



## **Procedure/Standard Number 2018-01** *Veterans' In-State Tuition Benefits*

### **For Compliance with Veterans Choice Act and Commonwealth Act 11 of 2015**

**History:** In August 2014, the federal government enacted the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Choice Act), which requires public institutions of higher learning to charge in-state tuition and fees to “covered individuals” to remain approved for the Veterans Administration’s GI®Bill programs. In response, Commonwealth Act 11 of 2015 ensures Pennsylvania’s compliance with the Choice Act.

**Key Words/Categories:** residency, tuition and fees

**Additional References:** Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Choice Act); Commonwealth Act 11 of 2015 (enacting House Bill 131)

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#### **I. Introduction**

Lincoln University is honored to welcome veterans, military service members from all branches, and their dependents to our campus. We offer a wide variety of services through our Office of Veteran Affairs. Effective immediately, the university will begin charging in-state tuition for eligible veterans and their dependents who are “covered individuals” in compliance with Section 702 of the *Veterans Choice Act*.

#### **II. Definitions**

**A. Veteran-** An individual who served in the United States Armed Forces (military, naval, or air service), including a reserve component or the United States National Guard and commissioned corps of the public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and who has been discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable. Note: All references to veterans in this document included covered individuals as defined in Section II.B.

#### **B. Covered Individual**

1. An individual (typically a spouse or child) listed as a dependent in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).
2. An individual (typically a spouse or child) using benefits under U.S.C Chapters 33 and/or 35, relating to the Marine Gunnery Sergeant Davis Fry Scholarship and/or other survivor and dependents benefits, who lives in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in a State System or affiliate university.

3. An individual (typically a spouse or child) that can provide evidence they are an dependent of a military service member to include veterans or retirees.

### **III. Universities Shall Charge In-State Tuition for Covered Individuals**

- A. Beginning with the terms that start after July 1, 2018, covered individuals who enroll into Lincoln University as freshman or transfer student shall be charged in-state tuition and fees.
- B. Students shall maintain status of a covered individual as long as they remain continually enrolled in Lincoln University in one or more programs, even if they have exhausted their educational benefits.
- C. Covered individuals shall be eligible for in-state tuition and fees provided that the student lives in Pennsylvania on the first day of the semester or term, which can include student housing.
- D. All covered individuals charged in-state tuition will be considered in-state for all other student billing purposes.
- E. A veteran or covered individual does not have to be using educational benefits through the GI®Bill in order to receive in-state tuition. Veteran active 90 days or more for eligibility may be established based on one, or more than one, period of honorable qualifying active duty service, and qualifying service may be earned in various branched of the armed forces and uniformed services.

### **IV. Documentation**

- A. Veterans shall provide the following:
  1. A Member 4 copy of the veteran's DD Form 214 (DD214) in order to establish the veteran's discharge date and period of honorable active duty of 90 days or more (multiples of the veteran's DD214 may be used to establish qualifying time period and service status).
  2. A copy of the federal Veterans Affairs Certificate of Eligibility (COE) that establishes eligibility for GI®Bill educational benefits.
- B. Covered Individuals shall provide the following:
  1. A copy of the Veterans Affairs Certificate of Eligibility (COE) that establishes the transferred benefits or general eligibility of benefits.
  2. A Member 4 copy of the transferor's or veteran's DD214.
- C. If the necessary documentation is not provided, the student shall be charged out-of-state tuition.
- D. Lincoln University shall ensure the safety and confidentiality, as appropriate, of all documentation submitted.

### **V. Effective Date**

Effective for the terms beginning after July 1, 2018.