

Higher Education Course Scheduling Preference for Veteran Students Act Guidelines

In an effort to assist students using veteran benefits to earn a postsecondary education, Governor Tom Corbett signed into law Act 46 on May 14, 2014 (Act of May 14, 2014, P.L. 667, No. 46). The Higher Education Course Scheduling Preference for Veterans Act provides for veteran students to receive course scheduling preference at public institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania. By increasing course access, veteran students will have a better chance of enrolling in a full course load and maximizing their education benefits before they expire.

To take advantage of this provision, the Records and Financial Aid Office will accept veteran registration forms in the office one week prior to the advertised dates for each registration period. All veterans will receive an email prior to this opportunity each semester reminding them of this entitlement. All registration dates are listed within our Calendar on our website www.racc.edu. The Calendar is located on the Home Page of our website under the Quick Links drop down menu.

The only exception to the priority registration will be for competitive programs such as the Health Profession degrees where there is other eligibility criteria used to distinguish a registration order. For any additional questions concerning the **Higher Education Course Scheduling Preference for Veteran Students Act Guidelines** can be addressed by contacting the Director of Financial Aid/Registrar located in Berks Hall 106.

All veterans are identified through the Admissions application or through self-identification to the Records/Financial Aid Office. If you submitted a certificate of eligibility to receive VA benefits, we already have you identified for this entitlement. Listed below are the definitions used to clarify eligibly.

Veteran – Per Act 46 of 2014 (Act of May 14, 2014, P.L. 667, No. 46), the term “veteran” refers to an individual who:

- a. Has served in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component and National Guard; and
- b. Was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Veterans who completed their obligated service in the Reserves and National Guard but were not deployed to active duty are included in this definition

Veteran student – Per Act 46 of 2014 (Act of May 14, 2014, P.L. 667, No. 46), the term “veteran student” refers to an individual who:

- a. Is a veteran;
- b. Has been admitted to a public institution of higher education; and
- c. Resides in Pennsylvania while enrolled in the public institution of higher education.

Veteran students may or may not be using veterans educational benefits at the institution.

Act 46 applies to veteran students admitted to all for-credit courses and programs offered at the institution.

“Act 46 of 2014 requires public institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania to provide veteran students, as defined in the Act, with preference in course scheduling. Non-compliance may be reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Education by submitting the Higher Education Student Complaint form found at www.education.state.pa.us.”