

Choice Act of 2014

In accordance with section 702 of the Choice Act, effective July 1, 2015, all covered individuals living in New Jersey, using the Post-9/11 (Chapter 33) and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30) at Thomas Edison State College (TESC) will qualify for the in-state Per Credit Tuition Plan regardless of their formal state of residence. Covered individuals will remain eligible for in-state tuition as long as they reside in New Jersey. Once covered individuals move outside the state of New Jersey, they are no longer considered covered, and no longer qualify for in-state tuition rates.

The Choice Act defines covered individuals as:

- A veteran who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- A spouse or child using transferred benefits who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the service member's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

Covered individuals must submit the following documents to qualify for in-state tuition:

- Certificate of Eligibility (COE)
- Veteran Benefit Information Sheet (VBIS)

Under certain circumstances, other tuition options may also be available. Please contact the College's veteran affairs office at va@tesc.edu to learn more, and see if you qualify for alternate tuition plans. Determining whether or not a student using VA educational benefits will have any out of pocket expenses depends on which chapter they are using and the percentage covered. Some chapters pay the educational benefit directly to the veteran, while other chapters pay the educational benefit directly to the College. If you have detailed questions about your specific educational benefits, contact the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs at 888.442.4551.