CHAPTER 22. GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

SUBCHAPTER T. EXEMPTION FOR FIREFIGHTERS ENROLLED IN FIRE SCIENCE COURSES

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22.518. Authority and Purpose.

(a) Authority. Authority for this subchapter is provided in the Texas Education Code, Section 54.208, Firefighters Enrolled in Fire Science Courses. These rules establish procedures to administer this exemption program.

(b) Purpose. The purpose of this program is to provide an exemption from tuition and laboratory fees to eligible persons employed as firefighters by a political subdivision of the state or who are active members of an organized volunteer fire department in this state.

22.519. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) Board – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) Firefighter – An individual employed as a firefighter by a political subdivision of the state of Texas or who is an active member of an organized volunteer fire department in Texas.

(3) Commissioner – The Commissioner of Higher Education, the Chief Executive Officer of the Board.

(4) Fire Science Courses – Courses that fall within a designated fire science curriculum, as well as courses that are primarily related to fire service, emergency medicine, emergency management, or public administration.

(5) Institution of Higher Education or Institution – Any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, medical or dental unit, public state college, or other agency of higher education as defined in Texas Education Code, Section 61.003(8).

(6) Laboratory fees – Fees authorized through Texas Education Code, Section 54.501.
22.520. Tuition and Laboratory Fee Exemption.

Each institution of higher education shall exempt all eligible persons from the payment of tuition and laboratory fees for courses offered as part of a fire science curriculum.

22.521. Eligible Firefighters.

(a) To receive an initial exemption under this program,

(1) A paid firefighter must be employed by a political subdivision of the State of Texas.

(2) A volunteer firefighter must:

(A) currently, and for at least the past year, be an active member of an organized volunteer fire department in this state, as defined by the fire fighters' pension commissioner; and

(B) hold one of the following credentials:

   (i) an Accredited Advanced level of certification, or an equivalent successor certification, under the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas volunteer certification program; or

   (ii) Phase V (Firefighter II) certification, or an equivalent successor certification, under the Texas Commission on Fire Protection's voluntary certification program under Texas Government Code, Section 419.071.

(b) To receive an exemption in a subsequent semester the student must be in compliance with the institution's financial aid satisfactory academic progress requirements. This provision does not apply to a student who received an exemption under Texas Education Code, Section 54.208 before the 2009 fall semester as long as the student remains enrolled in the same degree or certificate program and is otherwise eligible to continue to receive the exemption under the statutory provisions that existed at that time.

22.522. Excess Hours.

(a) An exemption under this subchapter does not apply to any amount of additional tuition the institution elects to charge a resident undergraduate student due to excess undergraduate hours as specified in Texas Education Code, Section 54.014(a) or (f).
(b) An exemption under this subchapter does not apply to any amount of additional tuition the institution charges a graduate student because the student has a number of semester credit hours of doctoral work in excess of the applicable number provided by Texas Education Code, Section 61.059(1)(1) or (2).

(c) The provisions of Section 22.522 (a) and (b) of this subchapter do not apply to a student who received an exemption under Texas Education Code, Section 54.208 before the 2009 fall semester as long as the student remains enrolled in the same degree or certificate program and is otherwise eligible to continue to receive the exemption under the statutory provisions that existed at that time.


(a) Degree and certificate programs eligible for the exemption described in this subchapter shall be identified by the institutions and compiled into a list by the Coordinating Board. A uniform listing of approved programs shall be posted on the Coordinating Board web site.

(b) Courses eligible for the exemption will be identified by the institution.

(1) The exemption described in this subchapter only applies to courses that are a part of a fire science degree or certificate program included in the list posted by the Coordinating Board.

(2) The exemption does not apply to courses that make up the general education core curriculum required for all degrees unless such courses are identified by the institution as being a part of the fire science curriculum.