



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

31 May 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJCOM EDUCATION DIRECTORS

FROM: HQ USAF/DPDE  
1040 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington DC 20330-1040

SUBJECT: Tuition Assistance for Traditional and Non-Traditional Pharmacy Degree Programs

REFERENCE: AFI 36-2306

The purpose of this correspondence is to clarify Air Force tuition assistance (TA) policy as it relates to students enrolled in traditional and non-traditional Pharmacy degree programs. According to the Air Force medical community (AF/SG), the following degree programs are available in the Pharmacy area:

**Baccalaureate Pharmacy Degree** - *5 years post high school*

**Entry Level PharmD** - *Six-year program post high school considered FIRST PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (equivalent to Master's degree, full-time program, cannot be pursued through vol ed)*

**Non-Traditional PharmD** - *As described below (equivalent to Master's degree)*

**Post Baccalaureate PharmD** - *7 years Total 5 years Bachelor Pharmacy Degree plus 2 years PharmD program. (Cannot be obtained through part time study, no TA)*

**Master in Pharmacy Practice** - *2 year thesis type degree post Baccalaureate*

**PHD Pharmacy** - *(Post Graduate--No TA)*

Apparently, some Education Officers are denying TA for a Non-Traditional PharmD program which requires two years of academic work (can be completed distance learning) with a clinical practice portion to be served in clinical rotations at a Medical Center type environment.

After careful review, we feel TA should be authorized for a Non-Traditional PharmD. However, completion of such a program would be considered equivalent to a Master's program. Therefore, anyone with a Master's already, or anyone seeking another Master's program after the Non-Traditional PharmD program would not be eligible to use TA.

//Signed//

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