

Virginia Line of Duty Act (LODA)

Program Overview

The Virginia Line of Duty Act (LODA), established in Title 9.1 of the Code of Virginia and enacted in 1972, provides a waiver of **undergraduate** tuition and mandatory fees at any public institution of higher education to eligible family members of eligible employees and volunteers killed in the line of duty while serving in certain Virginia Commonwealth public service occupations.

Please reference Code of Virginia section § 23.1-609 for a full listing of eligible occupations:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title23.1/chapter6/section23.1-609/> .

Eligibility & Enrollment Criteria

The deceased individual must have been employed or served as an eligible public safety officer in Virginia as defined within Code section § 23.1-609.

The death must have occurred in the line of duty.

Eligible family members are the surviving spouse and dependent children between the ages of 16 and 25.

The surviving spouse or child is admitted to, enrolls at, and in attendance at such institution and applies to such institution for the waiver. Waiver recipients who make satisfactory academic progress¹ are eligible for renewal of such waiver.

Required Eligibility Documents

1. The chief executive officer of the deceased individual's employer must provide a verification letter to certify the line of duty death and eligibility for LODA benefits.

The employer verification letter/certification must reference Code section § 23.1-609, and include the statement: "I certify that _____ was so employed and was killed in the line of duty while serving or living in the Commonwealth."

2. The school must also receive proof that the deceased is the parent or spouse of the student requesting Line of Duty educational waiver benefits:
 - Copy of birth certificate for dependent child
 - Copy of marriage license/certificate for eligible spouse

Waiver Criteria

Institutions that grant such waivers shall waive the amounts payable for tuition, institutional charges² and mandatory educational and auxiliary fees, and books and supplies³ but shall not waive user fees such as room and board charges.

Application Process

Students who meet eligibility & enrollment criteria must submit required documents to Longwood University's Office of Financial Aid via secure upload to: <http://go.longwood.edu/uploadfa> . If eligible, LODA waiver benefits will remain in effect for the duration of the student's undergraduate degree path provided the student continues to meet SAP and age requirements.

¹ Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP): Please refer to Longwood University's Office of Financial Aid website for detailed information regarding SAP: <https://www.longwood.edu/financialaid/satisfactory-academic-progress--withdrawing/> . If a student is placed on financial aid suspension, the student is no longer eligible for financial aid, including the Line of Duty (LODA) benefits.

² Non-institutional charges are ineligible for Line of Duty (LODA) waiver. Non-institutional charges include, but are not limited to: Incoming Student Transition Fee, Housing Damage Charges, LancerCard ID Fees, Monthly Payment Plan (MPP) Enrollment Fees, Late Payment Fees.

³ Books and Supplies: If books/materials are attached to a course (charged as a "Course Fee") and/or if a Line of Duty (LODA)-eligible student participates in the "Longwood BookBundle" program, then these Longwood-assessed book/material costs (only) will be waived/covered. All other book/supply charges are ineligible for LODA waiver/coverage. For example: If a LODA-eligible student purchases books/supplies from an outside source (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.) or from the Longwood University Bookstore, either directly or via use of an optional (financial aid-funded) Bookstore Charge/Voucher, then the student will remain responsible to pay these book/supply charges. In such case, the student should pay for books/supplies when purchased or (if eligible/permissible) secure adequate financial aid (loans, grants, scholarships) to cover Longwood University Bookstore Charge/Voucher.