

~~R613, Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program (PSOCAR)¹~~

~~R613-1 Purpose:~~ PSOCAR is a state-funded tuition reimbursement program for certified peace officers enrolled in criminal justice related programs at a credit-granting institution in the Utah System of Higher Education (“Institution”).

~~R613-2 References~~

~~2.1 Utah Code § 53B-1-102, Utah System of Higher Education~~

~~2.2 Utah Code § 53B-8-112, Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program (eff. August 31, 2020)~~

~~2.3 Utah Code § 63G-4-202, Designation of Adjudicative Proceedings as Informal~~

~~R613-3 Program Sunsetting:~~ Due to amendments made to Utah Code section 53B-8-112 in the 2022 legislative session, this policy and reimbursements made under it shall sunset on June 30, 2024. Beginning July 1, 2022, qualified peace officers, including those who were previously denied reimbursement based on lack of funding or who have received reimbursement under this policy, may seek grants for tuition under Board policy R614.

~~R613-4 Application Process~~

~~4.1~~ Qualified applicants may be reimbursed up to half the cost of tuition and fees with a maximum of \$5,000 per year, subject to funding. If the total applicant awards exceed available funding in any given year, the Board will reduce reimbursement amounts evenly across all qualified applicants, provided that the minimum amounts designated by statute for particular rural counties are first

¹ ~~Approved May 19, 2017; amended January 19, 2018, May 20, 2022.~~

~~met. A student may participate in PSOCAR for a maximum of eight academic years.~~

~~4.2 To qualify, applicants must be:~~

~~4.2.1 a certified peace officer, currently employed by a law enforcement agency in Utah;~~

~~4.2.2 employed by a law enforcement agency in Utah as a certified peace officer for three consecutive years prior to the completion of the academic year for which they are seeking reimbursement;~~

~~4.2.3 seeking a post-secondary degree in the area of criminal justice from a credit-granting institution in the Utah System of Higher Education (“USHE”); and~~

~~4.2.4 employed by a law enforcement agency in Utah as a certified peace officer for one additional year after the completion of that academic year.~~

~~4.3 USHE will create and provide an application form (“PSOCAR Application”) for use of qualifying students and the Institution where they are attending. The application will be available at the Utah Board of Higher Education website, ushe.edu. Applicants must complete the entire application and include all required documentation and certifications including,~~

~~4.3.1 Employer certification from an authorized representative of each employer for the four year period and~~

~~4.3.2 A copy of the tuition payment receipt(s) and transcript(s) with final grades for the enrollment period.~~

~~4.4 In order to participate in the PSOCAR, a student must submit a completed PSOCAR Application to the Institution where they are attending by the application deadline set forth in section R613-4. The application may be submitted by email, fax, post mail, or hand delivery.~~

~~4.5 Eligible Institutions will establish a process for receiving and reviewing PSOCAR Applications. After receiving an application, the Institution will make a preliminary determination as to whether the student qualifies for tuition reimbursement under PSOCAR. The Institution will then forward the application with an explanation of its determination to USHE. Institutions will forward all applications to USHE no later than 15 days after the application deadline. USHE will then make the final determination of each applicant's eligibility and make the awards as appropriate, subject to funding.~~

~~R613-5 Application Deadlines~~

~~5.1 Applicants may begin submitting applications on July 1 of the year in which they are applying.~~

~~5.2 The deadline for applications is September 1 of the relevant year. Applications must be postmarked or received by the criminal justice department at the Institution by September 1 in order to be considered.~~

~~R613-6 Appeals Process~~

~~6.1 Applicants who wish to appeal a reimbursement decision may do so, in writing to the Commissioner of Higher Education or designee. The applicant's appeal shall be postmarked within 30 days from the date on which the reimbursement decision was made by USHE.~~

~~6.2 Applicants shall include all relevant arguments and documentation in their written appeals.~~

~~6.3 The Commissioner of Higher Education or designee shall review the appeal and issue a written decision in accordance with the Utah Administrative Procedures Act. The Commissioner's decision is the final agency action and is subject to judicial review under Part 4 of the Utah Administrative Procedures Act.~~

~~6.4 Appeals proceedings under this subsection are designated as informal under Utah Code section 63G-4-202.~~