



**VETERANS APPLICATION FOR FREE TUITION AT  
STATE SUPPORTED UNIVERSITIES  
AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES  
(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 (Street, City, State and Zip)			4. Phone Number
5. Name of School Where Attending Courses			Date Courses Start (Month/Day/Year)

6. Service Information - Enter the following data for each period of service			
Branch of Service	Date Entered Active Duty (Month/Day/Year)	Date Separated (Month/Day/Year)	Type of Discharge

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
- Awarded one of the qualifying medals listed on the reverse side of this form in paragraph 3b
- Service connected disability rated as 10% or more (Must include Award Letter from VA)  
(NOTE – Must include a **MEMBER-4** copy of your DD214)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Veteran)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

**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)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of VA Official)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

**CRITERIA GOVERNING THE VETERANS FREE TUITION  
AT STATE SUPPORTED UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES**

SDCL §13-55-2 through §13-55-5 provides that certain veterans are eligible for free tuition at South Dakota universities and technical colleges. 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 payments.
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 §33A-2-1 and §33A-2-2 which is as follows:
  - a. Served on Active Duty at any time from August 2, 1990 through a date to be determined,  
**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, **OR;**
  - c. Has a service connected disability rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as 10%, or more, disabling. Must include award letter from VA.

33A-2-2. Wartime veteran and qualifying military service defined. For purposes of all statutes relating to rights, privileges, exemptions, and benefits of wartime veterans and their dependents, the term, wartime veteran, means any veteran who has performed qualifying military service or any person who has performed qualifying military service and then been released to any National Guard or Reserve component of the armed forces of the United States. Qualifying military service is:

- (1) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more during the period from April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, inclusive;
- (2) Active duty for one day or more during the period from July 28, 1914, to November 11, 1918, inclusive, performed by a citizen of the United States in the armed forces of any nation that was allied with the United States during any part of the period from April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, inclusive;
- (3) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more during the period from December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive;
- (4) Active duty for one day or more during the period from September 1, 1939, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, performed by a citizen of the United States in the armed forces of any nation that was allied with the United States during any part of the period from December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive;
- (5) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more during the period from June 25, 1950, to May 7, 1975, inclusive;

- (6) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more during the period from August 2, 1990, until the end of hostilities as determined by the Legislature;
- (7) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more in a military action for which the veteran earned an armed forces expeditionary medal or other United States campaign, expeditionary, or service medal awarded for participation outside the boundaries of the United States in combat operations against hostile forces; or
- (8) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more if the veteran has established the existence of a service-connected disability.

Service on active duty by any Reserve or National Guard personnel for training may not be construed as service on active duty, unless the Veterans Commission determines, by rules promulgated pursuant to chapter 1-26, that such training involved the person in direct participation in or direct support of combat operations against a hostile force.

4. 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 **MEMBER-4** copy of your DD-214 and VA Award Letter if applicable, to:

**South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**ATTN: Free Tuition, Shane Olivier**  
**425 E. Capitol Avenue**  
**Pierre, SD 57501**  
**PH: 605-773-3648**

**Email: [shane.olivier@state.sd.us](mailto:shane.olivier@state.sd.us)**

5. Once completed by VA Official the form will be returned to the veteran, where it should then be presented to the Registrar of the University where the veteran will be attending classes.