



## State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

### Guidelines on Course Registration Policies for Military-Related Students at Virginia Public Higher Education Institutions

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia has found the following, through consultation with its Military Education Advisory Committee (MEAC):

- Active-duty military members have current responsibilities for national defense that affect the educational pursuit of the individual.
- Reservists and Virginia National Guard members are subject to short-notice military assignments affecting their ability to plan and pace their educational pursuits.
- In order to receive the full range of educational benefits, veterans must be enrolled full-time in courses applicable to their degree program and benefits are limited to just 36 months.
- Students in the above circumstances may be adversely affected by the incompatibility between their military service and/or education benefit restrictions and the course registration schedule or policy of the institution in which they are enrolled.
- Institutions should have policies and procedures in place that provide students with sufficient flexibility and accommodation to ensure that they are able to complete their educational plans in a timely manner and manage dual responsibilities as students and members of the military.

The 2012 General Assembly established Virginia Code § 23-9.2:3.7 C, which states:

The governing boards of each public institution of higher education shall, in accordance with guidelines developed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, implement policies that recognize the scheduling difficulties and obligations encountered by active duty members of the United States armed forces.

Accordingly, the guidelines promulgated herein require institutions to establish course registration policies that provide reasonable accommodation to students who are active duty military, reservists, veterans (as defined by Virginia Code § 23-7.4<sup>1</sup>), and members of the Virginia National Guard. Such policies may include strategies such as, but are not limited to, priority registration, priority wait-listing, and waiver of course enrollment caps.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Veteran" means an individual who has served at least one day of service in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.