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3333.164>

O.R.C. 3345.42

Defines “service member” and “veteran” to ensure consistent application and understanding of these terms throughout the Ohio Revised Code

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3345.42>

O.R.C. 3345.421

Outlines the expectations of state institutions of higher education to provide assistance and support to veterans and service members

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3345.421>

O.R.C. 3345.422

Each state institutions of higher education must provide priority course registration for service members and veterans

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3345.422>

O.R.C. 3345.423

Each state institution of higher education’s board of trustees must establish an appeals procedure for student service members and veterans

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3345.423>

O.R.C. 3345.424

State institutions of higher education may not charge student service members or veterans fees for evaluation, transcription, or application for college credit for military experience

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3345.424>