

Farmingdale State College

State University of New York

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) TUITION ASSISTANCE REFUND POLICY

SUMMARY

This policy serves to fully inform students receiving military tuition assistance (TA) of the required actions the College must take to comply with the DOD Memorandum of Understanding Return Policy for Military Tuition Assistance (TA) funds rules and align with the return of unearned student aid rules applicable to the Federal Student Aid as required under section 484B of the Department of Education Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

POLICY

Military Tuition Assistance (TA) is awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. When a student withdraws, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of TA funds originally awarded.

To comply with the Department of Defense (DOD) policy, Farmingdale State College (FSC) will return any unearned TA funds on a prorated basis through at least the 60% portion of the period for which the funds were provided. TA funds are earned proportionally during an enrollment period, with unearned funds returned based upon when a student stops attending (drops or withdraws from the course, or ceases to attend).

If the service member withdraws due to military service obligation, Farmingdale State College will work with the service member to identify a solution that will not result in a student debt for the returned TA portion.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students receiving Military Tuition Assistance (TA) for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

DEFINITIONS

Military Tuition Assistance (TA) is a benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to 100% for the tuition expenses of its member. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application processes and restrictions. This money is usually paid directly to the institution by the individual services. This policy only applies to this type of educational benefit. The TA program is a benefit that is available only while the student is in the service. This policy does not apply to Veterans or Veterans benefits.

PROCEDURE

To comply with the Department of Defense (DOD) policy, Farmingdale State College will return any unearned TA funds on a prorated basis through at least 60% portion of the period for which the funds were provided. TA funds

are earned proportionally during an enrollment period, with unearned funds returned based upon when a student stops attending.

If the student officially drops or withdraws from the course(s), the amount of unearned TA funds is calculated from the date of withdrawal. If the student unofficially withdraws, the amount of unearned TA funds is calculated from the date of the last reported participation in the course(s). In cases where some or all of the Tuition Assistance must be returned to the DoD, the service member will be responsible for all balances on his or her Farmingdale State College student account.

Determining eligibility for military tuition assistance is class-specific. The start and end date of each class will be used to determine eligibility.

TA benefits will be recalculated in the same manner as a Title IV recalculation.

The college will recalculate your tuition assistance eligibility based on the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Days Completed}}{\text{Total Number of Days of the course (start to end date)}} = \text{Percentage Earned}$$

Any unearned Military TA funds will be returned directly to the military service, not to the service member. The calculation of the return may result in the service member owing a balance to the college.