

NSHE FEE WAIVER HISTORY

Prepared for
the Nevada Board of Regents



Updated August 2022

The Nevada System of Higher Education

Board of Regents

Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Chair

Ms. Amy J. Carvalho, Vice Chair

Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada

Mr. Patrick J. Boylan

Mr. Byron Brooks

Dr. Patrick R. Carter

Mrs. Carol Del Carlo

Dr. Mark W. Doubrava

Dr. Jason Geddes

Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.

Mr. John T. Moran

Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Dr. Lois Tarkanian

Mr. Robert Kilroy, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel

Officers of the Nevada System of Higher Education

Mr. Dale Erquiaga, Acting Chancellor

Dr. Keith Whitfield, President
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Mr. Brian Sandoval, President
University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President
Nevada State College

Dr. Federico Zaragoza, President
College of Southern Nevada

Ms. Joyce M. Helens, President
Great Basin College

Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President
Truckee Meadows Community College

Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, President
Western Nevada College

Dr. Kumud Acharya, President
Desert Research Institute

Contents

Background	4
What Is a Fee Waiver?	5
Fee Waivers.....	6
The National Guard Fee Waiver.....	6
The POW/MIA Dependent Fee Waiver.....	9
The Foster Youth Fee Waiver.....	10
The Purple Heart Fee Waiver.....	11
The Native American Fee Waiver.....	13
Other Waivers (Not Applicable to the Base Registration Fee).....	13
Conclusion.....	14
Appendix	15
Nshe Fee Waiver Programs At A Glance	16
National Guard Fee Waiver By Institution.....	17
Prisoner Of War/Missing In Action (Pow/Mia) Dependent Fee Waiver By Institution.....	18
Foster Youth Fee Waiver By Institution.....	18
Purple Heart Fee Waiver By Institution.....	19
Native American Fee Waiver By Institution	19
Active-Duty Military Fee Waiver By Institution.....	20
All Fee Waivers By Institution.....	21

Background

This report provides a history of the various fee waiver programs that are currently in place across the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), including the current cost of each program and the number of students served. The report focuses on how the existing fee waiver programs came to be established and how they have been expanded over time. In many cases, fee waiver programs have been established to support student access; however, the report does not evaluate the effectiveness of these programs in supporting access outside of reporting the number of students that have received a waiver over time. As the Board continues its strategic planning efforts the role of fee waivers in supporting access may be a strategy for further consideration and this report provides background that may be useful in future conversations.

Fee waivers are a type of financial assistance received by certain NSHE students that is not reported in NSHE's annual *Financial Aid Report*. Unlike the types of financial aid included in that report, there is no pool of money supporting a fee waiver. Rather, a fee waiver results in forgone revenue for the granting institution.

In general, the Board of Regents has discretion as the governing body of Nevada's public postsecondary system to establish fee waivers and has done so recently with the adoption of the Foster Youth Fee Waiver. However, in recent years the number of NSHE fee waivers authorized or mandated by the Nevada State Legislature has grown. Over time, various interest groups have sought postsecondary benefits for the constituencies they represent by seeking waivers through the legislative process. It is also important to note that there are fee waiver provisions included in state law that have not been formally adopted by the Board of Regents. These include provisions for certain homeless students and veterans in science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, or health science graduate-level programs that authorize the Board to implement a waiver program but does not mandate its adoption. In those particular cases the Board or Board leadership decided to not formally adopt the waiver. The other fee waivers examined in this report (except the Foster Youth fee waiver) are mandated and as a requirement of state law have been adopted by the Board and implemented by the institutions.

The Board of Regents has taken a limited approach in adopting fee waivers during the past two decades, while the state legislature has been more active in enacting legislation mandating or authorizing fee waivers for various student groups, including certain veterans, the Nevada National Guard, individuals experiencing homelessness, Purple Heart recipients, and, most recently, certain Native American students. During the Great Recession, the Board took steps to eliminate certain fee waivers, including waivers for senior citizens and certain non-matriculated foreign language speakers. While the Board's historical actions on fee waivers may be described as limited, the Board has not taken a formal position on legislatively mandated fee waivers in recent history.

For academic year 2021-22, \$3.6 million in fees were waived by NSHE institutions across the various fee waiver categories that will be outlined in this report. Just five years prior, for

academic year 2017-18, the earliest year in which the NSHE Department of Academic and Student Affairs collected fee waiver information, \$2.5 million in fees were collectively waived, representing a 44.7% increase over a five-year time period.

This report provides background on the various fee waivers that are currently in place across the System and the associated cost that is increasing over time. This was precipitated in part due to questions concerning the number of formally adopted fee waiver programs, the expansion of existing waivers, and the broadening definition of what fees may be waived for certain programs. This history on the expansion of fee waivers and the associated cost over time may be used to inform discussions should the Board decide to take a formal position on fee waivers for the 2023 Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

What Is a Fee Waiver?

To begin, it is important to understand what is a “fee waiver.” While not formally defined in Board policy, in use the term “fee waiver” is a full or partial release from the requirement of payment of a fee, typically the base registration fee, but may include other fees, including special course fees (e.g., lab fees). In other words, with a fee waiver the institution forgoes the collection of revenue that would otherwise be collected absent the fee waiver.

A fee waiver is distinguishable from a grant-in-aid and other formal forms of financial aid where there is no loss of revenue for the institution. In general, grants-in-aid, such as the NSHE employee grant-in-aid program (*Title 4, Chapter 3, Sections 11-13*) that allows NSHE employees to take state-supported courses at a reduced cost is a direct benefit to the student a form of aid that that does not result in revenue loss for the institution. Formal grant-in-aid programs are typically backed by a pool of funds that cover the cost of the fee (or a defined portion of the fee) for the student. That is also the case for financial aid in general, whereby the student directly benefits from financial aid in the application of those funds to any balance owed to the institution, but the institution is paid and does not lose revenue. Fee waivers result in lost revenue for the institution, meaning that the funds must be offset by regular state appropriations or fees collected from students.

A discount is similar to a fee waiver in that it is a form of lost revenue for the institution and requires Board authorization to be implemented. There are limited cases where the institutions have been granted discretion by the Board to adopt discounts, but they have not been programs formally mandated by the state legislature. Prior to the dual enrollment pricing policy established in December 2021 creating a fee structure that is consistent across institutions, there was a discount policy in place for dual enrollment programs reducing the base registration fee under certain circumstances, which led to inconsistent pricing across the System.

This report includes a history of the following fee waivers in place as of 2022:

- The National Guard Fee Waiver (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 12*);
- The POW/MIA Dependent Fee Waiver (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 12*);
- The Foster Youth Fee Waiver (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 13*);
- The Purple Heart Fee Waiver (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 14*);
- The Native American Fee Waiver (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 15*); and
- Other fees waivers not applicable to the base registration fee (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 16*).

Fee Waivers

The remainder of this report will review each of the fee waiver programs that are currently in place across the NSHE; how each was created, associated costs to the System based on the number of students that have received the waiver, and where applicable how individual programs have been expanded over time.

[The National Guard Fee Waiver](#)

The National Guard Fee Waiver is the oldest of the NSHE fee waiver programs having been established in the 20th (2003) Special Session of the Nevada State Legislature. Prior to this time, according to the 2005 Appropriations Report, the National Guard Benefits program was originally established to encourage the recruitment and retention of active members of the Nevada National Guard by providing guard members with a funding source for educational tuition reimbursement. In other words, the program originally worked like a grant-in-aid that was funded through an account with the Nevada National Guard whereby eligible students paid their fees to the institution directly and then received a reimbursement from the Guard.

In 2003, then-Governor Kenny C. Guinn convened a special session to consider the matter of a tax plan sufficient to meet the appropriations and other spending measures that were passed during the 72nd (2003) regular Session of the Nevada State Legislature. In lieu of a reimbursement program, the Legislature, through the passage of [Assembly Bill 9](#) (Chapter 9, *Statutes of Nevada 2003* [20th Special]), authorized the Board of Regents to waive the registration fees and laboratory fees for any member of the active Nevada National Guard, including recruits, effectively creating the state's first legislatively authorized fee waiver program.

The *2005 Appropriations Report* notes that “due to the success of the [Nevada National Guard Fee Waiver] program” during the 2003-05 biennium, the 2005 Legislature approved [Senate Bill 78](#) (Chapter 181, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*), making the waiver program for fall and spring semesters permanent by removing the provision that would have otherwise sunset the program in June 2005. In order to continue the reimbursement program for the guard

members who attend summer school, the 2005 Legislature approved \$20,000 in each fiscal year (FY2006 and FY2007) of the biennium for summer only. To this day, the Legislature continues to fund the summer school reimbursement program for the Nevada National Guard. For each year of the current 2021-23 biennium, the National Guard Benefits program received an appropriation for \$57,818 for summer school reimbursement. The combination of the NSHE fee waiver for fall and spring and the reimbursement for summer promote access to postsecondary education year-round.

It is important to note that all fee waiver programs mandated by the legislature and implemented by the Board of Regents apply to the fall and spring terms only. In August 2003, the Board of Regents specifically deliberated on the matter of summer school and whether it should be included in the waiver. To reduce the cost, the Board adopted a policy excluding summer school and limiting the waiver to fall and spring terms only and the Legislature continued to fund the National Guard Benefits program account for summer school.

Further, the National Guard Fee Waiver program is the largest of the waiver programs in terms of number of participants and cost. For Academic Year 2021-22, 781 students received the waiver for a cost of \$2.7 million. The growth of the program is significant, given the FY2005 appropriation to the National Guard Benefits program was \$104,000 for spring, fall, and summer reimbursements. Since the Legislature made the National Guard Fee Waiver program permanent in 2005, the program has been expanded several times.

Expansion: Dependents of Members Killed in the Line of Duty. In 2009, the program was expanded through the enactment of [Assembly Bill 188](#) (Chapter 28, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*) to include the children and spouse of a person who was killed in the line of duty while serving in the Nevada National Guard. The Board adopted the provisions of AB188 effectively implementing the expanded provisions as adopted by the Legislature.

Expansion: Reenlistment Incentive. In 2021, the program was expanded further to allow the active-duty member of the Nevada National Guard to transfer their waiver benefit to a spouse or child upon each term of reenlistment through the enactment of [Assembly Bill 156](#) (Chapter 353, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*). This is a significant expansion in that an active-duty member could use the waiver in their first term of enlistment, and upon reenlistment assign the waiver to the spouse or child to utilize. That same member who then reenlists for a third term can again reassign the benefit, but for each period of reenlistment, the waiver may only be used by one eligible person.

Program Eligibility. Currently and pursuant to *Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 12*, any member of the Nevada National Guard, including a Nevada National Guard recruit, or a child or spouse of a person killed while performing duties as a member of the Nevada National Guard, is eligible for the waiver program, whereby the base registration fee and laboratory fees will be waived for state-supported courses that lead to an undergraduate or graduate degree or certificate. Self-supporting courses, including independent study and correspondence courses, are not eligible

for the waiver. Action taken by the Board in October 2007 specifically revised the policy to clarify that the program is applicable to state-supported courses only.

To be eligible for the fee waiver, the member must be in good standing or a recruit of the active Nevada National Guard at the beginning of and throughout the entire semester for which the waiver is granted. The member who fails to remain in good standing must reimburse the institution for the semester’s waived registration and laboratory fees and will not be able to register for additional courses until the debt is paid in full. In order to remain eligible for the fee waiver, the student must achieve at least a minimum 2.0 semester grade point average.

The child of a person who was killed while performing duties as a member of the Nevada National Guard may use the waiver for ten years after he attains 18 years of age. The spouse of a person who was killed while performing duties as a member of the Guard may use the waiver for ten years after the date of death of the member. Further, spouse is defined to include a person’s domestic partner if the domestic partnership is registered with the Office of the Nevada Secretary of State.

Exclusions: Registration fees associated with the UNLV law school, UNR and UNLV medical schools, and the UNLV dental school are not eligible for the waiver.

Costs: The following table summarizes recent costs of the fee waiver program in terms of number of students that received the waiver and the total costs absorbed by the institutions in the form of lost revenue.

Table 1: Nevada National Guard Fee Waivers Issued (All Institutions)*
2017-18 to 2021-22

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-YEAR % CHANGE
NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS	825	726	764	809	781	-5.3%
TOTAL VALUE WAIVED	\$2,488,871	\$2,249,101	\$2,432,817	\$2,798,297	\$2,710,781	8.9%

*Figures include eligible individuals who are active-duty members, recruits, and the child or spouse of a person who was killed while performing the duties as a member of the Nevada National Guard.

From 2017-18 to 2021-22, the base registration fee for undergraduates at the universities and student enrolled in lower division courses at the community colleges increased 15.5%, accounting in part for the increase cost of the program despite the number of students receiving the waiver declining. Other factors that impact program cost include the number of credits students are enrolled in that are eligible for the waiver, which vary by student and fluctuate over time.

Institutional figures for this program are included in the Appendix.

The POW/MIA Dependent Fee Waiver

In 2009, the Nevada State Legislature expanded the Nevada National Guard Fee Waiver to include the children, and widow or widower of a person killed while performing the duties as a member of the Nevada National Guard under the provisions of [Assembly Bill 188](#) (Chapter 28, Statutes of Nevada 2009) and under the same legislation included provisions to provide a similar program for the spouse or child of a person who is identified as a prisoner of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA) while performing his duties as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States permanently stationed in Nevada.

At the time the state legislature authorized the waiver program for members of the Armed Forces who are identified as prisoners of war or as missing in action, the Board had in place a grant-in-aid program for such individuals. In implementing the fee waiver program, the Board eliminated the grant-in-aid provisions.

Program Eligibility. The POW/MIA Dependent Fee Waiver program provisions essentially mirror those of the Nevada National Guard program and waives the base registration fee and laboratory fees for state-supported, credit-bearing courses that lead to a degree or certificate for spring and fall terms only. A child of a person who as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States permanently stationed in Nevada is identified as a prisoner of war or missing in action while performing duties as a member of the Armed Forces may use the waiver for ten years after attaining 18 years of age or, if enrolled in an NSHE institution before age 18, for ten years after the date of enrollment. The spouse of a person who as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States permanently stationed in Nevada is identified as a prisoner of war or missing in action while performing duties as a member of the Armed Forces may use the waiver for ten years after the date on which the member of the Armed Forces was identified as a prisoner of war or missing in action.

Similar to the Nevada National Guard Fee Waiver, to remain eligible for the POW/MIA Dependent Fee Waiver, the student must achieve at least a minimum 2.0 semester grade point average in order to maintain subsequent eligibility for the fee waiver. The student who fails to maintain a 2.0 semester grade point average shall reimburse the institution for the semester's waived registration fees and laboratory fees and will not be allowed to register for additional courses until the debt is paid in full.

Exclusions: Registration fees associated with the UNLV law school, UNR and UNLV medical schools, and the UNLV dental school are not eligible for the waiver.

Costs. Due the unique circumstances of this population identified as the family of a prisoner of war or an individual identified as missing in action, waivers are not common. In the last five years no waivers within this category have been issued.

Table 2: POW/MIA Dependent Waivers Issued (All Institutions)
2017-18 to 2021-22

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-YEAR % CHANGE
NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS	0	0	0	0	0	-
TOTAL VALUE WAIVED	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-

[The Foster Youth Fee Waiver](#)

The Foster Youth Fee Waiver is an example of a fee waiver that was adopted by the Board and did not result from action of the state legislature. In 2018, then Chancellor Thom Reilly proposed the Foster Youth Fee Wavier to support a unique population of students that face considerable challenges in enrolling and completing postsecondary education. The original proposal for the waiver was for students who were in custody of a Nevada child welfare services agency after the student reached the age of 16 years. The Board embraced the opportunity to support the foster youth population and expanded the original proposal by reducing the age requirement from 16 to 14 years old. In June 2022, the Board further reduced the age requirement to 13.

This particular fee waiver is also unique in the support structure that has been established to support implementation of the waiver, but more importantly to support students who have experienced foster care in general. To date, NSHE has received two grants from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation that allowed the Chancellor’s Office to hire a Foster Youth Ambassador to support implementation of the fee waiver and further work with the institutions and stakeholders across the state in generally supporting students who have experienced foster care. However, the grant does not offset the revenue loss resulting from the fee waiver. The original grant received from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation was a one-year grant of \$200,000. Two subsequent system-level grants were also awarded: a two-year grant of \$400,000 and a three-year grant of \$600,000.

Program Eligibility. A student who was in the custody of a child welfare agency in Nevada after the student was 13 years of age is eligible to have the base registration and laboratory fees waived if the student graduated from high school or received a high school equivalency diploma; completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and is under the age of 26. Further, a student placed out of state by a Nevada welfare agency for the purpose of treatment or through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children is also eligible for the waiver.

Similar to other fee waiver programs, the program is for fall and spring terms only for state-supported, credit-bearing courses that lead to a degree or certificate. In completing the FAFSA a student can avail themselves of federal student aid, but the receipt of that aid does not reduce the waiver (unlike the Purple Heart and Native American Fee Waiver programs).

Exclusions: Registration fees associated with the UNLV law school, UNR and UNLV medical schools, and the UNLV dental school are not eligible for the waiver.

Costs. The growth in the Foster Youth Fee Waiver program is substantial. The number of recipients increased 221.1% in four years, which has a corresponding impact on the cost having increased 312.3% in the same time period.

Table 3: Foster Youth Waivers Issued (All Institutions)
2017-18 to 2021-22

	2017-18*	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	4-YEAR % CHANGE
NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS	n/a	38	78	90	122	221.1%
TOTAL VALUE WAIVED	n/a	\$104,392	\$237,096	\$332,895	\$430,399	312.3%

*The Foster Youth Fee Waiver was not in place during academic year 2017-18. Adopted in 2018, the first year of implementation was academic year 2018-19.

Institutional figures for this program are included in the Appendix.

The Purple Heart Fee Waiver

In 2019, the Nevada State Legislature enacted [Assembly Bill 427](#) (Chapter 320, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*) mandating the Board establish a fee waiver program for students who are veterans of the Armed Forces that have been awarded the Purple Heart. The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration traditionally awarded to those wounded (or killed) while in the line of duty. This program differs significantly from the Nevada National Guard Fee Waiver in that it requires the student to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application for the purpose of reducing the fee waiver amount by any federal aid received by the student, including the federal Pell grant and veterans education benefits.

This program also marked a notable addition that was not included in previously established programs by allowing students enrolled in professional programs (law, medical, dental) to be eligible for the waiver. Further, in addition to waiving the base registration fee and laboratory fees, the legislation requires that “any other mandatory” fees also be waived.

Program Eligibility. In order to be eligible for the Purple Heart Fee Waiver the student must be a veteran of the Armed Forces who has been awarded the Purple Heart. It is distinct from POW/MIA Fee Waiver that is for surviving family members of the member of the Armed Forces that was permanently stationed in Nevada. The Purple Heart recipient could have been permanently stationed anywhere in the United States and must:

1. Complete the FAFSA; and
2. Provide a Certificate of Eligibility for Veterans Administration educational benefits and/or the Veterans Administration Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefit.

Unlike the Nevada National Guard and POW/MIA waivers, eligible students are not required to achieve a certain semester grade point average for the purpose of maintaining eligibility for the program.

Exclusions. No programs are excluded from eligibility.

Costs. The Purple Heart Fee Waiver program blends the usual fee waiver provisions with elements of a “last dollar” program by requiring that students apply for federal aid and then reducing the waiver amount by the value of federal aid awarded to the student. In other words, if the student is entitled to receive any federal educational benefit for a semester, the balance of registration fees, laboratory fees, and other mandatory fees assessed against the student that remain unpaid after the student’s account has been credited with the full amount of the federal education benefits is then waived. If the student is not entitled to receive any federal education benefits for a semester, the full amount of the registration fees, laboratory fees, and any other fees assessed against the student is waived. The following table indicates the number of students and total fees waived since the program’s inception in 2019-20.

Table 4: Purple Heart Fee Waivers Issued (All Institutions)
2017-18 to 2021-22

	2017-18*	2018-19*	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	3-YEAR % CHANGE
NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS	n/a	n/a	2	1	2	-0%
TOTAL VALUE WAIVED	n/a	n/a	\$1,411	\$6,617	\$2,481	75.8%

*The Purple Heart Fee Waiver was not in place during academic years 2017-18 and 2018-19. Adopted in 2019, the first year of implementation of academic year 2019-20.

Institutional figures for this program are included in the Appendix.

The Native American Fee Waiver

In 2021, the Nevada State Legislature enacted [Assembly Bill 262](#) (Chapter 349, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*) requiring the Board of Regents to grant a waiver of the base registration fee, laboratory fees, and all other mandatory fees associated with enrollment for a Native American student who: 1) is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, all or part of which is located within the boundaries of Nevada, or 2) is certified by the enrollment department of a tribe or nation or the Bureau of Indian Affairs as being a descendant of an enrolled member of such a tribe or nation, all or part of which is located within the boundaries of Nevada.

Program Eligibility. In order to be eligible for the Native American Fee Waiver, the student must be a resident of the state for one year and have completed the FAFSA. The residency requirement differs from other fee waiver programs in that it is not tied to “residency for tuition purposes,” whereby a student may qualify as a resident by virtue of graduating from a Nevada high school. Rather, the student must live in the state for one year. That provision effectively excludes Native American students who are residing on tribal lands that are located partially in Nevada, but who are not actually living in Nevada (e.g., Woodfords, California). In order to maintain eligibility, the student must achieve at least a 2.0 semester grade point average.

Cost. Similar to the Purple Heart Fee Waiver, the Native American Fee Waiver is equal to the amount of the base registration fee and all other mandatory fees charged to the student less any federal educational benefits. Federal educational benefits include but are not limited to the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, TEACH Grant, and veterans education benefits.

Table 5: Native American Fee Waivers Issued (All Institutions)
2021-22

	2021-22
NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS	140
TOTAL VALUE WAIVED	\$457,449

Other Waivers (Not Applicable to the Base Registration Fee)

This report focuses on those formal programs that at a minimum waive the base registration fee; however, in 2014 the Board of Regents authorized institutions to waive special course fees, student fees, and other mandatory fees, except the base registration fee, for members of the Armed Forces who are permanently stationed in Nevada or at the Marine Corp Mountain Training Center at Pickle Meadows, California (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 16*). This provision was adopted at the request of University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), that at the time was

exploring options to support active-duty military, particularly at Nellis Air Force Base. The concern expressed at that time was that federal education benefits available to active-duty military often cover the base registration fee, but not necessarily the other fees charged to students as such those other fees represent a financial barrier.

At this time only two institutions, UNLV and College of Southern Nevada, are utilizing this authorization. The lost revenue is not substantial relative to National Guard Fee Waiver as it is limited to fees other than the base registration fee and the number of participants is also fewer.

Table 6: Active Duty Military Fee Waivers Issued (UNLV and CSN only)*
2017-18 to 2021-22

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-YEAR % CHANGE
NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS	269	253	270	200	182	-32.3%
TOTAL VALUE WAIVED	\$58,318	\$74,563	\$79,494	\$76,925	\$99,643	70.9%

*Participating institutions include UNLV and CSN only. Waived fees include special course fees, student fees, and other mandatory fees, excluding the base registration fee.

Conclusion

Over time the number of formal fee waiver programs implemented across all NSHE institutions has grown. While the number of programs increased over time and certain individual programs have seen expansions resulting in higher costs, the Board has not historically taken a formal position on fee waiver proposals. As the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature approaches, the Board may wish to consider establishing a formal position on waiver programs, particularly those that are intended to promote student access, a Board established strategic goal.

Finally, it is important to note that Nevada is not alone as other states face similar mandates (or authorizations) in state law. For example, within the neighboring California State University system there are currently six mandatory resident tuition waiver programs that are promulgated in state law. Those programs resulted in 15,327 waivers granted in academic year 2019-20 at a total cost of \$77.1 million. While NSHE’s programs are small in comparison, the organic growth of waivers in Nevada may lead to further discussion of purpose, effectiveness, and affordability of this strategy.

APPENDIX

NSHE FEE WAIVER PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Fee Waiver Program	Year of Adoption	Eligible Terms	Fees Eligible for Waiver	Eligible Courses	Excluded Courses	Eligible Program Levels	Excluded Program Levels	Must Complete the FAFSA	Federal Education Benefits Reduce Waiver Amount
<u>Nevada National Guard</u> - any member of the Nevada National Guard, including a Nevada National Guard recruit, or the child or spouse of a person who was killed while performing the duties as a member of the Nevada National Guard, and upon each term of re-enlistment the waiver may be utilized by the spouse of child of the member.	2003	Fall and Spring	Base registration fee and certain laboratory fees	State-supported, credit-bearing courses	Self-supporting courses	undergraduate and graduate	professional programs (law, medicine and dental)	No	No
<u>POW/MIA Dependents</u> – the children or spouse of a person identified as a prisoner of war or missing in action while performing his duties as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.	2009	Fall and Spring	Base registration fee and certain laboratory fees	State-supported, credit-bearing courses	Self-supporting courses	undergraduate and graduate	professional programs (law, medicine and dental)	No	No
<u>Foster Youth</u> - a student who was in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency after the student achieved the age of 13 years.	2018	Fall and Spring	Base registration fee and certain laboratory fees	State-supported, credit-bearing courses	Self-supporting courses	undergraduate and graduate	professional programs (law, medicine and dental)	Yes	No
<u>Purple Heart Recipients</u> - veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart	2019	Fall and Spring	Base registration fee, laboratory fees, and mandatory fees	State-supported, credit-bearing courses	Self-supporting courses	undergraduate, graduate, and professional (law, medical, and dental) programs	None	Yes	Yes
<u>Native Americans</u> - a student who is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, all or part of which is located in Nevada, or who is certified by the enrollment department of a tribe or nation or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as being a descendant or an enrolled member of a tribe or national, all or part of which is located in Nevada	2021	Fall and Spring	Base registration fee, laboratory fees, mandatory fees	State-supported, credit-bearing courses	Self-supporting courses	undergraduate, graduate, and professional (law, medical, and dental) programs	None	Yes	Yes

NATIONAL GUARD FEE WAIVER BY INSTITUTION

For any member of the Nevada National Guard, including a Nevada National Guard recruit, or the child or spouse of a person who was killed while performing the duties as a member of the Nevada National Guard, and upon each term of re-enlistment the waiver may be utilized by the spouse of child of the member.

Total Value Waived

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-year % Change
UNLV	\$980,708	\$954,079	\$917,196	\$1,055,628	\$1,100,295	12.2%
UNR	\$1,026,301	\$871,698	\$1,089,818	\$1,183,979	\$1,179,999	15.0%
NSC	\$54,918	\$49,778	\$44,781	\$75,408	\$77,995	42.0%
CSN	\$179,254	\$169,840	\$161,408	\$204,050	\$170,813	-4.7%
GBC	\$4,117	\$13,463	\$4,994	\$8,217	\$3,174	-22.9%
TMCC	\$220,306	\$157,735	\$180,080	\$221,798	\$137,762	-37.5%
WNC	\$23,267	\$32,508	\$34,540	\$49,217	\$40,744	75.1%
NSHE TOTAL	\$2,488,871	\$2,249,101	\$2,432,817	\$2,798,297	\$2,710,781	8.9%

Number of Recipients

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-year % Change
UNLV	200	185	192	224	242	21.0%
UNR	247	231	260	251	229	-7.3%
NSC	24	20	20	24	28	16.7%
CSN	135	122	120	130	119	-11.9%
GBC	5	6	3	5	3	-40.0%
TMCC	191	136	143	147	136	-28.8%
WNC	23	26	26	28	24	4.3%
NSHE TOTAL	825	726	764	809	781	-5.3%

PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION (POW/MIA) DEPENDENT FEE WAIVER BY INSTITUTION

For the child or spouse of a person identified as a prisoner of war or missing in action while performing his duties as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Total Value Waived

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-year % Change
UNLV	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
UNR	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
NSC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
CSN	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
GBC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
TMCC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
WNC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
NSHE TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-

Number of Recipients

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-year % Change
UNLV	0	0	0	0	0	-
UNR	0	0	0	0	0	-
NSC	0	0	0	0	0	-
CSN	0	0	0	0	0	-
GBC	0	0	0	0	0	-
TMCC	0	0	0	0	0	-
WNC	0	0	0	0	0	-
NSHE TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	-

Due the unique circumstances of this population identified as the family of a prisoner of war, or an individual identified as missing in action, waivers for this population are not common. In the last four years no waivers within this category have been issued.

FOSTER YOUTH FEE WAIVER BY INSTITUTION

For a student who was in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency after the student achieved the age of 14 years.

Total Value Waived

	2017-18*	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	4-year % Change
UNLV	n/a	\$42,336	\$75,026	\$120,023	\$140,934	232.9%
UNR	n/a	\$26,866	\$82,140	\$116,974	\$170,288	533.8%
NSC	n/a	\$5,565	\$6,916	\$13,495	\$20,505	268.5%
CSN	n/a	\$19,449	\$46,644	\$51,184	\$66,349	241.1%
GBC	n/a	\$1,151	\$0	\$0	\$4,680	306.6%
TMCC	n/a	\$7,484	\$17,928	\$24,843	\$20,572	174.9%
WNC	n/a	\$1,541	\$8,442	\$6,376	\$7,072	358.9%
NSHE TOTAL	-	\$104,392	\$237,096	\$332,895	\$430,399	312.3%

Number of Recipients

	2017-18*	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	4-year % Change
UNLV	n/a	10	14	21	27	170%
UNR	n/a	5	12	17	27	440%
NSC	n/a	2	2	4	8	300%
CSN	n/a	13	31	31	41	215.4%
GBC	n/a	1	0	0	2	100%
TMCC	n/a	6	13	12	12	100%
WNC	n/a	1	6	5	5	400%
NSHE TOTAL	-	38	78	90	122	221.1%

*The Foster Youth Fee Waiver was not in place during academic year 2017-18 having been adopted in 2018 the first year of implementation of academic year 2018-19.

PURPLE HEART FEE WAIVER BY INSTITUTION

For veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

Total Value Waived

	2017-18*	2018-19*	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	3-year % Change
UNLV	n/a	n/a	\$0	\$6,617	\$2,481	-
UNR	n/a	n/a	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
NSC	n/a	n/a	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
CSN	n/a	n/a	\$747	\$0	\$0	-100%
GBC	n/a	n/a	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
TMCC	n/a	n/a	\$664	\$0	\$0	-100%
WNC	n/a	n/a	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
NSHE TOTAL	n/a	n/a	\$1,411	\$6,617	\$2,481	75.8%

Number of Recipients

	2017-18*	2018-19*	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	3-year % Change
UNLV	n/a	n/a	0	1	2	-
UNR	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	-
NSC	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	-
CSN	n/a	n/a	1	0	0	-100%
GBC	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	-
TMCC	n/a	n/a	1	0	0	-100%
WNC	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	-
NSHE TOTAL	n/a	n/a	2	1	2	0%

*The Purple Heart Fee Waiver was not in place during academic years 2017-18 and 2018-19 having been adopted in 2019 the first year of implementation of academic year 2019-20.

NATIVE AMERICAN FEE WAIVER BY INSTITUTION

For a student who is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, all or part of which is located in Nevada, or who is certified by the enrollment department of a tribe or nation or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as being a descendant of an enrolled member of a tribe or nation, all or part of which is located in Nevada.

Total Value Waived

	2021-22
UNLV	\$39,609
UNR	\$330,655
NSC	\$652
CSN	\$7,055
GBC	\$26,626
TMCC	\$30,044
WNC	\$22,806
NSHE TOTAL	\$457,449

Number of Recipients

	2021-22
UNLV	10
UNR	73
NSC	1
CSN	4
GBC	18
TMCC	24
WNC	10
NSHE TOTAL	140

ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY FEE WAIVER BY INSTITUTION

For members of the Armed Forces who are permanently stationed in Nevada or at the Marine Corp Mountain Training Center at Pickle Meadows, California. Participating institutions include UNLV and CSN only.

Total Value Waived

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-year % Change
UNLV	\$25,843	\$34,358	\$38,844	\$43,407	\$73,257	183.5%
UNR	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
NSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
CSN	\$32,476	\$40,205	\$40,650	\$33,518	\$26,386	-18.8%
GBC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
TMCC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
WNC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
NSHE TOTAL	\$58,318	\$74,563	\$79,494	\$76,925	\$99,643	70.9%

Number of Recipients

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-year % Change
UNLV	33	28	47	55	48	45.5%
UNR	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
NSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
CSN	236	225	223	145	134	-43.2%
GBC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
TMCC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
WNC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
NSHE TOTAL	269	253	270	200	182	-32.3%

ALL FEE WAIVERS BY INSTITUTION

Includes the National Guard, POW/MIA, Foster Youth, Purple Heart, and Native American fee waivers only.

Excludes the active-duty military waiver of fees other than base registration fee that is in place at CSN and UNLV only.

Total Value Waived

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-year % Change
UNLV	\$980,708	\$996,415	\$992,222	\$1,182,268	\$1,283,319	30.9%
UNR	\$1,026,301	\$898,564	\$1,171,958	\$1,300,953	\$1,680,942	63.8%
NSC	\$54,918	\$55,343	\$51,697	\$88,903	\$99,153	80.5%
CSN	\$179,254	\$189,289	\$208,799	\$255,234	\$244,217	36.2%
GBC	\$4,117	\$14,614	\$4,994	\$8,217	\$34,480	737.5%
TMCC	\$220,306	\$165,219	\$198,672	\$246,641	\$188,378	-14.5%
WNC	\$23,267	\$34,049	\$42,982	\$55,593	\$70,622	203.5%
NSHE TOTAL	\$2,488,871	\$2,353,493	\$2,671,324	\$3,137,809	\$3,601,111	44.7%

Number of Recipients

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-year % Change
UNLV	200	195	206	246	281	40.5%
UNR	247	236	272	268	329	33.2%
NSC	24	22	22	28	37	54.2%
CSN	135	135	152	161	164	21.5%
GBC	5	7	3	5	23	360.0%
TMCC	191	142	157	159	172	-9.9%
WNC	23	27	32	33	39	69.6%
NSHE TOTAL	825	764	844	900	1045	26.7%