



## EDUCATION ASSISTANCE POLICY

<b>Policy Owner:</b>	<i>Human Resources</i>	<b>Effective Date:</b>	<i>May 2018</i>
<b>Contact:</b>	<i>Human Resources Business Partner</i>		

### Objective/Purpose

To promote the professional development of OneBeacon employees.

### Policy Statement

OneBeacon supports the professional development of our employees to enhance their knowledge, strengthen their performance and bolster career development. OneBeacon offers educational assistance to employees pursuing approved industry and professional development courses and/or studies through accredited institutions of higher learning.

### Summary

OneBeacon provides reimbursement (up to specific limits) for:

- College Tuition and certain Defined Expenses
- Industry Courses and Seminars

### Eligibility

There are eligibility requirements that must be met by the employee before educational expenses will be considered. Subject to manager approval:

- Employees can begin industry courses that are not part of a college degree program any time after the first day of employment.
- Employees can begin participating in the tuition reimbursement program after six months of employment.
- Employees must be in good standing.

The following are the requirements for graduate and undergraduate programs as well as courses and seminars:

<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
Undergraduate	Business related and manager approved.
Graduate	Business related and manager approved. Specifically related to the employee's job, and will assist in the employee's professional development.
Non-degree or seminar	Manager approved. Specifically related to the employee's job, and will assist in the employee's professional development.

Reimbursement is based on Net Expense. Tuition reimbursement is based on the employee's NET tuition expense. Any funds received from outside sources, will be deducted from the total tuition expense, such as:

- Pell grants
- Scholarships, or
- Other outside sources

Tuition Fees that are **Not** Reimbursable - Examples of the known fees that are **excluded** from this policy include:

- Late Enrollment Fees
- Pre-Graduate Fees
- Transcript Fees
- Parking Fees
- Athletics Fees
- Student Health Insurance Fees
- Student Center Fees
- Tuition Refund Plans
- Deferred Payment Fees
- Community Service Programs
- Interest Expense
- P.O. Box Rental Fee
- Laptop Purchase or Rental fees

### **Industry Education**

The policy covers 100% of costs incurred by the employee. Unlike tuition, industry education is eligible for immediate reimbursement once the employee provides proof of enrollment and payment. For the program to be eligible, it must:

- Be planned and budgeted for prior to registration year, manager approval is required in advance and cost, capacity and employee status will be considered.
- Be approved by the employee's manager through a formal email stating approval at the time of registration.

In addition, OneBeacon allows uncharged paid time off for employees to attend exams during regularly scheduled workdays.

**Note:** OneBeacon does not pay for the expense of exam retakes due to course failure or incompleteness.

### **College Tuition and Related Expenses**

#### Eligibility

There are eligibility requirements that must be met by the employee before educational expenses will be considered:

- Employees can begin participating in the tuition reimbursement program after six months of employment.
- Employees must be in good standing.
- Employees must receive written (in email) approval by their manager prior to registration.

#### Reimbursable Expenses

OneBeacon provides reimbursement for college tuition, and certain related expenses including books. The employee is responsible for his or her tuition obligation. Tuition is reimbursed with proof of satisfactory completion and cost.

#### Satisfactory completion is defined as follows

- Undergraduate Level Courses require a grade of C or better for each approved course.
- Graduate Level Courses require a grade of B- or better for each approved course.
- Non-degree courses and programs require a grade of C or better or proof of successful completion where no grade is given.
- Where grades are "Pass/Fail", the student must "Pass" the course.

#### Satisfactory Completion

Proof of Successful Completion of a course requires one of the following:

- Passing an industry administered exam,

- Receiving a passing grade from an accredited institution, or
- Receiving a certificate of completion.

#### Proof of Eligibility

OneBeacon will provide proof of reimbursement eligibility if it is required by the college/university, but employees are individually liable for all expenditures and OneBeacon will not pay any course fees or expenses directly to the college or university.

#### Limits and Restrictions

The maximum reimbursement is the IRS cap of \$5,250.00 gross per employee per calendar year, payable through Payroll (submit to the HRSC), which includes:

- Tuition
- Books and
- Approved fees (registration and lab fees)

#### Deferred Payment

OneBeacon is not responsible for deferred payments or late fees.

#### Tuition Repayment

Employees must repay OneBeacon for any monies paid for a course if:

- He or she leaves OneBeacon (either voluntarily or for cause) within 1 year of receiving reimbursement.
- 50% of the reimbursement amount is forgiven after 6 months from receiving reimbursement.

## Employee Section

### College Tuition Reimbursement

#### Before you Begin

First, you should have a conversation with your manager before you sign up for any college course. In addition to talking with your manager about continuing education, you must formally document your manager's approval through an email request. Here's how:

Step	Action
1	Complete the external education request [attached at the end of this policy] including; title of course, amount of tuition and proposed completion dates.
2	Send the external education request via an attachment to an email to your respective manager for approval.
3	Save a copy of the email in your two year email archive.
4	Retain a copy of the approval until the course is complete.

Follow this process after you have completed an approved course:

Step	Action
1	Send a paper based copy or email a scanned attachment of the original approved external education request email to HRSC for processing. You must include proof of successful completion and cost as defined.
2	HRSC processes the reimbursement through payroll with the regular bi-weekly pay.

### How to Process an Industry Education Reimbursement

#### Eligibility

There are eligibility requirements that must be met by the employee before educational expenses will be considered:

- Employees can begin industry courses that are not part of a college degree program any time after the first day of employment.
- Employees must be in good standing.
- Employees must receive written (in email) approval to attend course and/or seminar by their manager prior to registration.

#### Before you Begin

You must receive manager approval before signing up for a course. Here's how:

Step	Action
1	Complete the external education request [attached to this policy] including; title of course, amount of tuition and proposed completion dates.
2	Send the external education request via an attachment in email to your respective manager for approval.
3	Save a copy of the email in your two year email archive.
4	Retain a copy of the approval until the course is complete.
5	<b>Note:</b> Once your manager has approved your request, you may enroll in the course/exam and submit for immediate reimbursement through PeopleSoft Financials.

# Manager Section

## Overview

As a manager, it is your responsibility to budget for courses, seminars, and tuition reimbursement. It is also your responsibility to review the employee training request to ensure that it meets the development needs of your employee and all the eligibility requirements.

## Approving Education Requests

Once your employee sends you an education request email for your approval, please follow these steps:

Step	Action
1	Review the requested course and the expense to ensure that it meets eligibility requirements.
2	Approve or Deny the request by responding to the email followed up with a face to face conversation.

# OneBeacon Insurance

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## External Education Request

Personal and Billing Information	
Today's Date	
Requested By (Name)	
Employee ID	
E-mail	
School and Address	
Course/ Seminar Information	
Course title / number	
Description	
Course Date(s)	
Price	
Books	
Other Expense (explain)	
Total Price	
Signatures	
Notes	
Requestor's Signature	
Manager's Signature	