

Purple Heart Waivers

in the Florida College System

What is the Purple Heart Waiver?

The Purple Heart Waiver is established in [Section \(s.\) 1009.26\(8\), Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#). It provides tuition waivers for Florida military veterans who have received a purple heart OR combat decoration that is “superior in precedence.”

What medals are “superior in precedence?”

Medals that fall under “superior in precedence” are:

- Purple Heart
- Bronze Star
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Legion of Merit
- Silver Star
- Air Force Cross
- Navy Cross
- Distinguished Service Cross
- Medal of Honor

What does the waiver cover?

Pursuant to s. 1009.26(8), F.S., the Purple Heart Waiver covers tuition toward a degree or certificate program up to 110 percent of the required hours for the program of study. An eligible student enrolled in any associate degree, baccalaureate degree or career and technical certificate program at a Florida College System institution would qualify.

What costs are NOT covered by this waiver?

This waiver covers the cost of tuition only. This means that you will be responsible for paying other costs, such as textbooks, housing and food. The waiver does not cover tuition after students earn 110 percent of the required credit hours for their program of study.

Do I need to be a full-time student to receive this waiver?

No. You can be a full- or part-time student to receive this waiver.

Am I eligible for the waiver if I’m a non-degree seeking student?

No. You must be enrolled in a certificate or degree program.

What paperwork do I need?

To determine eligibility for the waiver, you must submit documentation showing you are currently a Florida resident or that you were a Florida resident at the time of the military action that resulted in the awarding of the combat decoration.

What is the Florida College System?

The Florida College System is the network of state colleges that, collectively serves more than 600K students.

It is the primary access point to higher education for Floridians, offering an array of programs designed to prepare students for entry into the workforce or to continue their educational journey.

[Find a college near you!](#)

Here are some examples of the type of documentation you may need:

- DD-214 Form, military separation document
- DD-2058 Form, military state of legal residence certificate
- Leave and earning statements (LES) or the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Form 702, which specifies place of residence
- Letter or affidavit from the military administrative office verifying residence at the time of combat
- One or more state or federal documents evidencing legal ties to Florida (e.g., homestead exemption, driver's license, vehicle registration or voter ID).

Work with your college to determine what paperwork you will need.

Are active-duty military personnel eligible for this waiver?

Yes. Certain active-duty military personnel may be eligible for this waiver. Contact your college if you are interested in learning more.

Are there other financial aid opportunities available for veterans?

Yes. Contact your college's financial aid office for additional financial aid opportunities.

Additional Resources

- [New GI Bill](#)
- [Florida Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Veteran Diploma Program](#)
- [Service to Scholars Program](#)
- [Deferral of Fees](#)
- [DoD Manual 1348.33, Volume 3: Manual of Military Decorations and Awards](#)