

Veteran's Admission Priority

On January 29, 2010 the California Community College Chancellor's office informed us that the state Employment Development Department (EDD) issued a directive that all nursing programs receiving Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds give admission priority to veterans and their eligible spouses.

- All qualified veteran and eligible spouse applicants who have completed all eligibility requirements for admission into the Nursing program will be given admission priority. To reiterate, this priority of admission applies only if the veteran or eligible spouse meets the program's eligibility requirements including prerequisites, composite score, and assessment test score.
- Applicants meeting all of the above qualifications will receive priority consideration for the next available opening in the ADN program based on the date and time of complete application. If an application is received after the upcoming class has been filled, the applicant will be in line for the following semester.

There are two key criteria that must be evaluated in order to establish eligibility for this priority:

- Service in the active military, naval, or air service, and
- Discharge under conditions other than dishonorable

Active service includes full-time duty in the National Guard. An eligible spouse would include the widow/er of a veteran that otherwise meets this criteria.

In order to comply with this mandate, Napa Valley College has modified our application to identify those eligible for admission priority. Please review the points below.

- Qualifying veterans or eligible spouses currently on the wait list will need to notify Margarita Ceja in Admissions & Records of veteran status and provide necessary copies of proof.
- Qualifying veterans or eligible spouses who have completed all requirements and plan to apply must obtain an application at the February 17, 2010 Information Meeting.
- Qualifying veterans or eligible spouses who are planning to apply during the current application period who have already attended an Information Meeting and have an application will need to submit an application as soon as possible with copies of proof of veteran status.

In order to verify veteran status, the proof you will need to provide is as follows:

- For the veteran we will need copies of your DD214.
- For eligible spouses we will need copies of your veteran's ID, both front and back.

For a complete description of who is eligible, please see below:

VI. Eligibility for Priority of Service: Veterans and eligible spouses, including widows and widowers as defined in the statute and regulations, are eligible for priority of service. For the purposes of implementing priority of service, the Final Rule requires that program operators use the broad definition of veteran found in 38 U.S.C. 101(2). Under this definition, the term "veteran" means a person who served at least one day in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, as specified in 38 U.S.C. 101(2).

Active service includes full-time Federal service in the National Guard or a Reserve component. This definition of "active service" does not include full-time duty performed strictly for training purposes (i.e., that which often is referred to as "weekend" or "annual" training), nor does it include full-time active duty

performed by National Guard personnel who are mobilized by State rather than Federal authorities (State mobilizations usually occur in response to events such as natural disasters).

“Eligible spouse” as defined at section 2(a) of the JVA (38 U.S.C. 4215[a]) means the spouse of any of the following:

- a. Any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;*
- b. Any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for the priority, is listed in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days:*
 - i. Missing in action;*
 - ii. Captured in line of duty by a hostile force; or*
 - iii. Forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power;*
- c. Any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability, as evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or*
- d. Any veteran who died while a disability was in existence. A spouse whose eligibility is derived from a living veteran or service member (i.e., categories b. or c. above) would lose his or her eligibility if the veteran or service member were to lose the status that is the basis for the eligibility (e.g. if a veteran with a total service-connected disability were to receive a revised disability rating at a lower level). Similarly, for a spouse whose eligibility is derived from a living veteran or service member, that eligibility would be lost upon divorce from the veteran or service member.*

The priority of service regulations refer to those veterans and spouses who are eligible for priority of service as “covered persons” and refer to those not eligible for priority of service as “non-covered persons.” In the interest of specificity, this guidance refers to those eligible as “veterans and eligible spouses.” However, in interest of brevity, this guidance also adopts the regulatory terminology by referring to those who are not eligible as “non-covered persons.”