

VETERANS APPLICATION FOR FREE TUITION AT STATE SUPPORTED SCHOOLS  
(SDCL §13-55-2 THROUGH §13-55-5)

**IMPORTANT: SEE INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM**

|                    |            |    |                           |
|--------------------|------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1. Last Name       | First Name | MI | 2. Social Security Number |
| 3. Mailing Address |            |    | 4. Home Phone Number      |

**5. SERVICE INFORMATION** - Enter the following data for each period of service.

| Service Number | Branch of Service | Date Entered Active Duty | Date Separated | Type of Discharge | Grade / Rank |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                |                   |                          |                |                   |              |
|                |                   |                          |                |                   |              |
|                |                   |                          |                |                   |              |

6. I wish to apply for free tuition on courses I will be taking at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of School)

\_\_\_\_\_ beginning \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month/Day/Year)

7. My eligibility for this program is based upon: (check appropriate box)

- Served on Active Duty at any time from August 2, 1990 through date to be determined.  
 Service connected disability rated as 10%, or more, disabling.  
 Awarded one of the qualifying medals listed on the reverse side of this form in paragraph 3b.  
(NOTE - Your DD-214 must show that you were awarded the medal.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Veteran)

**THIS SECTION FOR VA USE ONLY**

1. Has the Veteran **EXHAUSTED ALL** Federal VA educational benefits?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. If entitlement for free tuition is based upon a service connected disability, the date of rating establishing a compensable service connected disability is \_\_\_\_\_

(Month/Day/Year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of VA Official)

**CRITERIA GOVERNING THE VETERANS FREE TUITION PROGRAM  
AT STATE SUPPORTED SCHOOLS**

SDCL §13-55-2 through §13-55-5 provides that certain veterans are eligible for free tuition at South Dakota Universities. The tuition waiver is good for UNDERGRADUATE courses only. To qualify, the student must meet the following criteria:

1. Must have been discharged under "Honorable conditions", must be a CURRENT RESIDENT of South Dakota, and must qualify for resident tuition at the University.
2. Must have used up all entitlement to, or not be eligible for, any educational benefits from the Federal government.
3. Must meet the definition of a "veteran" as found in SDCL §33-17-1 and §33-17-2 which is as follows:
  - a. Served on Active Duty at any time from August 2, 1990 through a date to be determined by the SD State Legislature, **OR**;
  - b. Was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or other United States Campaign or Service Medal for participation in combat operations against hostile forces, during dates other than those specified in 3.a. (see above), **OR**;
  - c. Has a service connected disability rated by the Veterans Administration (VA) as 10%, or more, disabling.
4. Veterans have twenty (20) years from the ending date of the particular conflict during which they served and earned eligibility for this program, or six years following discharge, whichever date is later, to use the free tuition program.

Veterans who qualify because of a service-connected disability have twenty (20) years from the date they were originally rated by the VA as 10%, or more, disabled.

5. The veterans are entitled to one month of free tuition for each month of qualifying service with a minimum of one, up to a maximum of four academic years. Qualifying service is defined as the amount of time served on Active Duty between the beginning and ending dates of the particular conflict or period of hostilities during which the veteran earned eligibility for this program.

Individuals applying for free tuition must complete this application and mail it, along with a copy of their DD-214, to: **South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
c/o Claims Office, PO Box 5046  
Sioux Falls SD 57117-5046**

Once this form is returned to the veteran, it should be presented to the Registrar of the University where the veteran will be attending classes.

Those desiring more information should contact their local County Veteran Service Officer or the Financial Aids Officer at the University.

**2008 Legislative Session –Statute Change SDCL 13-55-2.1.** Veterans enrolled at self-supporting off-campus institution entitled to reduced tuition. Any veteran who is eligible for free tuition pursuant to § 13-55-2 who is enrolled, at a self- supporting off-campus institution, in any undergraduate course under the control and management of the Board of Regents not subsidized by the general fund is entitled to a benefit of one hundred percent of the in-state resident tuition to be paid to the institution by the Board of Regents. The veteran shall pay to the institution any self-support off-campus tuition charge in excess of the in-state resident tuition.