

**§ 116-143.3B. Tuition of qualifying veterans.**

- (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:
- (1) Armed Forces. – The United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Space Force, the North Carolina National Guard, and any reserve component of any of these entities.
  - (2) Qualifying veteran. – An individual who meets all of the following criteria:
    - a. Served active duty for not less than 90 days in the Armed Forces.
    - b. Received an Honorable Discharge from the Armed Forces.
    - c. Meets at least one of the following criteria:
      1. Graduated from high school in North Carolina on or after January 1, 2004.
      2. Served active duty in the Armed Forces with a permanent station in North Carolina for at least 90 continuous days.
      3. Was awarded a Purple Heart.
- (b) [In-State Tuition. –] Any qualifying veteran admitted to an institution of higher education, as defined in G.S. 116-143.1(a)(3), shall be charged the in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees for enrollment, without having to satisfy the 12-month residency requirement under G.S. 116-143.1.
- (c) [Burden of Proof. –] The individual applying for the benefit of this section has the burden of proving entitlement to the benefit. (2025-72, s. 3(b).)