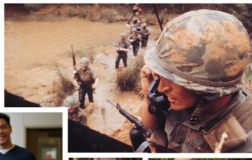


30. What documents do I need to prove I've exhausted my federal education benefits?

You must contact the VA Regional Office in Muskogee, OK to obtain a letter that states you've exhausted ALL federal education benefits. The office can be contacted by calling 1-888-442-4551 or by writing VA Regional Office, PO Box 8888, Muskogee, OK 74402-8888.



have an impact on the student's eligibility for Hazlewood Act benefits.

TYPES OF COURSES COVERED

35. Does the Hazlewood Act cover teacher certification fees?

No. The teacher certification fee is not an institutional fee. It is a fee required by the State Board for Educator Certification and is paid directly to that board.

36. Does the Hazlewood Act cover credit by examination?

Yes. Since Texas Education Code 54.203 (a) refers to an exemption from "all dues, fees and charges..." the exemption would include charges for credit by examination.

37. Will Hazlewood Act benefits pay for continuing education classes?

Institutions are NOT required to offer Hazlewood Act benefits to veterans enrolled in continuing education classes for which the college or university receives no formula funding (tax support). However, the college or university may choose to permit this option.

38. Can Hazlewood Act benefits be used for graduate school?

Yes. Hazlewood Act benefits may be used for graduate studies, including law school or any other program of study at public institutions (other than continuing education) if the veteran has not accumulated 150 credit hours using Hazlewood Act benefits since fall of 1995.

39. Can veterans who are concurrently enrolled in more than one college or university (in the same semester) received Hazlewood Act benefits for both schools?

Yes. But each college/university granting Hazlewood Act benefits must document the veteran's eligibility and must observe the 150-hour limit.

40. Can the Hazlewood exemption be used to pay for courses taken via distance education (correspondence, web-based, ITV, etc.)?

There is nothing in the Hazlewood statute that limits the means by which a course is being taught, although correspondence courses can ONLY be covered by the Hazlewood benefit if the course applies to the veterans' degree plan. An otherwise eligible student living in Texas who takes a distance education course from a Texas public institution of higher education could use the Hazlewood exemption. A student taking a class through distance education and living in another state

generally cannot meet the program's residency requirement. The Hazlewood benefit requires students to be Texas residents at the time they use the program. However, an otherwise eligible person who is temporarily out of state but still classified by the institution as a resident could use the exemption for distance education courses.

41. Are aircraft training courses covered by the Hazlewood Act?

Yes, but each school must decide the extent to which this is true. The governing board of a junior or community college may establish a fee for extraordinary costs associated with a specific course or program such as flight training, diesel mechanics or other classes in which fees are higher than that of a normal class.

RECORDING INFORMATION

42. What information will be made available upon signing the release form?

All students using the Hazlewood Act benefit are required to sign a release form which allows the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, along with any institution the veteran may attend, access to the number of credit hours attempted in the current and previous years.

43. How will the Hazlewood credit hours attempted be tracked and recorded?

The governing board of each institution shall report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board information relating to each individual receiving an exemption from fees and charges through the Hazlewood Act benefit.



The Texas Veterans Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or providing services.

Comments concerning veterans' programs or delivery of services may be addressed to:

Texas Veterans Commission
P.O. Box 12277
Austin, Texas 78711-2277

CONTACT THE TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION OFFICE NEAREST YOU FOR ASSISTANCE

TVC Regional Office
6900 Alameda Road
Houston, TX 77030-4200
713/383-2756
HOUSTON_TVC@vba.va.gov

TVC Regional Office
One Veterans Plaza
701 Clay
Waco, TX 76799
254/299-9950
WACO_TVC@vba.va.gov

Thomas E. Creek
VA Medical Center
Amarillo, TX 79106
806/468-1883

VA Outpatient Clinic
Austin, TX 78741
512/389-6543

VA Outpatient Clinic
Beaumont, TX 77707
409/981-8598
Toll-free: 1-800-833-7734

VA Medical Center
*Big Spring, TX 79720-5500
432/264-4819

Sam Rayburn Memorial
VA Medical Center
*Bonham, TX 75418
903/583-6390

VA Outpatient Clinic
Cedar Park, TX 78613
512/260-1368, Ext. 58022

VA Outpatient Clinic
College Station, TX 77845
979/680-0361, Ext. 58417

VA Outpatient Clinic
Corpus Christi, TX 78405
361/606-5610

North Texas Veterans
Health Care System
*Dallas, TX 75216
214/857-0444

VA Health Care Center
*El Paso, TX 79930-4211
915/564-7852
Toll-free: 1-800-672-3782, Ext. 7852

Building 18010
*Fort Hood, TX 76544
254/287-3341

Bldg. 2263
1706 Stanley Rd., Suite 18
*Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5024
210/221-2044

VA Outpatient Clinic
Fort Worth, TX 76104
817/882-6090

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
*Houston, TX 77030-4298
713/794-7785
Toll-free: 1-800-553-2278, Ext. 7785

* = Part-time office; call first for hours
■ = Women Veterans Coordinator Available

South Texas Veterans
Health Care System
Kerrville Division
Kerrville, TX 78028
830/792-2553

Wilford Hall USAF
Medical Center
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-5300
210/292-7401

VA Outpatient Clinic
Laredo, TX 78043
956/523-7860

VA Outpatient Clinic
Lubbock, TX 79412
806/472-3490

Charles Wilson VA Outpatient Clinic
Lufkin, TX 75904
936/633-2780

VA Outpatient Clinic
McAllen, TX 78503
956/618-7106

102 W. Houston Street
Marshall, TX 75671
903/935-8415

Midland Co. Courthouse Annex
Midland, TX 79705
432/688-4879

South Texas Veterans
Health Care System
Audie L. Murphy Memorial VAMC
San Antonio, TX 78229-4404
210/617-5175

Frank M. Tejada VA Outpatient Clinic
San Antonio, TX 78240
210/699-5076

4265th Avenue
82 MSSQ/MSP Bldg. 402, Room 234
*Sheppard AFB, TX 76311-2929
940/676-4140

Central Texas Veterans
Health Care System
Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center
Temple, TX 76504
254/743-0549

Toll Free: 1-800-423-2111, Ext. 40549

VA Outpatient Clinic
Victoria, TX 77901
361/582-7710

VA Medical Center
*Waco, TX 76711

You may also contact your local Veterans County Service Office for information concerning veterans' benefits.

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR TEXAS VETERANS

Hazlewood Act: Frequently Asked Questions

APRIL 2006

Prepared by the
TEXAS VETERANS

COMMISSION

P.O. Box 12277
Austin, Texas 78711-2277

Contact us on the
Texas Veterans' HOTLINE:
1-800-252-VETS (8387)

Local (Austin) 512/ 463-5538
or visit us online @ www.tvc.state.tx.us

31. If a Texas veteran has defaulted on an education loan through a loan program in another state, would he/she be eligible for an exemption?

A default on a nonfederal education loan authorized by the legislature of another state and administered by that state is not a basis for denying the Hazlewood Act benefit. A veteran who has defaulted on any federal education loan is disqualified from receiving Hazlewood Act benefits. A portion of the law indicates that defaulted loans made or guaranteed by the State of Texas also disqualify a veteran from Hazlewood benefits. This portion of the law relates to defaults on education loans authorized by the Texas Legislature and administered by the State of Texas. Currently, the state loans to which this provision applies are: Hinson-Hazlewood Stafford Loans, Hinson-Hazlewood Health Education Loans (HELP), Hinson-Hazlewood College Access Loans (CAL), uninsured Texas Opportunity Plan Loans (TOP) and the Texas B-On-Time Student Loan administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

32. Will individuals in default on a federal or state student loan be eligible to use the Hazlewood Act benefits for non-credit courses?

If a veteran has a default, which would exclude him/her from Hazlewood Act benefits, that exclusion would apply no matter what types of classes are taken.

33. If a veteran receives Hazlewood Act benefits and it is later discovered that he/she defaulted on an applicable federal or state loan, does he/she have to reimburse the school for the classes taken with the exemption?

If the veteran signs a statement that he/she is not in default of any federal education loan or any education loan made or guaranteed by the State of Texas and is later found to be in default, the school can require repayment of tuition and appropriate fees.

34. If a student is in default on a PLUS loan, can he/she receive Hazlewood Act benefits?

PLUS loans are taken out by the parents of students. If the parents default on their child's PLUS loan, the child is not in default. This default status does NOT

The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) is a State agency that was created in 1927 to serve the needs of our State's veterans. Commission personnel assist veterans, their dependents and survivors in filing claims for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation, pension, death benefits, educational assistance, home loans, insurance, hospitalization and outpatient care, as well as numerous other benefits and privileges. Many of the TVC veterans counselors are accredited with various veterans' organizations.

Effective April 1, 2006, TVC completed the transfer of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) and the Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) grant from the Texas Workforce Commission. The TVC DVOP and LVER staff provide job matching services to eligible veterans, including intake and assessment, counseling/case management, job-search assistance, job development, and resumé assistance.

TVC publishes a bi-monthly magazine, *The Journal*, which is distributed to every public library in the State, as well as various veterans organizations' posts and chapters and each Veterans County Service Office (VCSO). Information regarding State benefits, TVC and VCSO office locations, VA facilities and other agencies and veterans organizations providing assistance to Texas veterans is available on our website at www.tvc.state.tx.us.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board oversees and regulates the Texas Hazlewood Act. Contact them at:

P.O. Box 12788
Austin, TX 78711-2788
512-427-6456; 1-800-242-3062, Ext. 6456

COLLEGE CHARGES COVERED

- What charges are covered?**
The Hazlewood Act exempts qualified students taking classes at public institutions of higher education in Texas from all tuition and fee charges, but does not include property deposits or student services fees.
- What charges are not covered?**
Books, supplies and living expenses are not covered, nor are property deposit and student services fees.
- What is the maximum amount of credit hours that can be attempted using the Hazlewood Act exemption?**
A student using the Hazlewood benefit can attempt no more than 150 credit hours.
- How does the exemption work? Will I get a check in the mail for tuition?**
The Hazlewood Act exemption is a waiver of tuition and most fees. There is no money exchanging hands with

this benefit. The institution the student attends absorbs the cost of tuition and some fees for that student.

DEPENDENTS AND RESIDENCY

5. Which dependents may qualify for Hazlewood Act benefits?

Children of service members who are killed in the line of duty or who die as a result of injury or illness directly related to military service are eligible for Hazlewood Act benefits providing the child was a dependent of the veteran parent at the time he/she died. The student will need to provide official military documentation indicating he/she meets the requirement.



6. Does the Hazlewood Act provide benefits to the spouses of veterans?

No. It provides benefits to the dependent children of a veteran, but only if the veteran is killed in the line of duty or dies as a result of an injury or illness directly related to military service.

7. Would a veteran who was a dependent when his/her parents moved to Texas and who shortly thereafter entered the service be eligible?

To be eligible, the veteran must have been a resident of Texas at the time he/she enlisted. The residence of a dependent child is that of the parents, but parents who move to Texas would not be considered Texas residents for tuition purposes until they had been in the state 12 months. If a veteran, who, as a dependent, enlisted in fewer than 12 months after his/her parents move to Texas, he or she would not have been a resident of Texas at the time of enlistment and is, therefore, not eligible for Hazlewood Act benefits.

8. Does the dependent child of a deceased veteran using Hazlewood Act benefits have to be a Texas resident at the time he/she uses the benefit?

Yes. The dependent child must be classified by the institution of higher education as a resident of Texas for the term/semester for which he/she applies for the exemption.

9. If the dependent child of a deceased veteran wants to use the Hazlewood Act benefit, must the parent have entered the service as a Texas resident?

Yes. The Hazlewood Act benefit was designed to provide assistance to Texas veterans and the dependent children of certain deceased Texas veterans.

10. Can the dependent children of a member of the Texas National Guard who is killed in the line of duty use the Hazlewood benefit?

Yes. The Hazlewood Act benefit is extended to the dependent children of Texas National Guardsmen and Texas Air National Guardsmen killed in the line of duty while serving the state of Texas or the United States.

DISABLED VETERANS

11. Does the Hazlewood Act provide benefits to injured/disabled veterans?

Yes. The Hazlewood Act is available to all veterans who meet the program requirements, regardless of injury or disability.

DISCHARGE ISSUES

12. Does a veteran have to show his/her DD214 to qualify?

Though not required, the DD214 is the preferred form used by institutions. The veteran must provide official military documentation to prove eligibility for the Hazlewood Act exemption.

13. I can't find my DD214. Where can I get a new copy?

You can obtain a copy of your DD214 from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The fastest way to obtain a copy is to submit your request via the NPRC website at www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/get-service-records.html. You can also make your request via mail by sending in a Standard Form 180, which can be obtained by calling the Texas Veterans Commission at 1-800-252-VETS (8387).

14. What is acceptable discharge language related to the phrase "under honorable conditions"?

Discharges that have been characterized as "honorable" or "general, under honorable conditions" are legally acceptable for qualifying for the Hazlewood Act exemption. If other wording is used and you are unsure of its meaning, please contact the Texas Veterans Commission.

15. My discharge is listed as "other than honorable." Can I use the Hazlewood exemption?

No. You must have a discharge of "honorable" or "general under honorable conditions." You can make a request to have your discharge status upgraded. For information, contact the Texas Veterans Commission.

16. My military documents state I have an "honorable separation" as opposed to an "honorable discharge." Can I still qualify for Hazlewood benefits?

Yes. In September 1996, the Texas Attorney General issued an opinion that military personnel honorably separated after being on active duty may qualify for the



Hazlewood Act exemption if they meet other program requirements.

LENGTH OF ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

17. Is the required amount of active service still 181 days? Are there any exceptions?

The requirement is "more than 180 days" of active military service, excluding training, for the veteran. There are exceptions: veterans who completed all of their duty prior to the conclusion of the Korean War. If the applicant is the dependent child of a veteran who dies in the line of duty, the active duty time of the veteran may be fewer than 181 days.

18. If a veteran served less than 181 days of active duty service when he or she entered the service as a Texas resident, but had previously participated in active duty in the armed forces, could periods of service be combined to meet the 181-day requirement?

Yes. The law requires more than 180 days of active duty excluding training. It does not indicate this duty time has to fall in the period of service after entering as a Texas resident.

MILITARY DUTY ISSUES

19. Can service in the Texas National Guard qualify an individual for Hazlewood benefits?

No. The Hazlewood Act benefit is for veterans who served in the armed forces of the United States. The National Guard is a state unit. However, an individual in the National Guard who is called into active duty service by a branch of the United States Armed Forces who serves at least 181 days (excluding training) and meets all other program requirements may qualify for Hazlewood benefits.

20. Can men/women who served in Operation Desert Storm qualify for Hazlewood benefits?

Yes, as long as they meet all of the program requirements, including 181 days of active military duty, excluding training.

RESIDENCY OF VETERAN

21. Can a veteran whose place of entry is another state qualify for Hazlewood Act benefits if he/she was a Texas resident at the time of entry?

Yes. The veteran must prove to the institution that he/she was a resident of Texas at the time of entry into military service.

22. Does an individual have to be a U.S. citizen when he/she enters service in order to receive Hazlewood Benefits?

Yes. A recent Texas Attorney General opinion indicated that U.S. citizenship at time of entry into service is a program requirement.

23. If the veteran is now a Texas resident but was not a resident at the time of entering the service, can he/she qualify for Hazlewood Act benefits?

No. The veteran must have been a resident of Texas at the time he/she entered military service.

24. If someone entered the service from another state but then became a Texas resident, could he/she use the Hazlewood Act benefit?

No. The veteran must have been a Texas resident at the time he/she entered military service.

25. If someone from another state re-enlists after establishing residency in Texas, can he/she be eligible for Hazlewood Act benefits?

Yes, but only if he/she was out of the military and living in Texas long enough to establish Texas residency (12 months). The person would then have to re-enter as a Texas resident and meet the 181-day active duty service requirement. If the person was in Texas simply because he/she was stationed here at the end of previous enlistment period, the time while stationed here does NOT count toward the establishment of residence in Texas for the subsequent enlistment.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

26. Is financial need an eligibility requirement?

No. Hazlewood Act benefits are awarded regardless of financial need.

27. If I am receiving the Federal Pell Grant (PELL) or Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), can I still use the Hazlewood exemption?

Yes. Eligibility for the PELL and the SEOG is NO LONGER considered in determining eligibility for Hazlewood benefits.

28. What federal education benefits must be exhausted prior to using the Texas Hazlewood Act benefits?

Federal education benefits, including Title 38, United States Code, Chapters 30, 32 and 35, and Title 10, United States Code, Chapters 1606 and 1607 must be exhausted.



29. Do federal education loans or federal work-study benefits qualify as federal education benefits?

No. The only federal education benefits that must be exhausted are listed in Question 28 above. Federal education loans and federal work-study programs do not qualify as federal education benefits.