

# TUITION ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES

**DANGER: IGNORING THIS INFORMATION CAN BE DETRIMENTAL TO YOUR WALLET!!**

Please familiarize yourself with these Tuition Assistance program policies and procedures including the deadlines to avoid being responsible for payment of full amount of tuition and fees

**Tuition Assistance ETAP/PDA** – For full-time active UAW represented hourly employees who have acquired seniority (3 consecutive months of employment).

**Education Tuition Assistance Plan (ETAP)** provides for prepayment of tuition and approved fees up to \$6,000\* per calendar year for **approved** courses leading to a GED, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Master Degree, PhD and approved certificate/diploma programs from **regionally accredited** educational institutions. Also included are fees for prior learning assessment, CLEP Testing, and licensing fees.

- **IMPORTANT DEADLINE** – Applications must be submitted no later than **45 days** after term start date. Failure to do so will result in employee being responsible for full amount of tuition and fees. Applications may be submitted as early as 60 days prior to term start.
- Not all schools and courses are approved therefore, it is strongly recommended to submit an application for ETAP in advance to make sure selected school and course(s) are approved.
- Not all fees are covered by tuition assistance. Fees that are not approved are the responsibility of the employee.
- ETAP will cover the approved tuition and fees of each approved class only once. Subsequent applications for the same class at a later date or at another institution will be rejected.
- When your application is approved a voucher will be issued. The voucher is used by you as payment for your class when you register or when the school requires payment. See voucher section below for instructions for voucher use.
- Do not pay for classes prior to requesting ETAP. **There is no option for tuition reimbursement.** Tuition reimbursement is only available at approved schools that are documented as not accepting our vouchers. This is very rare. Call the tuition assistance office for assistance. Applications must be submitted within **45 days** of term start date. Preapproval of courses is strongly recommended.

**\*Approved tuition assistance amounts over \$5,250 per year is subject to applicable State and Federal taxes.**

**Book Reimbursement** – Up to \$400 (of the \$6,000) per year may be used for book reimbursement. Includes E-Books, book rental, and books purchased through on-line retailers and applicable shipping costs.

- Book Reimbursement must be for an approved ETAP or PDA class.
- **IMPORTANT DEADLINE** – Applications for book reimbursement must be submitted after the schools drop/add date and no later than **90 days** after term start date.
- Original receipt of book purchase must be included in reimbursement application (keep a copy for your records).

**Personal Development Assistance (PDA)** – The PDA feature of the Employee Tuition Plan provides for prepayment of tuition and approved fees up to \$2,700 (of the \$6,000) for classes that improve or enhance a member's position in the workplace.

- Includes classes such as: labor studies, public speaking, communication, professional development, computer classes and job related technical skills courses including testing and licensing fees. On-line PDA may be approved.

- Up to \$500 of the \$2,700 can be used for educational enrichment courses at regionally accredited colleges and universities and government agencies. These are courses that peak a members interest in learning and allow for career and educational exploration. Hobby and sports classes are excluded.
- Books and certain fees are covered.
- **IMPORTANT DEADLINE** – Classes must be approved **prior to class start date**. It is strongly recommended applications be submitted **30 days** before class start date.
- Once classes are approved a voucher will be issued. You must submit your approved voucher to the provider prior to, but no later than, the first day of class, based on the school requirements. See [voucher](#) section below for instructions for voucher use.
- Employee cannot start class without an approved Official Tuition Voucher.

#### **How to apply:**

- You can apply on-line at [www.myuawford.com](http://www.myuawford.com). Application processing time is 2-3 business days.

#### **OR**

- You can fill out an application and mail it to the UAW-Ford National Programs Center (NPC). Applications are available through your local ESSP/Education Representative or they can be downloaded and printed from [www.uawford.org/edtp/etap](http://www.uawford.org/edtp/etap). Application processing time is 2-3 weeks.

#### **Vouchers** – Once classes are approved, an **Official Tuition Voucher** will be issued to the employee.

- Vouchers will be ready for you to print within 2-3 business days for applications submitted online.
- We are in the process of transitioning to electronic billing. If your school has been set up for electronic vouchers, you will be prompted to authorize to forward an electronic voucher to the school on your behalf.
- Vouchers will be mailed to employee within 2-3 weeks for applications submitted by mail.
- Employee is responsible for signing the voucher and submitting the voucher to the school by payment due date.
- Employee is responsible for following up with the school to verify they have sent an invoice to the National Programs Center Tuition Assistance Department along with your signed voucher for payment, and that we have paid the invoice.
- **IMPORTANT DEADLINE** - Official Tuition Vouchers must be received by the National Programs Center Tuition Assistance Department **from the school** no later than **9 months from** term start date. After 9 months payment will become the responsibility of the employee.
- Unused vouchers must be returned to the Tuition Assistance Department with VOID written across the voucher to have employee account credited and classes voided.

#### **Important Deadlines**

- ETAP applications must be submitted no later than **45 days** after term start date. Failure to do so will result in employee being responsible for full amount of tuition and fees. Applications may be submitted as early as 60 days prior to term start.
- Book reimbursement applications must be submitted after the schools drop/add date and no later than **90 days** after term start date.
- PDA applications must be approved **prior to class/term start date**. It is strongly recommended applications be submitted **30 days** before class/term start date.
- The employee must ensure that the Official Tuition Vouchers was received or billed electronically to the Tuition Assistance Department **from the school with their invoice**, no later than **9 months** after term start date. After 9 months payment will become the responsibility of the employee.

#### **Contact Information**

For questions contact the tuition assistance office at 800-367-3829 or Jay Gazzarato [jgazzara@ford.com](mailto:jgazzara@ford.com) at 313-392-7162.



[www.uawford.org/edtp](http://www.uawford.org/edtp)