

Missouri Returning Heroes Act

The Missouri Returning Heroes Act, established August 28, 2008, provides reduced tuition for certain combat veterans attending public institutions of higher education.

Information for Postsecondary Institutions ([returningheroesactforschools.php](#))

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for assistance you must meet the following requirements:

- Was a veteran who served in armed combat in the military after September 11, 2001.

To meet this requirement you must have served in a combat zone as designated by the U.S. Department of Defense and as documented on field 13 of your **DD214** ([documents/sampleDD214.pdf](#)).

If you were a member of the Reserves or National Guard you are considered to be a veteran who served in the military as long as you served in armed combat in a full-time capacity under a call to active service authorized by the President of the United States or the Secretary of Defense for a period of more than 30 consecutive days.

Institutions will look at the following indicators to determine if you meet this requirement:

- Receipt of a combat service medal:
 - Bronze Star
 - Combat Action Badge
 - Combat Action Medal
 - Combat Infantry Badge (Army)
 - Combat Ribbon (Marine)
 - Congressional Medal of Honor
 - Global War on Terror ("GWOT") Service Medal
 - Global War on Terror ("GWOT") Badge
 - Purple Heart
 - Any other Action Badge, Combat Medal, or Expeditionary Medal or Ribbon offered within a geographic area that enables the veteran to receive a combat pay tax exclusion exemption, hazardous duty pay, imminent danger pay, or hostile fire pay
 - Any military service in a combat zone between September 11, 2001 and the present. **Combat Zones recognized by the Internal Revenue Service can be found on the IRS website (<https://www.irs.gov/uac/combat-zones>).** Please note this list may not be comprehensive. Your institution may have to contact the Missouri Veterans Commission to determine if your service was in a combat zone.
- Was a Missouri resident when first entering the military, as documented by the home of record listed in field 7b of your DD214. You do not have to be a Missouri resident at the time you receive the tuition benefit.
 - Discharged from military service under honorable conditions as documented in fields 24 and 28 on your DD214. Any type of discharge other than "bad conduct," "less than honorable," "undesirable," or "dishonorable" is considered to be a discharge under honorable conditions.
 - Attend a **public institution of higher education** ([./public-and-independent-colleges.php](#)).