

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID/SEMESTER LIMIT

SECTION 11.15.(a) G.S. 115C-499.2(6) is repealed.

SECTION 11.15.(b) Article 35A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read: 28

"§ 115C-499.2A. Semester limitation on eligibility for scholarship.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (c) of this section, a student with a matriculated status at a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina shall not receive a scholarship for more than 10 full-time academic semesters, or its equivalent if enrolled part-time, unless the student is enrolled in a program officially designated by the Board of Governors as a five-year degree program. If a student is enrolled in such a five-year degree program, then the student shall not receive a scholarship for more than 12 full-time academic semesters or the equivalent if enrolled part-time.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (c) of this section, a student with a matriculated status at a community college shall not receive a scholarship for more than six full-time academic semesters, or the equivalent if enrolled part-time.

(c) Upon application by a student, the appropriate postsecondary institution may grant a waiver to the student who may then receive a scholarship for the equivalent of one additional full-time academic semester if the student demonstrates that any of the following have substantially disrupted or interrupted the student's pursuit of a degree, diploma, or certificate: (i) a military service obligation, (ii) serious medical debilitation, (iii) a short-term or long-term disability, or (iv) other extraordinary hardship. The Board of Governors or the State Board of Community Colleges, as appropriate, shall establish policies and procedures to implement the waiver provided by this subsection."

SECTION 11.15.(c) Article 3 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 115D-40.2. Semester limitation on eligibility for North Carolina Community College grants. General Assembly Of North Carolina Session 2013

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(a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a student shall not receive a need-based grant from the North Carolina Community College Grant Program for more than **six full-time academic semesters**, or the equivalent if enrolled part-time.

(b) Upon application by a student, the community college may grant a waiver to the student who may then receive a grant from the North Carolina Community College Grant Program for the equivalent of one additional full-time academic semester if the student demonstrates that any of the following have substantially disrupted or interrupted the student's pursuit of a degree, diploma, or certificate: (i) a military service obligation, (ii) serious medical debilitation, (iii) a short-term or long-term disability, or (iv) other extraordinary hardship. The State Board shall establish policies and procedures to implement the waiver provided by this subsection."

SECTION 11.15.(d) G.S. 116-25.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 116-25.1. Semester limitation on eligibility for The University of North Carolina need-based financial aid grants.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a student shall not receive a grant from The University of North Carolina Need-Based Financial Aid Program for more than nine 10 full-time academic semesters, or its equivalent if enrolled part-time, unless the student is enrolled in a program officially designated by the Board of Governors as a five-year degree program. If a student is enrolled in such a five-year degree program, then the student shall not receive a need-based grant from The University of North Carolina Need-Based Financial Aid Program for more than 12 full-time academic semesters or its equivalent if enrolled part-time.

(b) Upon application by a student, the constituent institution may grant a waiver to the student who may then receive a grant for the equivalent of one additional full-time academic semester if the student demonstrates that any of the following have substantially disrupted or interrupted the

student's pursuit of a degree: (i) a military service obligation, (ii) serious medical debilitation, (iii) a short-term or long-term disability, or (iv) other extraordinary hardship. The Board of Governors shall establish policies and procedures to implement the waiver provided by this subsection."

SECTION 11.15.(e) G.S. 116-281(6) is repealed.

SECTION 11.15.(f) Article 34 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 116-281.1. Semester limitation on eligibility for scholarship.

(a) A student shall not receive a scholarship under this Article for more than **10 full-time academic semesters**, or the equivalent if enrolled part-time, unless the student is enrolled in a program officially designated by the eligible private postsecondary institution as a five-year degree program. If a student is enrolled in such a five-year degree program, then the student shall not receive a scholarship under this Article for more than 12 full-time academic semesters or the equivalent if enrolled part-time.

(b) Upon application by a student, the eligible private postsecondary institution may grant a waiver to the student who may then receive a scholarship for the equivalent of one additional full-time academic semester if the student demonstrates that any of the following have substantially disrupted or interrupted the student's pursuit of a baccalaureate degree: (i) a military service obligation, (ii) serious medical debilitation, (iii) a short-term or long-term disability, or (iv) other extraordinary hardship. The eligible private postsecondary institution shall establish policies and procedures to implement the waiver provided by this subsection."

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SECTION 11.15.(g) Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended 1 by adding a new section to read: 2

"§ 116-209.19A. Limit semesters eligible for need-based grants and scholarships.

The Authority administers the following need-based grant and scholarship programs: the Education Lottery Scholarships, North Carolina Community College Grant Program, The University of North Carolina Need-Based Financial Aid Program, and Need-Based Scholarships for Students Attending Private Institutions of Higher Education. G.S. 115C-499.2A, 115D-40.2, 116-25.1, and 116-281.1 limit the number of semesters that a student may receive a grant or scholarship from any of those programs and also provide the circumstances in which a waiver to those limits may be granted by the appropriate postsecondary institution. The Authority shall enforce these limitations in administering these programs so that unless a waiver is granted by the appropriate postsecondary institution, no student shall receive a grant or scholarship from any of those programs or any combination of those financial aid programs while pursuing a degree, diploma, or certificate for more than any of the following time periods: (i) 10 full-time academic semesters or its equivalent if enrolled part-time or (ii) 12 full-time academic semesters or its equivalent if the student is enrolled in a program officially designated as a five-year program.

A postsecondary institution that grants a waiver under G.S. 115C-499.2A, 115D-40.2, 116-25.1, or 116-281.1 shall certify the granting of the waiver in a manner acceptable to the Authority and shall also maintain documentation substantiating the reason for the waiver."

SECTION 11.15.(h) The State Education Assistance Authority shall structure its payment schedule to encourage students to complete an average of 30 credit hours per academic year. The State Education Assistance Authority shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 1, 2014, regarding the measures implemented by the Authority pursuant to this subsection.

SECTION 11.15.(i) This section applies to the 2014-2015 academic year and each subsequent academic year.