# CHAPTER 56
# GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT

**SOURCE:** Entire Chapter added by P.L. 38-099:2 (Feb. 11, 2026).

§ 56101. Short Title.
§ 56102. Definitions.
§ 56103. Educational Benefits.
§ 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.
§ 56105. Administration.
§ 56106. Implementation.

## § 56101. Short Title.

This Chapter shall be known as the "Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act."

## § 56102. Definitions.

As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall mean:

(a) "Board" shall mean the Board of Regents of the University of Guam, and the Board of Trustees of the Guam Community College, each with authority limited to their respective Institution.

(b) "Dependent" means:

(1) A spouse; or

(2) A child who:

(A) Is twenty-five (25) years old or younger on the first day of the semester or term for which the exemption is claimed; and

(B) Was claimed as a dependent on a federal income tax return filed for the preceding year

(c) "Qualifying Veteran" means a person who:

(1) At the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces, was a resident of Guam and officially declared Guam as their home of record;

(2) Is a legal resident of Guam at the time of application for benefits under this Chapter; and

(3) Served in the active military, naval, air service to include and was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable. Qualifying Veteran includes veterans of the Guam Combat Patrol, the United States Insular Force, Philippine Scouts of World War II, and the United States Armed Forces; or

(4) Is a current member in good standing or a former member who received an honorable discharge from the Guam National Guard or a Reserve Component of the U.S Armed Forces, regardless of active duty time served; and

(d) "Institution" shall mean the University of Guam, and the Guam Community College.

(e) "Tuition" shall mean the fees charged by an institution for enrollment in a course, but does not include any other fees, charges, or costs, such as student activity fees, laboratory fees, or the cost of books and instructional materials.



COL 2026-10-26

(f) "Tuition-paying students" means those students who pay tuition fees and/or utilize student loans, receive federal government tuition assistance such as federal student aid, utilizes an awarded scholarship, and/or receive tuition waivers or assistance on account of age eligibility.

**SOURCE:** Added by P.L. 38-099:2 (Feb. 11, 2026). Subsection (a) amended by P.L. 38-136:XII:61 (Aug. 28, 2026).

## § 56103. Educational Benefits.

(a) Qualifying veterans and their eligible dependents subject to the requirements and limitations of this Chapter and if sufficient institutional capacity exists as determined by the Institutions, shall be exempt from the payment of tuition at an Institution.

(b) The tuition exemption provided under this Chapter:

(1) At the undergraduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of ninety (90) credit hours per Qualifying Veteran, which may be used by the veteran or allocated to one (1) or more eligible dependents. No individual may receive more than eighteen (18) credit hours of tuition exemption per academic semester;

(2) At the graduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of thirty (30) credit hours per Qualifying Veteran, which may be used by the veteran or allocated to one (1) or more eligible dependents. Such exemption shall be limited to master's degree programs, except that professional doctoral programs may qualify if approved by the Board of the Institution offering such program;

(3) Shall apply only to charges for tuition as defined in §56102(e) and shall not cover fees to include, but not limited to student fees, laboratory charges, instructional materials, or other incidental costs;

(4) Shall not be applied to repeated courses beyond one additional attempt;

(5) Shall be contingent upon space being available in a course after all tuition-paying students have completed registration; and

(6) Shall only be available to a Qualifying Veteran or eligible dependent after all applicable federal veterans' educational benefits and other federal tuition assistance programs, including federal Title IV financial aid, have been fully exhausted.

**SOURCE:** Added by P.L. 38-099:2 (Feb. 11, 2026). Subsection (a), (b)(2),(3),(6) amended by P.L. 38-136:XII:61 (Aug. 28, 2026).

## § 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.

(a) To be eligible for and to maintain benefits under this Chapter, a person must:

(1) Be admitted and enrolled at an Institution;

(2) Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or certificate program, as defined by the policies of the respective Institution, and possess a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 for undergraduate programs and 3.0 for graduate programs;

(3) Attest that they have exhausted all eligibility for any federal veterans' educational benefits that provide tuition assistance prior to receiving a waiver under this Chapter; and

(4) Not be in default on any student loan made or guaranteed by the government of Guam;

(b) Benefits conferred by this Chapter shall be subject to the following limitations:

(1) The provision of a tuition exemption shall be contingent upon space being available in a course after all tuition-paying students have completed registration;



COL 2026-10-26

(2) This Chapter does not guarantee admission into any academic program, course, or Institution;

(3) The benefit is subject to all course capacity limits and program enrollment restrictions established by the Institution;

(4) A tuition exemption shall not be granted for any course that has reached its maximum enrollment capacity or for which a waitlist of tuition-paying students exists.

(c) If a recipient withdraws from or fails a course for which a tuition exemption was granted, the recipient shall be responsible for repayment of waived tuition, unless otherwise waived for good cause as defined by the Board of the Institution in which the course was taken. Such reimbursed funds shall be deposited into the Student Financial Aid Program (SFAP) fund of the University of Guam, or in the case of the Guam Community College, into such student financial assistance fund as designated by the Board of Trustees.

**SOURCE:** Added by P.L. 38-099:2 (Feb. 11, 2026). Subsection (c) amended by P.L. 38-136:XII:61 (Aug. 28, 2026).

### § 56105. Administration.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions and requirements of Chapter 9, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated (the Administrative Adjudication Law), the University of Guam and the Guam Community College shall each independently promulgate such rules and regulations, aligned with existing institutional policies and procedures, as are necessary for the administration of this Chapter within their respective institutions. Such rules and regulations shall be adopted no later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the effective date of this Act.

(b) The government of Guam entity responsible for veterans affairs shall provide necessary assistance in the verification of a veteran's status, service record, and eligibility for benefits under this Chapter upon request by an Institution.

**SOURCE:** Added by P.L. 38-099:2 (Feb. 11, 2026). Subsection (a) amended by P.L. 38-136:XII:61 (Aug. 28, 2026).

### § 56106. Implementation.

(a) The benefits prescribed by this Chapter shall be implemented and provided by the University of Guam and the Guam Community College through a tuition waiver mechanism;

(b) The University of Guam, the Guam Community College shall each:

(1) Submit a report to I Liheslaturan Guåhan no later than ninety (90) days after the end of each academic year, detailing the number of beneficiaries served, the total number of credit hours exempted, the total amount of credits failed or withdrawn and repayment received, if applicable, list of the types of undergraduate and graduate degrees that recipients enrolled in, and the calculated value of the tuition waived;

(2) Implement control measures to ensure that the granting of exemptions under this Chapter does not result in the displacement of any tuition-paying student from any course or program.

(c) Each Institution shall implement all administrative procedures necessary to begin accepting applications no later than sixty (60) days after the adoption of rules and regulations by its respective Board and processing tuition exemptions beginning at the next full semester.

**SOURCE:** Added by P.L. 38-099:2 (Feb. 11, 2026). Subsection (b), (c) amended by P.L. 38-136:XII:61 (Aug. 28, 2026).

---



COL 2026-10-26