

(Required: Print this form with your agency's letter head)

**West Texas A&M University**  
**FIREFIGHTER TUITION WAIVER FORM**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| To be filled out by the applicant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| Name of Applicant:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Position/Title:   |
| Date of Birth:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Years of Service: |
| WTAMU Buff ID:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |
| I, _____ hereby declare that I am currently employed as a firefighter by a political subdivision of the State of Texas; or I am currently an active member of an organized volunteer Department, and have been for one year, which meets the requirements established in Texas Education Code 54.353 |                   |
| Applicant's signature:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Date:             |
| To be filled out by applicant's supervisor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |
| Date of the applicant's employment with current agency:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                   |
| I, _____ hereby confirm that the applicant above qualifies for the tuition waiver program as outlined under <u>Texas Education Code 54.353</u> .                                                                                                                                                     |                   |
| Supervisor's signature:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Date:             |

\*Incomplete forms will not be processed

\*\*Submit completed forms to [ema@wtamu.edu](mailto:ema@wtamu.edu)

Revised 3/27/25

## **Appendix (Do not attach to submission)**

[Texas Education Code 54.353](#) and [Texas Administrative Code \(Firefighter Waiver\)](#)

### **Eligible Firefighters ([RULE §21.789](#))**

(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 participating in the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System or a retirement system established under the Texas Local Fire Fighters Retirement Act (Article 6243e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes); 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, §419.071.

(3) Otherwise eligible paid or volunteer firefighters, unless attending a public community college (for which tuition is local revenue), must provide the institution proof that they meet Selective Service registration requirements or are exempt.

(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. If receiving a continuation award in fall 2014 or later, a student may be allowed to receive an award while holding a grade point average lower than the institution's financial aid academic progress requirements if he or she is granted an exception by the institution under §21.792 of this title (relating to Hardship Provisions).

### **Degree and Certificate Programs and Courses Eligible for the Exemption ([RULE §21.791](#))**

(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.

(3) An exemption under this subchapter only applies to courses for which an institution receives formula funding.