

Exemptions and Waivers Summary

Texas provides various programs that exempt or waive tuition, fees, and other expenses related to attending public colleges and universities. All exemption and waiver programs are authorized by the Texas Legislature and target specific populations. While many programs are **mandated** for all public institutions to implement, some programs are **optional**, and implementation is left to the discretion of the governing board at the institution.

- ❖ **Exemptions** allow special groups of Texas residents or nonresidents to enroll and pay a reduced amount of tuition or fees.
- ❖ **Waivers** allow special groups of nonresidents to enroll and pay the Texas resident tuition or fee rate.
 - ➔ All exemption and waiver programs (mandatory/optional) apply only to courses for which an institution can receive **formula funding**.
 - **Formula Funding:** is defined as the method used to allocate appropriated sources of funds among institutions of higher education. Formula-funded courses are those that do not depend solely on student tuition and fees to cover their costs.
 - ➔ All exemption and waiver programs require a student to meet certain eligibility criteria. In addition to meeting the program criteria, a student’s continued eligibility may be impacted by [Texas Education Code \(TEC\) Section 54.2001](#). This section applies an excess hours’ limitation for undergraduate students and Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement for both undergraduate and graduate students for exemption and waiver programs authorized under TEC, Section 54, Subchapter D.

The chart below identifies which programs are **Mandatory** or **Optional** and are impacted by TEC, Section 54.2001.

Table Legend

M = Mandatory

***M** = Mandatory if funding appropriated; otherwise not available

O = Optional

***O** = Optional if no funding available; otherwise Mandatory

Exempt = Program falls under Subchapter D of Chapter 54 but is listed as *exempt* in 54.2001(g).

Impacted = Program falls under Subchapter D of Chapter 54 and is *impacted* by 54.2001.

Excluded = Program does NOT fall under Subchapter D of Chapter 54 and is therefore *excluded* from 54.2001.

| M = Mandatory or O = Optional | E = Exemption or W = Waiver | Program Name | Statute | TEC, Section 54.2001 | THECB Rules |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| O | E | 100 Mile Waiver | TEC 54.0601 | Excluded | 19 TAC, Section 21.2264 |
| M | W | Academic Common Market Waiver | TEC 54.233 | Exempt | N/A |
| O | E | Ad Valorem | TEC 130.0032 | Excluded | N/A |
| M | E | Adopted | TEC 54.367 | Exempt | N/A |
| M | W | Biomedical MD/PhD | TEC 54.214 | Exempt | N/A |
| M | W | Border County/Parish | TEC 54.231(g) | Exempt | N/A |

| M = Mandatory or O = Optional | E = Exemption or W = Waiver | Program Name | Statute | TEC, Section 54.2001 | THECB Rules |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| M | E | Border States | TEC 54.231(a) | Impacted | N/A |
| M | E | Children of Disabled Firefighters/Law Enforcement Officers | TEC 54.351 | Impacted | N/A |
| M | E | Children of Nurse Faculty | TEC 54.355 | Impacted | 19 TAC, Ch 21, Subch. I |
| M | E | Children of POWs and MIAs | TEC 54.343 | Impacted | N/A |
| M | W | Citizens of Mexico (Pilot) | TEC 54.231(c) | Exempt | 19 TAC, Ch. 21, Subch. BB |
| M | W | Citizens of Mexico in Border Counties | TEC 54.231(b) | Exempt | 19 TAC, Ch. 21, Subch. BB |
| M | W | Citizens of Mexico Public Health | TEC 54.231(b)(4) | Exempt | N/A |
| M | W | College Teachers, Professors, etc. | TEC 54.211 | Exempt | N/A |
| *O | E | Combat Exemption | TEC 54.2031 | Impacted | 19 TAC, Ch 21, Subch. TT |
| O | E | Community College District Employees | TEC 130.0851 | Excluded | N/A |
| O | W | Competitive Scholarship | TEC 54.213 | Exempt | 19 TAC, Ch 21, Subch. SS |
| M | E | Concurrent Enrollment / Min Tuition | TEC 54.011 | Excluded | N/A |
| M | E | Deaf or Blind | TEC 54.364 | Impacted | N/A |
| M | E | Dependents of Deceased Public Servants | TEC 54.354 | Impacted | N/A |
| O | E | Designated Tuition Exemption | TEC 54.261 | Impacted | N/A |
| M | E | Disabled Peace Officers and Firefighters | TEC 54.352 | Impacted | N/A |
| O | E | Distance Learning Exemption from Fees | TEC 54.218 | Impacted | N/A |
| O | E | Dual Enrollment - Junior Colleges | TEC 130.008 | Excluded | 19 TAC, Ch. 9, Subch. H |
| O | E | Dual Enrollment - All Institutions | TEC 54.216 | Exempt | 19 TAC, Ch. 4, Subch. D |
| M | W | Economic Development | TEC 54.222 | Exempt | N/A |
| O | E | Educational Aide Exemption | TEC 54.363 | Impacted | 19 TAC, Ch. 21, Subch. II |
| M | E | Ex-Prisoners of War | TEC 54.342 | Exempt | N/A |
| M | E | Firefighters taking Fire Science Courses | TEC 54.353 | Impacted | 19 TAC, Ch. 21, Subch. Z |
| M | W | Foreign Service Officer | TEC 54.206 | Exempt | N/A |
| M | E | Foster Care/Texas Department Family Protective Services | TEC 54.366 | Exempt | N/A |
| O | E | Fully Funded Courses | TEC 54.217 | Impacted | N/A |

| M = Mandatory or O = Optional | E = Exemption or W = Waiver | Program Name | Statute | TEC, Section 54.2001 | THECB Rules |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| O | E | Good Neighbor Program | TEC 54.331 | Impacted | 19 TAC, Ch. 21, Subch. U |
| O | E | Governing Board Waivers | TEC 54.5035 | Excluded | N/A |
| M | E | Hazlewood Dependents (Credit Hours) | TEC 54.341(b)(1) | Exempt | 40 TAC, Ch. 461, Subch. A |
| M | E | Hazlewood Dependents (Non-Credit Hours) | TEC 54.341(b)(1) | Exempt | 40 TAC, Ch. 461, Subch. A |
| M | E | Hazlewood Dependents Legacy Act | TEC 54.341(k) | Impacted | 40 TAC, Ch. 461, Subch. A, Section 461.70 |
| M | E | Hazlewood Spouse (Credit) | TEC 54.341(a-2) | Exempt | 40 TAC, Ch. 461, Subch. A |
| M | E | Hazlewood Spouse (Non-Credit) | TEC 54.341(a-2) | Exempt | 40 TAC, Ch. 461, Subch. A |
| M | E | Hazlewood Veteran (Credit Hours) | TEC 54.341(a) | Exempt | 40 TAC, Ch. 461, Subch. A |
| M | E | Hazlewood Veteran (Non-Credit Hours) | TEC 54.341(a) | Exempt | 40 TAC, Ch. 461, Subch. A |
| O | E | Highest Ranking HS Scholarship | TEC 54.301 | Impacted | N/A |
| O | E | Inter-Institutional Academic Programs | TEC 54.368 | Impacted | N/A |
| M | W | Military in Texas | TEC 54.241(b,c,f,g) | Exempt | N/A |
| M | W | Military in Texas, Intention to Stay in TX | TEC 54.241(d,i,k) | Exempt | N/A |
| O - Exemption and M - Waiver | | Military in Texas, Radiology at MSU | TEC 54.241(h) | Impacted | N/A |
| M | E | National Guard Exemption | TEC 54.345 | Impacted | N/A |
| O | W | National Student Exchange Program | TEC 51.930 | Excluded | 19 TAC, Ch 21, Subch. EE |
| M | W | NATO Members and Families | TEC 54.232 | Exempt | N/A |
| O | E | Non-Semester-Length Developmental Education Courses | TEC 54.225 | Impacted | N/A |
| O | W | Nursing Graduate Students Planning to Teach | TEC 54.251 | Exempt | N/A |
| M | W | Olympic Programs Waiver | TEC 54.223 | Exempt | N/A |
| M | E | Peace Officers Exemption | TEC 54.3531 | Impacted | 19 TAC, Ch 21, Subch. Q |
| M | E | Preceptors and their Children | TEC 54.356 | Impacted | 19 TAC, Ch 21, Subch. L |
| O | E | Prorated Fees for Term Length | TEC 54.5025 | Excluded | N/A |

| M O | Mandatory or Optional | E W | Exemption or Waiver | Program Name | Statute | TEC, Section 54.2001 | THECB Rules |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| M | | W | | Reciprocal Educational Exchange Program (REEP) | TEC 54.231(d)(e) | Exempt | 19 TAC, Ch. 21, Subch. BB |
| O | | E | | Reduced Tuition/Off Peak Hour Courses | TEC 54.061 | Excluded | N/A |
| O | | E | | Senior Citizen 65+ for 6 hours free tuition | TEC 54.365 (c) | Impacted | N/A |
| O | | E | | Senior Citizen 65+ for Audit Hours | TEC 54.365 (b) | Impacted | N/A |
| O | | E | | Senior Citizen Lowered Tuition 55+ | TEC 54.263 | Impacted | N/A |
| O | | E | | Student Services Fee Exemption | TEC 54.262 | Impacted | N/A |
| *O | | E | | TANF Exemption | TEC 54.361 | Impacted | N/A |
| M | | E | | Performers of "Taps" | TEC 54.344 | Impacted | 40 TAC, Part 15, Ch. 455 |
| M | | W | | TAMU Nat'l Lab or Nat'l Lab Operator Employee/Dependent | TEC 54.369 | Exempt | N/A |
| M | | W | | Teaching and Research Assistants | TEC 54.212 | Exempt | N/A |
| O | | W | | Tech fee at UT Austin | TEC 54.221 | Exempt | N/A |
| M | | E | | Texas Tomorrow Fund / Public Universities | TEC 54.624 | Excluded | N/A |
| M | | W | | Texas Tomorrow Fund Contract | TEC 54.621 | Excluded | N/A |
| O | | E | | Three-peat Penalty Hardship Waiver | TEC 54.014(f) | Excluded | N/A |
| O | | E | | Tuition Exemption | TEC 130.085 | Excluded | N/A |
| O | | E | | Tuition Reduction for ≥ 15 Hour | TEC 54.010 | Excluded | N/A |
| O | | E | | Workforce Continuing Education Courses | TEC 130.304 | Excluded | 19 TAC, Ch. 9, Subch. F |