Missouri Returning Heroes Education Act FAQ

What is the Missouri Returning Heroes Education Act (MRHA)?

The Missouri Returning Heroes Education Act limits tuition and fees charged to combat veterans to fifty ($50.00) per credit hour, for any program leading to a certificate or Bachelor's degree.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- A veteran must have served in an armed combat zone between September 11, 2001 and the present. The combat zone is designated by the U.S. Department of Defense and can typically be found on a veteran's DD 214.
- When first entering the military, a veteran must have been a Missouri resident.
- A veteran must have been honorably discharged from military service.
- A veteran must be enrolled in a program that is leading to an undergraduate certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

Can a member of the Reserves or National Guard be considered for tuition reduction?

Yes, if he/she served in an armed combat zone under a call of active service and in a full-time capacity for more than 30 consecutive days.

How do I apply for Missouri Returning Heroes?

- Provide the UMKC Registration and Records Office with a copy of your DD-214 -or-
- Provide the UMKC Registration and Records Office with a copy of your orders into a combat zone.

How is an Award Amount Calculated for Missouri Returning Heroes?

The award amount, if any, added to a student’s account is computed so that a student’s educational fees minus gift aid (aid that does not need to be paid back) and any other payments on their behalf from State or Federal sources does not exceed $50.00 per credit hour.

For example:

John is a combat veteran who has been identified as being eligible for the Missouri Returning Heroes Act award. He is enrolled in 12 credit hours and has $2947 in educational fees and is receiving $1000 in Pell grant and $2000 in Stafford Loans.
According to the Returning Heroes act the amount a student should pay in educational fees per credit hour should not exceed $50. Thus, John who is enrolled in 12 credit hours should not pay more than $600 (12x50) in educational fees.

John’s Returning Heroes award is then calculated by subtracting $600 from the amount of his educational fees after subtracting his gift aid.

John is receiving $1000 in Pell Grant, which is considered a federal form of gift aid. To calculate his award $1000 is subtracted from his educational fees ($2947), leaving $1947 in educational fees that have not been covered.

Subtracting $600 from the remaining amount of educational fees ($1974) gives us $1347, which will be his MO Returning Heroes Award amount.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational fees</th>
<th>$2947</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Pell Grant</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>X Max per credit hour</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining Ed Fees</td>
<td>$1947</td>
<td>Max for 12 credit hours</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remaining Educational Fees $1947
- Max for 12 credit hours $600
MO Returning Heroes Award = $1347

What is considered “gift aid” that will be applied to the veteran's account before determining the Missouri Returning Heroes award amount for which he/she may be eligible?

Examples of gift aid from State and/or Federal are listed below, but are not limited to:

- Pell Grant
- SEOG Grant
- Academic Competitiveness Grant
- Bright Flight
- SMART Grant
- Teach Grant
- Access Missouri
- Tuition Assistance (Including tuition assistance from Chapter33)
What types of financial aid are not applied to the veteran's account before determining the amount of Missouri Returning Heroes award for which he/she may be eligible?

Federal Stafford Loans
GI Bill benefits not designated solely for tuition and fees

Does institutional aid change my award eligibility?

Students who are receiving an automatic scholarship and are also eligible for the Missouri Returning Heroes Award may see a reduction in their automatic award eligibility. Both awards are processed for tuition only, and as a result the automatic award would be reduced to match the tuition being charged. If for any reason the veteran becomes ineligible for the MRHA, they will still have eligibility for the automatic award as long as they are still meeting the renewal requirements.

How will the tuition reduction be applied?

The student is first determined to be eligible for the Missouri Returning Heroes Education Act by the Records and Registration Office. Once verified as eligible the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office will determine the amount of the waiver. The waiver is then processed between the first and third week of each semester.

Is the benefit subject to change?

Yes. The Missouri Returning Heroes tuition waiver amount may be adjusted as additional gift aid is awarded or received. Because the MRHA amount is determined after gift aid is applied, additional gift aid received after an award amount has been calculated and processed may cause the award to be reduced.

Is a veteran required to complete the FAFSA or apply for GI Bill benefits?

No, the state does not require a veteran to apply for either.

Is there a GPA requirement to be eligible?

There is no initial GPA requirement to receive the award for the first semester a veteran is considered, but a veteran must maintain a 2.50 cumulative University GPA in order to renew the award for subsequent semesters.