



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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*Honoring those who served U.S.*

**State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education & Training**

# FLORIDA STATE APPROVING AGENCY

## SAA Update 2022: Florida Laws

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

June 6-9, 2022



Florida Association of  
Veterans Education  
Specialists (FAVES)



FAVES Annual  
Conference

# Florida Laws

Florida



# Florida Education Related Legislation

## Priority Course Registration & Children & Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

See statute for additional information

*Priority course registration for veterans, spouses and dependent children*

[FS 1004.075](#)

*Each Florida College System institute and state university which offers priority course registration for a segment of the student population shall provide priority course registration for veterans, & spouses and dependent children who are receiving transferred GI Bill® education benefits. Priority course registration expires when GI Bill® education benefits exhaust*

*Priority course registration is now posted on the [GI Bill® Comparison Tool](#)*

*Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans*

[FS 295.01](#)

*Tuition and Fees at a public Florida institution OR the equivalent scholarship at an eligible private institution in Florida. Residency requirements enforced  
2015=\$3.1 mil → 2022=\$13.48 mil*

[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)

# Florida Education Related Legislation

Tuition and / or Related Fees	See statutes for additional information
<i>Tuition Deferment</i>  <i>FS 1009.27</i>	<i>Any veteran or eligible student receiving VA Ed benefits is entitled to 1 deferment each academic year and an add'l deferment when delay in the receipt of benefits</i>
<i>Withdrawal due to military service</i>  <i>FS 1004.07</i>	<i>Enrolled student shall not incur academic or financial penalties by virtue of performing military service</i>

# Florida Education Related Legislation

Tuition and / or Related Fees	See statutes for additional information
<p data-bbox="56 334 1212 434"><i>Active Duty Servicemembers using DoD's Military Tuition Assistance (TA)</i></p> <p data-bbox="224 562 560 662"><i>HB 75, to create <a href="#">FS 1009.26(15)</a></i></p>	<p data-bbox="1289 334 2466 891"><i>In 2014 TA commenced paying only tuition for active duty servicemembers enrolled in postsecondary institutions. Florida College System institutions may now waive fees for active duty servicemembers when they are receiving TA. Fees which may be waived by the institution include: Student Activity and Service Fee Financial Aid Fee Technology Fee Capital Improvement Fee, and Any other Fees authorized in FS 1009.23</i></p>
<p data-bbox="56 923 1098 1080"><i>Fee Exemptions at a school district that provides workforce education programs, Florida Community College System institutions or state university</i></p> <p data-bbox="236 1095 479 1138"><i><a href="#">FS 1009.25</a></i></p>	<p data-bbox="1289 923 2354 1309"><i>Dual enrollment students;</i></p> <p data-bbox="1289 1038 2354 1138"><i>Certain Department of Children and Family Services students;</i></p> <p data-bbox="1289 1209 2448 1309"><i><u>Student who lacks fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence;</u></i></p>

# Florida Education Related Legislation

<b>Waived tuition and / or related fees</b> <i>FS 1009.26</i>	<b>See statute for additional information</b>
<i>Persons 60 years of age or older, on a space-available basis</i>  <i>FS 1009.26(4)</i>	<i>A state university may waive any or all application, tuition and related fees for persons 60 years of age or older who are residents of Florida and who audit classes</i>
<i>State of Florida Employee Tuition &amp; Fee Waiver Program</i>  <i>FS 1009.265</i>	<i>A state university and Florida College System institution may waive tuition and fees for state of Florida employees for up to 6 credit hours per term on a space availability basis. Fee-paying students have priority in enrollment.</i>

# Florida Education Related Legislation

Tuition and / or Related Fees	See statutes for additional information
<p>Florida Postsecondary Institutions to Waive Transcript Fee for certain individuals</p> <p><i>Effective 6/23/2020</i></p> <p><a href="#"><u>HB 171</u></a>, to amend <a href="#"><u>FS 1009.26(17)(a)</u></a></p>	<p><i>Florida's Public, Postsecondary Institutions are to <u>waive the transcript fee of Active Duty Members or Honorably Discharged Veterans, including his/her spouse and dependents</u></i></p>
<p>Educator Certification Pathways for Veterans</p> <p>Awaiting Governor's Signature</p> <p>See CS/SB 896 <a href="https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/896/BillText/er/HTML"><u>https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/896/BillText/er/HTML</u></a></p>	<p><i>Provides for an alternative pathway for veterans seeking subject area teaching certification in Florida with issuance of a temporary educator certificate</i></p>



# Education Related Florida Legislation 2020

Prior Credit Earned	See bill and statute for additional information
<p data-bbox="61 391 1085 491"><i>Uniform Awarding of Postsecondary Credit Earned While in the Military</i></p> <p data-bbox="61 676 733 719"><i>Effective Date: To Be Determined</i></p> <p data-bbox="224 791 601 891"><i><a href="#">HB 171</a>, to amend <a href="#">FS 1004.096</a></i></p> <p data-bbox="61 962 616 1176"><i>2022 Meetings: February 23, 2022 May 25, 2022 October 26, 2022</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1223 391 2430 662"><i>Florida’s Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) is to create a process for the uniform awarding of Florida postsecondary credit or career education clock hours to certain service members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Timeline of Required Actions:</i></p> <p data-bbox="1223 676 2186 719"><i>By July 15, 2020 – A workgroup is established;</i></p> <p data-bbox="1223 733 2466 948"><i>By December 1, 2020 – The workgroup shall provide the Board of Governors (BOG) and State Board of Education (SBOE) recommendations for approval regarding the process of determining equivalencies;</i></p> <p data-bbox="1223 962 2430 1233"><i>Following board approval of the process, the ACC will facilitate the review of military courses and occupations; Within 1 year, equivalencies are to be approved by the ACC and adopted by the BOG and SBOE and credit for military experience will apply to student’s degree or certificate</i></p>

# Florida Education Related Legislation

## Florida residency granted for In-State Tuition and / or Fees

## See statute for additional information

### *Active Duty members and in-state tuition*

*FS 1009.21(10)(a)*

*The following persons shall be classified as residents for tuition purposes: Active duty members of the Armed Services of the U.S. residing or stationed in Florida, their spouses and dependent children and active drilling members of the Florida National Guard; Active duty members of the Armed Services and their spouses and dependents attending a College System institution or state university in Florida within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed, also outside of Florida, if it is within a county contiguous to Florida*

### *Serving in Armed Forces outside the state*

*FS 1009.21(7)*

*A person, or dependent child, shall not lose resident status for tuition purposes solely by reason of serving in Armed Forces outside this state.*

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## In-State Tuition: Federal Laws & State Laws **May Differ**

PL 113-146, The Choice Act, Section 702  
Amended [38 USC § 3679](#) and created § 3679(c)

**38 USC 3679(c) amended through the years**

**Effective 7/1/2015**

Chapters 30, 31, 33, **35**, Active Duty & ToE individuals must be provided with the in-state rate for tuition and fees at a Public Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) while residing in that state and enrolled at the institution

***PL 117-68 , The Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021***

***Amended Subsection C in [38 USC § 3679](#)***

***Effective 8/1/2022***

*Public schools must not charge more than the in-state rate of tuition to Chapter 30, 31, 33, **35**, Active Duty & TOE recipients when they are enrolled in the institution and residing in that state*

# Florida Education Related Legislation

Tuition and / or Related Fees	See statutes for additional information
<p><i>Veterans, Reservists, National Guard and individuals receiving VA Ed Benefits</i></p> <p><i>Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Act</i></p> <p><i>Effective 7/1/2015</i></p> <p><i>FS 1009.26(13)</i></p>	<p><i>All Florida Public, postsecondary institutions will waive the out-of-state tuition and fees for 1) any honorably discharged veteran of Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves; OR 2) any individual who is receiving VA education assistance. All must physically reside in the state of Florida while enrolled at the institution</i></p> <p><i>Veterans Tuition Policy (Yes or No) is now posted on the GI Bill® Comparison Tool; If Yes, URL link provided</i></p>
<p><i>Active Duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces</i></p> <p><i>Effective 7/1/2016</i></p> <p><i>FS 1009.26(14)</i></p>	<p><i>Florida Public, postsecondary institutions will waive the out-of-state tuition and fees for an Active Duty servicemember <u>residing or stationed outside of Florida</u></i></p>

# Miscellaneous Legislation

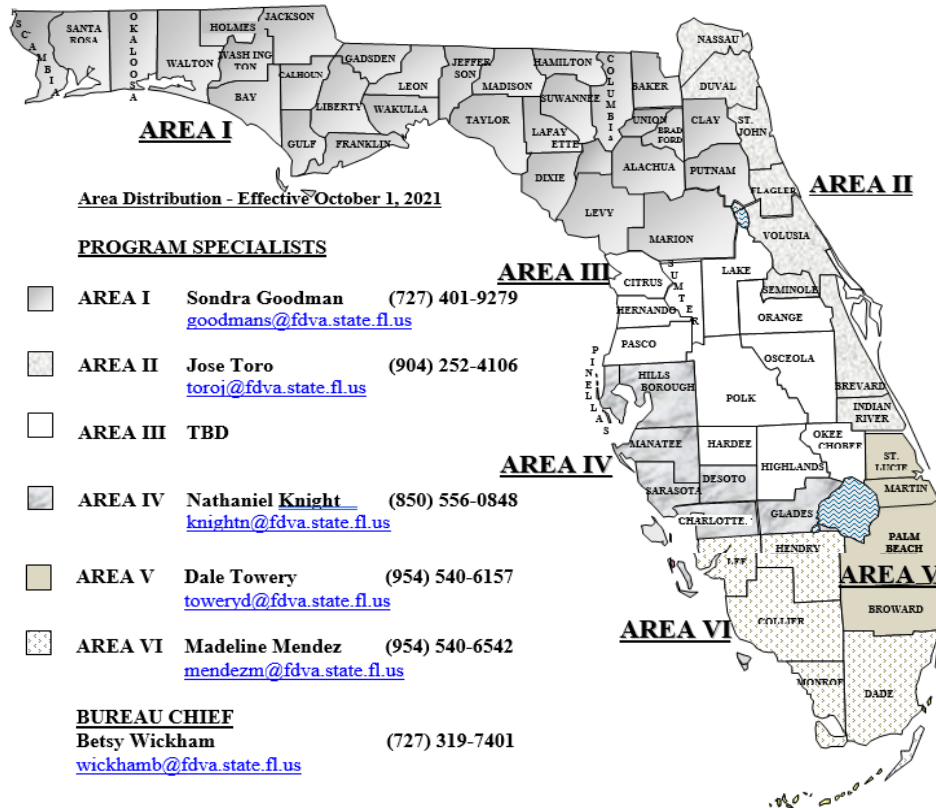
Miscellaneous	See statute for additional information
<p><i>Residency requirement for state veteran nursing homes</i></p> <p><i>FS 296.36</i></p>	<p><i>Veteran must be a Florida resident at the time of application, but there's no longer a one-year residency requirement for acceptance into one of the six state veteran nursing homes in Florida</i></p>
<p><i>Florida is for Veterans, Inc.</i></p> <p><i>(Effective 4/24/2015, Brands itself as 'Veterans Florida')</i></p> <p><i>FS 295.21, 295.22, 295.23</i></p> <p><i>In 2020 appropriated a \$344,106 grant</i></p>	<p><i>Created a nonprofit corporation within FDVA to promote Florida as a veteran-friendly state. The corporation will encourage and assist retired and recently separated military personnel to keep or make Florida their permanent residence and help equip veterans for employment opportunities and promote veteran hiring</i></p>



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Executive Director

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**Area Distribution - Effective October 1, 2021**

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# SAA

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# Other Resources and Contributors

- Florida ELRs [FloridaEducationOutreach.VBASPT@va.gov](mailto:FloridaEducationOutreach.VBASPT@va.gov)
- Florida Benefits Guide <http://floridavets.org>
- Florida benefits for active duty:  
[http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit\\_Library/State\\_\\_Territory\\_Benefits/Florida.html#top](http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit_Library/State__Territory_Benefits/Florida.html#top)
- Tracking Florida Bills: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bills/2022>
- Scholarships for Children or Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans:  
(FDVA, Patricia Clark Veteran Verifier for Fla Dept of Ed 727.319.7440 or 319.7433)  
<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org>



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**[HTTP://FLORIDAVETS.ORG](http://FLORIDAVETS.ORG)**