

## **SE Veteran Policies**

### **Call to Active Duty**

If a student is called to active military service during a term in which the student has completed an amount of work sufficient to receive a grade, as determined by the university, the university may award a grade to the student and give the student academic credit for the full semester's work. If the student has not completed an amount of work sufficient to receive a grade, the university may refund or waive tuition and fees in accordance with the policy of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. For more information contact the School Certifying Official, [veterans@se.edu](mailto:veterans@se.edu) or 580-745-2174.

Students returning to Southeastern after being called to active duty will not be required to be readmitted and will be able to continue their degree program in place at the time of their departure. Returning students should first contact the School Certifying Official, [veterans@se.edu](mailto:veterans@se.edu) or 580-745-2174 for assistance.

### **Changes to Post 9/11 Education Benefits**

On January 5, 2021, the President signed the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 into law (Public Law 116-315).

#### **Tuition and Fee Debt for Drops and Withdraws**

Section 1019 of this legislation, effective immediately, requires schools and training providers to be financially responsible, instead of the student, for benefits paid directly to an educational institution. This applies to tuition and fee payments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill® and to advance payment of benefits under the various GI Bill programs.

#### **What has changed?**

The VA will now collect the tuition and fees amounts from the University for any reduced credits or complete withdrawals after the 100% refund period. The student will be responsible for paying back this amount to the University. Book

stipend and monthly housing allowance debts due to reduced credits or complete withdrawals will be paid by the student directly to the VA.

What does this mean for me?

Students who drop or withdraw from courses resulting in a return of tuition and fees to the VA will incur a debt to the University. The amount returned to the VA by the University will be applied to the student's account. Students with an outstanding balance may pay the amount owed or may set up a payment plan with the Business Office, [businessoffice@se.edu](mailto:businessoffice@se.edu). A financial hold will appear on the student's account until all balances are paid which may limit future enrollments. We encourage you to consult with the School Certifying Official, [veterans@se.edu](mailto:veterans@se.edu) before dropping courses or processing a complete withdrawal.

### Verification of Enrollment to Receive Post 9/11 Educational Benefits

Section 1010 of this legislation, effective August 1, 2021, creates a dual certification for verification of enrollment to receive Post 9/11 Educational Assistance benefits.

What has changed?

The Veteran Services Office will certify enrollment at the beginning of the term and after the refund date. The student will be required to certify enrollment to the VA to continue receiving the monthly housing allowance (MHA).

What does this mean for me?

The School Certifying Official will now certify full-semester and short term/block classes at the *beginning of the term* and *after the drop/add/refund deadlines*.

Please see the Academic Calendar for specific semester deadlines:

<https://www.se.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/>

Each month thereafter, you will be required to electronically verify your continued enrollment to VA. All months are prorated based on the number of days that you are enrolled as a student. Your benefits start the day classes begin and stop the day they end. If you fail to certify your enrollment to VA for two consecutive months, VA will withhold your MHA until you certify your enrollment.

For more information regarding the Enrollment Verification process please visit VA.gov:

[https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe/verification\\_of\\_enrollment.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe/verification_of_enrollment.asp)

## **Cohort Loan Default Rate**

The University's Cohort Loan Default Rate is an average of 11.1 with a national average of 9.7. To learn more about school default rates, and to view SE loan repayment data, please visit the Federal Student Aid website for the U. S. Department of Education.

<https://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/defaultmanagement/cdr.html>

## **Mitigating Circumstances**

Mitigating circumstances are circumstances beyond the students control that prevent the student from attending school or that cause the student to drop or withdraw from classes.

If a student drops a course or withdraws from school after the refund period and receives a "W" grade, VA will reduce benefits effective the *first day* of the term. Benefits paid from the beginning of the term will be considered an overpayment, and a debt may be established, unless mitigating circumstances or reasons are provided to VA. If approved the student will only be responsible for paying back money paid for the period after the student stopped attending rather than from the beginning of the term.

Examples of Mitigating Circumstances:

- An illness or injury during the semester
- An illness or death in the immediate family
- An unavoidable change in conditions of employment
- An unavoidable geographical transfer resulting from employment
- Immediate family or financial obligations beyond the control of the student that require him or her to suspend pursuit of program to obtain employment

- Discontinuance of the course by the school
- Unanticipated active military service, including active duty training
- Unanticipated difficulties with childcare arrangements the student has made during the period which he or she would be attending class

If you need to drop or withdraw from courses due to mitigating circumstances, please contact the School Certifying Official, [veterans@se.edu](mailto:veterans@se.edu).

## **6 Hour Exclusion**

VA automatically grants mitigating circumstances for up to 6 credits the first time a student drops or withdraws and mitigating circumstances must be considered. This automatic grant is called the 6-Credit Hour Exclusion. The exclusion is a one-time grant made the first-time mitigating circumstances must be considered for the student. Up to 6 credits can be excluded if the student has been awarded benefits for the credit. The 6-Credit Hour Exclusion cannot be granted if the student completes the term and receives non-punitive grades.

- If the student withdraws from 3 credits, the exclusion will be granted for 3 credits and the student's one-time exclusion is used.
- If the student withdraws from 12 credits, the exclusion will be granted for 6 credits, the student's one-time exclusion is used, and the student must provide mitigating circumstances for the other 6 credits.

## **Oklahoma Residency**

Members of armed forces who provide evidence that they are fulltime active duty in the armed forces stationed in Oklahoma or temporarily present through military orders shall be immediately classified upon admission as in-state-status along with their spouse and dependent children. Further, when members of the armed services are Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education transferred out-of-state, the member, their spouses and dependent children shall continue to be classified as in-state if they remain continuously enrolled. Former full-time active military personnel who remain in Oklahoma after their service may retain their in-

state status without 12-month requirement if they establish domicile as defined in this policy. For more information regarding Oklahoma Residency Policy contact the Registrar's Office, [registrar@se.edu](mailto:registrar@se.edu), or 580-745-2165.

## **Out-of-State Student Tuition Waiver**

All out-of-state students, both undergraduate and graduate, will receive 100% out-of-state non-resident tuition waiver each semester while eligible to enroll at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The out of state non-resident tuition waiver is available for any semester (Fall, Spring or Summer). No application is necessary to receive the waiver. In-State/Resident tuition and fees still apply.

## **Recruiting Policy**

The University refrains from providing commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on securing enrollments or federal aid (including Tuition Assistance Funds) to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting, admission activities, or making decisions regarding the award of student financial assistance.

The University refrains from high pressure recruitment tactics such as making multiple unsolicited contacts (3 or more), including contacts by phone, email, or in-person, or engage in same-day recruitment and registration for the purpose of securing member enrollments.

*GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at [www.benefits.va.gov/bill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/bill).*