


March 26, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: CUNY Registrars, Bursars, Directors of Financial Aid, Directors of Admissions

From: Katherine Raymond
Senior Associate General Counsel 

Re: Resident Tuition for Veterans Receiving Educational Assistance through Vocational Rehabilitation

I am writing to inform you of an amendment to federal law, and a corresponding change to CUNY's policy, relating to resident tuition for certain veterans. On September 29, 2018, Section 301 of Public Law 115-251 amended 38 U.S.C 3679(c) to require that individuals using education assistance under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program" (VR&E Program) receive the in-state tuition rate at all public colleges, universities, and vocational programs, regardless of whether they are a resident of the state where the college, university or program is located. This law is effective for courses of education provided during a quarter, semester, or term that begin after March 1, 2019.

In compliance with federal and state law, CUNY's Tuition and Fee Manual ("TFM") already provides that veterans who are eligible for educational assistance under federal GI bills, as well as family members of certain veterans, receive the in-state and in-city tuition rate, regardless of whether they are residents of New York State/City. In order to comply with this new statute, CUNY has amended Section IV Part I(C)(1) of the TFM to add that the resident rate for veterans also applies to individuals receiving assistance through the VR&E Program. The new language is as follows:

Effective for semesters starting after March 1, 2019, individuals who are receiving educational assistance under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program (VR&E Program), also called Chapter 31, will be charged the in-state rate at the CUNY senior colleges and the in-city rate at the CUNY community colleges. In order to prove eligibility, individuals must present evidence that they are receiving educational assistance under the federal VR&E Program.

This change applies to students attending for the Summer 2019 and thereafter. If you have any questions about this revision, please contact Lisa Beatha, University Director of Veterans Affairs.