



## First Responder Tuition Waiver Application and Verification

This remission program is provided to eligible law enforcement officers, professional firefighters, and their dependents pursuant to the terms of the First Responder Recruitment and Retention Act (§85-2601 through 85-2604 and sections 110, 112, and 113 of LB727[2023]). Those who qualify are entitled to a credit of 100% of tuition charges after subtracting awarded federal financial aid grants and state scholarships and grants. This waiver is available for fall, spring, and summer terms during the applicable academic year.

For purposes of the program, a law enforcement officer is any person who is responsible for the prevention or detection of crime or the enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of the State of Nebraska or any political subdivision of the state for more than one hundred (100) hours per year and who is authorized by law to make arrests. A professional firefighter is a firefighter or firefighter-paramedic who is a member of a paid fire department of a municipality or a rural or suburban fire protection district in Nebraska, including a municipality having a home rule charter or a municipal authority created pursuant to a home rule charter that has its own paid fire department, and for whom firefighting is a full-time career.

The First Responder Recruitment and Retention Act provides to eligible law enforcement officers, professional firefighters, and their dependents a waiver of one hundred percent (100%) of tuition, after subtracting all other awarded federal and state financial aid, grants, and scholarships. Tuition remissions awarded for online courses will not exceed the comparable amount provided for an on-campus course for a resident student.

Students seeking this waiver must apply annually and must comply with all College requirements for continued attendance. A student may receive a waiver for up to five (5) years if the student otherwise continues to be eligible for participation.

**Prior to receiving the tuition waiver, a dependent of a law enforcement officer or professional firefighter must sign an agreement committing to reside within Nebraska for a period of five (5) years following the use of the tuition waiver or be required to repay the College the amount of the tuition waiver provided.**

### How to apply for the tuition waiver

Any student requesting a first responder tuition waiver must:

1. Complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
2. Complete and sign this application form;
3. Have the officer's or firefighter's superior officer at which they are employed sign the certification at the end of this form attesting to the officer's or firefighter's satisfactory performance as a law enforcement officer or professional firefighter;
4. Attach documentation from the Department of Revenue indicating all requirements of proof of employment and residence in Nebraska have been satisfied;
5. If the applicant is a dependent, a copy of the executed agreement with the state committing to remain a resident of Nebraska for a five-year period following the use of the tuition waiver must also be attached or completed prior to receiving the waiver; and
6. Return this form and the completed verification no later than the start of the term of your enrollment.

**\*The completed form must be submitted by the first day of the term applying for.**

**\*Typed signatures will not be accepted.**

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_

Student telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**By my signature I hereby attest that (check one):**

- I am a law enforcement officer responsible for the prevention or detection of crime or the enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of the State of Nebraska or any political subdivision of the state for more than one hundred hours per year; currently employed by a municipality, sheriff's office, or the Nebraska State Patrol as a law enforcement officer; and am authorized by law to make arrests and I am pursuing a baccalaureate degree relating to a career in law enforcement;
- I am a professional firefighter or firefighter-paramedic who is a member of a paid fire department of municipality or a rural or suburban fire protection district in Nebraska as defined in the Act and am pursuing a baccalaureate degree in science or medicine that relates to a career in professional firefighting; or
- I am the legal dependent of an eligible law enforcement officer or professional firefighter and am pursuing a baccalaureate degree.

Name of law enforcement officer/professional firefighter \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously received a First Responder Recruitment and Retention Tuition Waiver?  Yes  No

If yes, please indicate the years in which you received the waiver and the name of the university, state college, or community college who provided the waiver:

\_\_\_\_\_

I further attest that the eligible law enforcement officer or professional firefighter (either on their own behalf or on behalf of their legal dependent) has filed with the Department of Revenue documentation showing proof of employment as a law enforcement officer or professional firefighter and proof of residence in Nebraska for the year such officer or such officer's legal dependent applies for and receives the tuition waiver.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. Except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without your consent, your education records will only be disclosed with your written consent. By signing below, you authorize Wayne State College to disclose information from your education records to the Department of Revenue and other Nebraska state agencies in accordance with this consent for purposes of complying with the Act. This consent remains in effect until revoked by you.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Certificate of Verification of Satisfactory Performance** *(to be completed by a superior officer)*

Name of law enforcement officer/professional firefighter \_\_\_\_\_

Superior office name and rank \_\_\_\_\_

Law enforcement agency/fire department \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

I am the superior officer for the individual listed above and by my signature I attest the officer/firefighter has maintained and continues to maintain satisfactory performance as a law enforcement officer/professional firefighter with the agency listed above.

Signature of superior officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_