Veterans and Military-Affiliated Student Success Guide

May 2018
Boot Print to Heel Print is an intentional program designed to transition incoming military-affiliated students to Carolina by introducing them to the resources, support staff, and community that are available. Launched in 2016, this program is continually evolving based on student veteran participation and feedback.

As part of the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS), the Carolina Veterans Resource Center (CVRC) strives to support and assist military-affiliated students in navigating the university environment. The four pillars of ODOS are:

**Care:**
Response and support provided to students after an unexpected situation, difficult event, or crisis incident.

**Collaborate:**
Connecting students to resources and services across campus and throughout the community to help create a support network.

**Celebrate:**
Outreach initiatives that recognize student successes and provide opportunities to promote ODOS as a resource.

**Empower:**
Providing support and sharing information that enables a student to navigate the University policies and processes and experience academic and personal success.

The CVRC is a place for all students who are serving or have served in the military, as well as military-affiliated dependents. These individuals can find support, resources, and community, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, religious affiliation, sexuality, parenting status, discharge status, disability status, service era, citizenship status, or complicated feelings about military service. We aim to celebrate your past and future accomplishments, to support you through challenging times, and to be a place for both joy and respite during your time at Carolina.
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TERMS USED THROUGHOUT THIS DOCUMENT

UNC-CH: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
CHAPTER 30: MONTGOMERY GI BILL
CHAPTER 31: VA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION EDUCATION PROGRAM
CHAPTER 33: POST-9/11 GI BILL
CHAPTER 35: SURVIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL
CHAPTER 1606: MGIB SELECTED RESERVE
CHAPTER 1607: RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
COE: CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY
MIHA: MONTHLY HOUSING ALLOWANCE
VA: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VAEB: VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATION BENEFITS
VSE: VETERAN SERVICES ENROLLMENT FORM
WAVE: WEB AUTOMATED VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
SCO: SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL

Updates, corrections, or content suggestions can be sent to cvrc@unc.edu.
Contact Information for UNC Chapel Hill Veterans Resource Team

Student Veterans Assistance Coordinator
Amber Mathwig
Carolina Veterans Resource Center
211 Branson Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Email: amathwig@email.unc.edu
Phone: 919-843-9551
Fax: 919-843-9778
Web: https://deanofstudents.unc.edu/veteransservices

Office of the University Registrar
School Certifying Official for GI Bill Benefits (SCO)
Jan Benjamin, Kris West
SASB North, Suite 3100
450 Ridge Road, Campus Box 2100
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: jan.benjamin@unc.edu or kwest011@email.unc.edu
Phone: 919-962-9864
Fax: 919-962-3349
Web: http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/veteran-affairs/

Kenan-Flagler Business School
Karsen Spain, Veterans Affairs Specialist
1205 Environ Way,
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Phone: 919-962-0117
Email: kfveteransaffairs@kenan-flagler.unc.edu
Web: www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu

Military-Affiliated Grads Initiative Coordinator
Maria Erb, Co-Director for Diversity and Student Success
The Graduate Student Center
211A West Cameron Ave CB#5492
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: maria.erb@unc.edu
Phone: (919) 966-2613
Fax: (919) 962-5134
Web: http://tinyurl.com/militaryaffiliatedgrads

Student Accounts & University Receivables
Gary Maynard
Suite 2215- SASB North
450 Ridge Road, Campus Box 1400
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: gmaynard@email.unc.edu
Phone: 919-843-0169
Fax: 919-962-1568
Web: http://finance.unc.edu/saur/student-account-services/

Office of Scholarships & Student Aid
Cindy McGee, Josh Leonard
111 Pettigrew Hall, CB #2300
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: aidinfo@unc.edu
Phone: 919-962-8396/866-273-1622
Fax: 919-962-2716
Web: http://studentaid.unc.edu
Counseling and Psychological Services
Amy Leach
James A. Taylor Building, CB# 7470
320 Emergency Room Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: aleach@email.unc.edu
Phone: 919-966-3658
Web: https://campushealth.unc.edu/services/counseling-and-psychological-services

Academic Advising Program
Dennis Soberl
Steele Building, CB#3110
214 E. Cameron Ave.
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Phone: 919-966-5116
Fax: 919-962-6668
Web: advising.unc.edu
Schedule an appointment: https://advsched.oasis.unc.edu/advsched/app

Accessibility Resources & Service
Tiffany Bailey
SASB North CB#7214
Suite 2126, 450 Ridge Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: accessibility@uncg.edu
Phone: 919-962-8300
Fax: 919-962-4748
NC Relay: 711
Web: https://accessibility.unc.edu/

The Learning Center
Ashton Bartley
SASB North, CB# 5135
Suite 0118 and 2109
450 Ridge Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Phone: 919-962-3782
Fax: 919-962-7797
Web: http://learningcenter.unc.edu/

Undergraduate Admissions
Rebecca Egbert, Shane Hale
Jackson Hall, CB# 2200
153A Country Club Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: admissions@uncg.edu
Phone: 919-966-3621
Fax: 919-962-3045
Web: http://admissions.unc.edu/

The Graduate School
Hoi Ning Ngai
200 Bynum Hall, CB#4010
222 East Cameron Ave. Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: gradinfo@unc.edu
Web: http://gradschool.unc.edu/

Office of Undergraduate Retention
Luke Fayard, Transfer Student Coordinator
3005 Steele Building CB# 3504
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email:fayardl@email.unc.edu
Phone: 919-843-2987
Web: http://studentsuccess.unc.edu/

The Writing Center
Becky Butler
SASB North CB#5137
Suite 0127, 450 Ridge Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Phone: 919-962-7710
Email: writing_center@unc.edu
Web: http://writingcenter.unc.edu/

Career Services
Tamara Taylor
Hanes Hall 212, CB# 5140
150 East Cameron Avenue
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: tktaylor@unc.edu
Phone: 919-843-9449
Web: https://careers.unc.edu/
Contact Information for UNC Chapel Hill Student Organizations

Carolina Veterans Organization
(A Student Veterans of America Chapter)
Email: carolinaveterans@gmail.com
Web: http://veterans.web.unc.edu/
Facebook: @CarolinaVets
Twitter: @CarolinaVets

UNC Kenan-Flagler Veterans Association
http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/student-life/mba/mba-clubs/veterans-association

VALOR (Veterans Advocacy Legal Organization)
http://studentorgs.law.unc.edu/valor/

Military Dental Student Association
https://studentlife.unc.edu/organization/MDSA

Contact Information for Veterans Affairs

Veterans Education Benefits
Phone: 888-442-4551
Call the VA Hotline for any questions specifically related to your benefit status within the VA, the application process, or pending payments.

Durham VA Medical Center
508 Fulton Street
Durham, NC 27705
Phone: 919-286-0411
Telephone Care (24 hours) 888-878-6890
Web: www.durham.va.gov

Fayetteville VA Medical Center
2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Phone: 910-488-2120
Fax: 910-822-7093
Web: www.fayettevillenc.va.gov

Raleigh VA Outpatient Clinic
3305 Sungate Blvd
Raleigh, NC 27610
Phone: 919-212-0129
http://www.durham.va.gov/locations/Raleigh.asp

Sanford Community Based Outpatient Clinic
3112 Tramway Rd
Sanford, NC 27332
Phone: 919-775-6160
http://www.fayettevillenc.va.gov/locations/Sanford_CBOC.asp

Winston-Salem Regional Benefit Office
251 N. Main St.
Winston Salem, NC 27155
Phone: 800-827-1000
Web: http://www.benefits.va.gov/winstonsalem/
Section I: Admissions, Enrollment, and Using VA benefits at UNC Chapel Hill

Apply to UNC Chapel Hill

Most UNC-CH students begin their enrollment in the fall semester. There may be some exceptions for certain graduate and professional programs. Carefully review the applicable admissions website for information regarding specific programs.

All graduate and professional students should seek admissions information via the website of the program of which you will be applying. You can find a list of graduate degrees, along with deadlines, admissions requirements, and points of contact here: https://gradschool.unc.edu/academics/degreeprograms/

- You are strongly encouraged to make contact with the director of the program or a faculty member you are interested in working with during your time at UNC-CH. You should utilize this contact to ask questions about the program to ensure it is a good fit for you and what makes a good candidate for their department.

All undergraduate student veterans are admitted to the university as transfer students. The final deadline for application is February 15. Decision letters are transmitted by mid-April, however the admissions office extends the courtesy of early decisions to active duty military personnel. http://admissions.unc.edu/apply/deadlines/

For information on transfer credit for military training and other FAQs on transfer credits: http://admissions.unc.edu/apply/military-veterans/

Undergraduate Applications

- UNC-CH uses the Common Application (https://www.commonapp.org/)
- The application fee is waived for active duty service-members. Applicants must indicate that they are requesting a fee waiver at the time of submission.
- You will need to submit proof of high school completion and all official transcripts, including military training, before you can complete your application.
- To obtain your military transcripts:
  - All except Air Force: https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signIn.do

Enroll at UNC Chapel Hill

- Once you have been accepted to the university, you will need to complete your enrollment process. Enrollment fees are non-refundable and are not covered by your VAEB but you can request a deferment of the fee to your student account.
- Undergraduate students can find great resources and a checklist for you to follow here: http://admissions.unc.edu/enroll/
- Graduate students can find great resources and a checklist for you to follow here: http://gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/admittedstudents.html
Rate of Pursuit

VAEB are paid in relation to your rate of pursuit, or the amount of credit hours you are enrolled in.

Undergraduate Studies

- Full time = 12+ credit hours
- ¾ Time = 9 to 11 credit hours
- Half time = 6 to 8 credit hours
- Less than half time = 1 to 5 credit hours

Graduate Studies

- Full time = 9 credit hours
- ¾ Time = 7 to 8.5 credit hours
- Half time = 4.5 to 6.5 credit hours
- Less than half time = < 4.5 credit hours

There are no exceptions to the rate of pursuit when it comes to your VAEB. While the school may offer senior underloads, thesis/dissertation underloads, etc., that are still considered full-time for the school’s purposes, the VA does not recognize these. Please plan accordingly with your advisor.

Summer Courses

Summer courses are condensed, and therefore fewer credits are required to meet full-time status. Generally, undergraduates need to take 4 credits to be considered full-time, and graduate/professional students must take 3 credits.

If accepted for full-time enrollment for a fall semester, undergraduate students may start as early as May with summer courses. Review the requirements for summer sessions here: http://summer.unc.edu/registration/course-load-credit-computer-requirements/

Eligibility for VA Education Benefits

Neither UNC-CH nor the SCO can determine whether you are eligible for VAEB or how much you are eligible to receive in relation to your service/discharge status. To find out, you must contact a VA representative or advocate at 888-442-4551, then submit your application to the VA. The VA will review your application and officially grant or deny benefits. To complete and submit your electronic application, use this online application: https://www.vets.gov/education/apply/

Create an eBenefits Account to Apply, View and Access Your VA Benefits and Documents

You can view the status of your education benefits, and other veteran benefits, by creating an online account. https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/
Applying for VA Education Benefits

Applications for using your VAEB may take 6-8 weeks to be approved. Please plan accordingly to ensure your benefits are processed in a timely manner for your first semester of school.

To apply for VAEB, you will need a copy of your DD-214. The Department of Defense may be able to provide this information if you cannot locate a copy.

You can submit your application for VAEB electronically through the Vets.Gov Application: https://www.vets.gov/education/apply/ Follow the prompts to create a username and password, when you get to the part where it asks for which form you are wanting to complete:

- Veterans and Reservists – VA Form 22-1990
- Dependents who will be using transferred Post 9/11 Benefits – VA form 22-1990e
- Dependents Education Assistance – VA Form 22-5490

Print a copy of the completed application for your records.

Direct Deposit: You have the option to provide the routing or transit number and account number of your bank account during the application process to facilitate direct deposit of your benefits. If you are entitled to direct payment of benefits, such as a monthly living allowance or stipend for books and supplies, the funds can be deposited directly into your bank account for quick access.

You will receive an acknowledgement via email from the VA that your application has been received and the determination of eligibility process has begun. The VA will mail you a Certificate of Eligibility, which will verify the type of education benefit and the number of months to which you are entitled.

You should provide a copy of your certificate of eligibility to the SCO as soon as possible. You can scan a copy of your COE and send it via email, or drop off a copy at the Office of the University Registrar.

If you apply for and receive approval for benefits prior to your End of Active Obligated Service (EAOS) date, you may only receive partial approval for benefits. You will want to call the VAEB hotline number after your EAOS date and ensure they have updated your file appropriately. You will not receive a monthly housing allowance from the VA until you have been released from active duty.

**Note:** Chapter 31 – Students using vocational rehabilitation are required to submit a preliminary review from UNC-CH to their case manager. Once it is approved, the case manager will fax Form 28-1905 to the SCO, who will verify your enrollment with the VA. The VA then will issue a COE statement which outlines the percentage of benefits. Fax or email a copy of your application and your COE statement to our certifying official. Please note that there is often a substantial delay in the payment of vocational rehabilitation benefits from the VA to the institution. This will affect the receipt of any additional scholarships, loans, or grants you are provided. Please contact the Student Veterans Assistance Coordinator if you have any questions.

Transferring Schools and VA Education Benefits

If you have applied previously for VAEB at another college or university and now want to collect VAEB while attending UNC-CH, you are required to update your program with the VA by completing a new form at: https://www.vets.gov/education

- Veterans and Reservists - VA Form 22-1995
- All dependents - VA Form 22-5495
VA Benefits Certification Process at UNC

The certification process is time-consuming and requires the SCO to meticulously verify each course you take as being required for your degree plan, and report this information to the VA. You should begin this process as soon as you are registered for your first semester of classes at UNC.

The certification process and required paperwork are detailed here: http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/veteran-affairs/

You must* submit the VA Enrollment Certification Renewal Form for Continuing Students for each semester you intend to use your VAEB. The form is electronic and you can find it here: http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/veteran-affairs/va-enrollment-form/

*must as in your benefits will not be processed for the next semester until you complete this form

You do not have to use your benefits each semester once you’ve started using them. If you receive scholarships, grants, or other financial support and would like to save your benefits for later, just don’t fill out the form for that semester.

Certifying Enrollments to the VA (Chapter 33)

Only the UNC-CH SCO can submit VA Form 22-1999 (Certificate of Eligibility or COE) to the VA electronically. Once it is submitted, you will receive an automated email from the VA.

Enrollment Verification on WAVE Website (Chapter 30, 31, 35, 1606, 1607)

Processing time begins on the date that the college’s VA certifying official submits the certification of enrollment to the VA. The VA requires you to verify your enrollment monthly. (This does not pertain to Chapter 33.) Verification is required on the last day of each month, or you will not receive benefits for that month.

To verify your enrollment each month:

- Go to the VA website at www.gibill.va.gov
- Click Verify Attendance (WAVE)
- You will be directed to the WAVE page, where you can login and verify your enrollment.
- If you are not recognized as a VA student by WAVE, it may be because the VA has not received your VA Form 22-1999 (Certificate of Enrollment) or has not yet completed processing. You may verify your enrollment by calling the Department of Veterans Affairs Education Certification System at 877-823-2378 and following the prompts.

Receiving VA Payments

Chapter 31 and 33 Only: Tuition and fees are paid directly to the institution. UNC-CH will defer tuition and fees per the percentage you are approved for by the VA, provided you have submitted the required documentation and completed the appropriate forms with the SCO. You can request this deferment through your Connect Carolina account. You, the student, are responsible for any portion of the bill not covered by the VA and may consider using financial aid. The VA does not cover fees associated with parking passes, living on campus, or using a meal plan (some Chapter 31 recipients may be approved for other fees).
All other Chapters: Benefits are paid directly to you via direct deposit, and you are 100% responsible for settling all student account balances with Student Accounts and University Receivables prior to given deadlines.

Monthly Housing Allowance – Chapters 31 and 33 Only

You will receive a housing allowance once the school year has started. This allowance will be deposited into the bank account you designated when initiating your benefits with the VA. This allowance is prorated, meaning you receive benefits only for the number of days in the semester. Payments will be received on the first of every month for the previous month, as long as you were in class. First time benefit users will experience a one month delay to ensure the student continues to attend class. If you are in classes full time, you will receive full BAH entitlement. Anything less than full time will be appropriately adjusted.

- Housing allowance is based upon the school zip code, E-5 with dependent. [http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm)
- If you are attending classes exclusively online, please see MHA Rate exceptions here: [https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch33/ch33rates080117.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch33/ch33rates080117.asp)

For dependents using Chapter 33 benefits, it is a decision between you and your parents/guardians to make on who will receive the monthly housing allowance and how it will be utilized to support your education. The costs of on-campus housing are not covered in the tuition and fees that are paid directly to the university by the VA.

SECTION II: Residency and Tuition Waivers for Military affiliated students

In-State Tuition for Non-Resident Active Duty Service Members and their dependents/North Carolina National Guard Members

Any member of the Armed Services qualifying for admission to an institution of higher education, but not qualifying as a resident for tuition purposes shall be charged the in-state tuition rate for enrollments while a member of Armed Services and stationed in the state of North Carolina. A dependent who shares the abode of a member of the armed services who is in North Carolina on active duty also qualifies for in-state tuition. Non-residents who are members of the North Carolina National Guard may also qualify for this benefit. Please read more about this benefit and find the required forms here. [http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/](http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/)

In-state Tuition for Qualifying Military Veterans and their Dependents (Choice Act Section 702)

Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, 38 USC 3679(c) (the Choice Act), requires the VA to disapprove programs of education under Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30) at a public institution of higher learning (IHL) if the institution charges qualifying Veterans and other eligible individuals (“covered individuals”) tuition and fees in excess of the rate charged to resident students after July 1, 2015. On June 23, 2015, Senate Bill 478 was enacted to conform North Carolina law with the Choice Act, thereby creating North Carolina General Statute § 116-143.3A, which, on July 9, 2015, the VA certified as being compliant with the Choice Act.


This form should be completed as soon as possible in order to update your financial aid awards appropriately!
Covered Individual
A covered individual is any veteran or dependent using Chapter 30 or 33, living in the state in which he or she is pursuing a course of education at an institution of higher learning (regardless of his/her formal state of residence or discharge), and who enrolls in an IHL within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) to pursue a course of education at an IHL, who lives in the state in which the IHL is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and who enrolls in an IHL within three years of the service member's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

Starting with the 2017-2018 academic year, qualifying dependents of active duty military members who are using transferred Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits may also obtain in-state tuition under federal legislation, HR6416, signed on December 16, 2016.

Obtaining Residency
If you do not qualify for in-state tuition as a resident of North Carolina, as an active duty or North Carolina National guard service member, or under the Choice Act, you should familiarize yourself with the Residency process: http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/

Starting with the 2017-2018 academic year, undergraduate students will begin their residency process here: https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/

Yellow Ribbon Scholarship
If you do not qualify for in-state tuition or residency, there is a significant difference between in and out of state tuition. The Yellow Ribbon scholarship is an agreement between the VA and UNC-CH to help cover a portion of the difference. If you have been accepted to the university and are currently classified as an out-of-state student for tuition purposes, you should contact our SCO, Jan, jan.benjamin@unc.edu and say, “Jan, I am an out of state student who will be using VAEB and would like to find out more about the Yellow Ribbon Scholarship.”

SECTION III: Advising, Academics, and Career Assistance

Advising
It is highly recommended that you meet with an advisor regularly. All undergraduate students are required to meet with an advisor prior to their final semester to make sure they are on track for graduation. The Academic Advising team assists students with creating degree plans that are compatible with their interests, abilities, careers, and life goals. If you don’t like your assigned advisor, see another one! https://advising.unc.edu/see-an-advisor/

Graduate and professional schools should be providing you with an advisor, often a faculty member, in your department. You should consult with your specific department or college/student services office with additional questions regarding your academics.
Academic Matters

If you are a Reservist or member of the National Guard who is being called to Active Duty, and may have some concerns in finishing your semester or degree plan at UNC Chapel Hill, please give us a call so we can help you! The university has policies and practices in place to guide you and enable your successful return.

If you are at risk of failing a class, and are using VAEB, please schedule an appointment to talk with the SVAC or SCO before making a decision to withdraw from the class or from a whole semester. The VA and Active Duty Tuition Assistance guidelines for course failures or withdraws differ from the school’s guidelines. We can assist you in navigating these policies to maximize your benefits and educational experience.

Accessibility Resources and Services

UNC-CH seeks to meet the individual needs of students with disabilities and medical conditions by coordinating and implementing appropriate accommodations and providing resources and services as they relate to academics, residences, dining, and co- and extra-curricular campus activities. If you have a rated disability with the VA, a history of concussions/TBI’s, or other physical or mental health concerns, it would behoove you to talk with ARS on what they might be able to provide to enhance your learning and testing experiences.

Accommodations can only be given from the date of approval forward – they cannot be applied retroactively. To self-identify with ARS, complete the form here: https://accessibility.unc.edu/register

Academic Assistance

College is hard. Carolina is hard. Jumping back into the classroom as a non-traditional student can come with challenges. No one expects you to know how to do everything the day you walk on campus. There are a lot of great resources and opportunities for you to enhance your learning skills and comprehension, assist you with writing papers, or more.

A non-comprehensive list of great resources for all students at Carolina:

- Library: http://library.unc.edu/services/veterans/
- The Learning Center: http://learningcenter.unc.edu/
- The Writing Center: http://writingcenter.unc.edu/
- Academic Success Program for Students with Learning Disability/Attention-Deficit Hyper Disorder: http://learningcenter.unc.edu/ldadhd-services/
- Math Center: https://math.unc.edu/for-undergrads/help-center/
- Biology Tutoring Program – For BIO 202, 205, and 252: http://bio.unc.edu/undergraduate/course-info/tutoring/
- Chemistry Tutorials: Kenan Labs, C-143: Open Monday through Thursday for assistance in Chemistry courses 101, 102, 241, 261, and 262. For more information, please contact Dr. Todd Austell, Coordinator (919) 962-9429, tlsaustell@uncg.edu

Career Services

It is never too early in your education to start considering what your resume and interview skills are or to start assessing what experience you may be missing to help you land your dream job after receiving that coveted diploma. Career services offers lots of support and resources to help get you up to speed! You can find out more and use some of their great tools here: https://careers.unc.edu/
Prepare to study abroad

One of the great benefits to being a student at Carolina are all the awesome opportunities there are to study abroad! VAEB will help pay some costs for study abroad provided it meets the same general criteria as any other classes – that the credits be applicable to your degree at UNC Chapel Hill. You may also seek other funding options through the Study Abroad office. There are many amazing places to go and you will want to start planning early in your academic career, so be sure to meet with a study abroad advisor as soon as possible. Find out more here: https://studyabroad.unc.edu/studyabroad.cfm

Graduate students should work with their departments to determine what study abroad options may be available.

SECTION IV: FINANCIAL MATTERS

Apply for Financial Aid (Service-member and dependents)

Your VAEB (your entitlement for your military service) does not affect your eligibility to apply for financial aid (available to all college students). Most undergraduate students will qualify for a varied amount of grants (money you do not have to pay back) and loans (money you do not have to pay back until 6 months after you are no longer enrolled in school). Federal grants are not available to graduate or professional students, but you may still obtain loans or other funding sources.

The sooner you apply each calendar year, the more likely you are to be offered grants in your financial aid package. It is important to know that you can choose which parts of your financial aid package to accept. This is a decision to make based upon your financial need. The financial aid application relies upon your previous two year’s tax information, and the Office of Scholarships & Student Aid office is available to make an adjustment for you if you have experienced a significant reduction in income (i.e. being discharged from active duty military service).

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (https://fafsa.ed.gov/) and CSS/PROFILE (http://studentaid.unc.edu/applying-for-aid/) to determine your eligibility for federal and institutional student aid. North Carolina veterans, active-duty service members, and dependents stationed in NC can check their eligibility for state grants by indicating they are NC residents on the FAFSA. Service-members and their dependents are NOT required to include VA educational benefits on their income section of the FAFSA. VA benefits should be reported as follows:

**Question 41 Worksheet B Veteran’s non education benefits (income):**
Enter the total amount of non-education benefits you receive from VA. These will include Disability benefits, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension, VA Education Work Study, etc.

**Questions 46-47 Veterans’ Educational Benefits (resources):**
46. Enter the number of months of entitlement you are eligible to receive benefits during the school year. If in doubt, call VA at 1-888-442-4551.
47. Determine if you will attend school full time or part time. Enter the monthly amount you are eligible to receive during the year. If in doubt, call VA at 1-888-442-4551.

For FAFSA purposes, veteran status is very different than for VA purposes. The FAFSA processor will perform a data match with VA records to determine veteran status. Students who are able to claim veteran status do not have to show their parent’s income and assets on the FAFSA form. For FAFSA purposes, a veteran is any service-member who has been on active duty for at least one day and was released under a condition other than dishonorable. Active duty does include basic training. Guard and Reservists must have been called to active
duty by federal authority (Title 10) for purposes other than training to attain veteran status. To be considered a veteran, a student must have been released from active duty. If the student is still on active duty and will be released by June 30th of the school year, he or she is considered to be a veteran.

You will also be asked to complete the university’s CSS profile, which helps the university award institutionally based funding. More FAQ’s on FAFSA and CSS can be found here: http://admissions.unc.edu/afford/how-to-apply-for-aid/ Fill this out! Many of our non-traditional, independent students receive great financial assistance from the university!

**Graduate School Funding**

The Graduate Funding Information Center (GFIC) supports current and prospective UNC-Chapel Hill graduate students seeking sources of funding for independent research, collaborative projects, fellowships, program development, and other scholarly activities. While we do not fund students directly, we provide assistance and instruction on the best use of our resources to help you find appropriate funding opportunities and craft strong applications for them. http://gradfunding.web.unc.edu/

Professional students should seek further funding information from their school.

**Working on Campus**

There are many different opportunities to work part-time on campus during your studies.

**VA Work Study program:** If you are using your VAEB, you can apply to be paid for work through the VA. Your job must be directly related to supporting student veterans on campus. While we do have VA work studies in the CVRC, that doesn’t mean you can’t work elsewhere! If you see a niche that needs to be filled in a department to support student veterans, contact Amber to discuss what a successful work study application might look like for that office. Available to any student using VAEB and only available during the semester.

**Federal Work Study program:** When you file FAFSA, you are also considered for funding through the FWS program. This is a set amount of money that you can receive through the academic year, paid bi-weekly based on the number of hours you work. FWS jobs are available all over campus, and it never hurts to reach out directly to an office or department to see what jobs might be available for you! Find out more about FWS and search for jobs here: https://studentaid.unc.edu/types-of-aid/work/ Only available to undergraduate students who qualify for federal financial aid and only available during the semester/until funds run out.

**Other part-time work on campus:** Often departments will have limited funds to hire a student as a temporary, part-time employee. You can find those jobs listed here: https://careers.unc.edu/students/resources/handshake Open to any student who qualifies and often continues during breaks.

**Graduate Assistant/Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant:** If you are a graduate student, there are many opportunities for you to pursue part-time work within or outside your department that contributes to your studies. You can see the explanation of how these differ from each other here: http://gradschool.unc.edu/funding/gradschool/assistantships.html You should inquire directly to a department about assistantships that might be available or sign up to be notified of postings from the Graduate School Funding information center here: http://gradschool.unc.edu/funding/listserv.html
**Outside Grants and Scholarships**

Visit the Office of the Dean of Students’ Scholarships, Grants, and Loans for Military-Affiliated Students website, where you will find information on over 30 Scholarships/Grants/Loans. Scholarships and search tools are listed for informational purposes only and should not be considered an endorsement. You can also go to the following link to download a PDF of this list: https://odos.unc.edu/sites/odos.unc.edu/files/documents/scholarships_grants_and_loans_for_military-affiliated_students.pdf

If you are receiving and using 100% VAEB, beware of grants or scholarships that say they must be applied directly to tuition and fees. If you use a grant that must be applied to tuition and fees in conjunction with your VAEB, the university is required to deduct the appropriate amount from your tuition invoice to the VA. So, essentially you did extra work to get the same amount of money. Grants or scholarships that say “General Education Expenses” should be good to go and can be used in addition to your VAEB without penalty.

**North Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Scholarships for children of military persons.**


**SECTION V: LIFE AT CHAPEL HILL**

**Student Orientations**

**Undergraduates:** There are several orientations available for undergraduate transfer students each summer. This orientation is mandatory for all transfer students to attend. https://nscp.p.unc.edu/transfer-students/transfer-student-orientation

**Graduate Schools:** The Graduate School hosts a 1-day orientation session the Thursday prior to the beginning of the fall semester. http://gradschool.unc.edu/events/orientation/

**Professional Schools:** Each professional school will host their own orientation session.

**Boot Print to Heel Print**

This onboarding program is designed specifically for newly enrolled, readmitted, or deferred enrollment students who are active duty, veteran, reservist, or National Guard. Boot Print to Heel Print offers an opportunity for students to learn how to utilize all the great resources that are available to aid in their success at Carolina, to build skills that are needed in the classroom, and to connect with other military-affiliated students. The program is currently being offered once each August just prior to the semester beginning. Information and assistance starts much earlier though. Soon after you enroll, you will begin receiving emails full of helpful tips and reminders of what you should be reviewing and completing prior to the fall semester beginning. Starting May 2017, there will be webinars offered to assist you in understanding how your VAEB and financial aid work, guidance on obtaining residency or in-state tuition, and addressing general transition to UNC concerns.

For undergraduates, this program is 2-days long. For graduate/professional students, this program is 1-day long. We make every attempt to pay for all associated program costs to include parking and meals. You will receive information regarding the program dates shortly after you have enrolled with the university.

What have previous students had to say about attending Boot Print to Heel Print?
“I greatly enjoyed the BPTHP orientation. Truthfully, I did not realize how anxious I was/am about starting graduate school and transitioning from my daily routine. Although I am still on Active Duty and not yet a veteran, it is still an adjustment. I was amazed by how many services, organizations, and outlets exists to help military-affiliated students.”

~ Kathryn, United States Army, Graduate Student

“I participated in this two day orientation, it was great to meet other veterans, and see all the resources that are available to us here. I really look forward to connecting again with this group of people and am really excited to be here.”

~ Allen, United States Army veteran

Transition and Thrive

This is an opportunity for incoming undergraduate transfer students to take between 4-7 credits within a supportive cohort environment prior to their first fall semester at UNC. Students will enroll in EDUC 130 and EDUC 390 during Summer Session II. Students may also choose to enroll in one additional course in consultation with their advisor. STEM students may also have the opportunity to participate in a no-credit chemistry refresher course that is designed to prepare them for upper level chemistry classes at UNC (and you get to hang out with some pretty cool STEM professors who want to help you be successful). Accepted transfer students will receive an invitation to apply for this program shortly after admissions announcements, but you can view a detailed summary and FAQ here: http://studentsuccess.unc.edu/summer-transfer-program/

“Life outside of the military can be an overwhelming experience as a civilian let alone a student surrounded by generations younger than you, making you feel out of placed. However, attending the summer transfer program allowed me to transition at a slower pace and adapt to my new surroundings, making following semesters less alarming and frustrating.”

~ Mariah, United States Marine Corps veteran

I took EDUC 301 this semester and I got more out of that class than all the others combined. I’d say the number one piece of (unsolicited) advice for that course is to really make the research project all about exploring the areas of UNC that best fit your future education or career goals. It’ll give you a ticket into places that you might not have had if you weren’t ‘conducting research’. I was able to meet and interview some really great people in the EXSS department. That’s what worked for me, so hopefully it’ll help someone else.”

~ Amanda, United States Army veteran

Student Health Insurance

Student Health Insurance is mandatory for all students. You may choose to waive the Student Blue insurance if you already have other insurance options. Failure to register an alternative insurance with the school will result in an automatic charge to your student account for the Student Blue insurance. [https://campushealth.unc.edu/charges-insurance/mandatory-student-health-insurance](https://campushealth.unc.edu/charges-insurance/mandatory-student-health-insurance)

While you may be able to waive the health insurance requirement through your VA health care (not TRICARE insurance), please note that health care provided at the VA is not necessarily the same as health insurance. You may want to consider maintaining health insurance if you would like to seek providers outside of the VA health care system or be prepared for emergencies.
Chapter 31 and 33 ONLY: If you elect the Blue Cross Blue Shield Student insurance plan when you are registered for 6 or more main campus credit hours, BCBS will bill your student account. If you do not have health insurance through other options, please inform the SCO so that they may bill the VA for the insurance.

Campus Health Services (CHS)/Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
You pay a mandatory fee for CHS and CAPS, why not take advantage of their many services?

All students who pay this fee can use CHS and spouses of regular, full-time undergraduate and graduate students can also receive care at CHS after paying an additional fee and providing proof of insurance and marriage or domestic partnership. In addition to general health care, CHS offers many other services, such as nutrition, men’s services, women’s services, transgender health, immunizations, and way too many to list! They are also centrally located on campus and connected to the hospital. Find out more of what they have to offer you here: https://campushealth.unc.edu/services

CAPS offers drop-in appointments 5 days a week, individual therapy, couples therapy, support groups for a variety of reasons, and medication management. These services are free. They are not connected to the VA or DOD in any way, shape, or form, offering a truly confidential place to receive support, whether that is working through transitional issues or more going on in your life. You can find more information about their services here: https://caps.unc.edu/ They also can work with you to help find a community provider that meets your psychological and financial needs.

Housing

Only first-year, traditional aged students are required to live on campus. Everyone else gets a choice! If you are interested in accommodations that are available for on campus, you can check out the Carolina Housing website: https://housing.unc.edu/

Ram Village Undergraduate Apartments offer apartment style living for single undergraduates. Mason Farm Graduate Housing is available for single graduate students. Family housing is available at Baity Hill. All of these locations are on UNC campus and connected with Chapel Hill Transit bus lines. Please contact the CVRC if you would like to explore one of these options so we can put you in touch with the right person for each community.

There is a variety of resources available about living off campus. You can find general information about the community here https://offcampus.unc.edu/ and information about available apartments or homes here https://offcampushousing.unc.edu If you are not familiar with this area, please feel free to call the CVRC and ask lots of questions! Finding the right location/fit for you and your family right from the very beginning can be immensely helpful. Since this is a college town, a lot of leases turn over in the May-July timeframe, so look early and often! If you are planning to live outside of Chapel Hill, pay attention to the next section on Transportation and Parking.

Transportation and Parking

Our campus has very limited parking available. Everyone who desires to park their car on campus will pay a parking pass fee or for hourly parking. If you live off campus, you are considered a commuter (you do not have to enter the parking lottery!) and can purchase a parking pass for the S-11 area, which is located near the Smith Center on Manning Drive. There is a bus stop located next to this parking lot (U and RU busses are the ones that circle the campus). You can read more about student parking and fees here: https://move.unc.edu/parking/student-parking/
If you have a disability that necessitates being able to park closer to your academic buildings, you can complete the application for a disability pass here: https://move.unc.edu/parking/accessibility/ These are the orange restricted parking signs you see around many of our academic buildings. You can NOT park in them with only a government issued handicap placard.

For other hardship parking needs (medical treatment, caregiver concerns, etc), you will need to submit an application with required documentation to the Hardship Parking Committee. This information is available on the student parking page linked above.

Chapel Hill Transit, which runs throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro, is free! The buses also have bike racks available. You can see the bus routes and schedules here: http://www.townofchapelhill.org/town-hall/departments-services/transit/routes-schedules
Next Bus app (pretty helpful, but you still need to know your routes!): Next Bus- Real Time Transit
Information: https://www.nextbus.com/

Durham and Raleigh also offer bus systems that connect with Chapel Hill Transit. You can register with the Commuter Alternative Program to receive free or reduced fares and other great rewards for using alternative transportation. https://move.unc.edu/cap/

Parenting
We know that balancing being a parent and a student can be challenging. This is one reason we strive to encourage students to find a supportive community here at Carolina. Additionally, you can find several resources and policies to assist you here: https://womenscenter.unc.edu/resources/parenting/

Please reach out to the CVRC or the Carolina Women’s Center if you ever encounter issues with paying for daycare or have questions on other programs that may be available to support you and your children.

Children are also welcomed to spend time in the CVRC with their parent or a caregiver. We have a limited amount of games for children and a television. We try to host family programs once each semester.

We also boast the nicest and largest lactation room on campus! You can find a comprehensive list of all available lactation rooms on campus here: https://womenscenter.unc.edu/pregnancy-lactation/

Just a few reasons to use the Carolina Veterans Resource Center

The SVAC knows A LOT about Carolina, VAEB, and assisting military-affiliated students with transitional or academic challenges, and wants to share that knowledge with you! Work study students are also trained to assist you with questions about the university or benefits that may be available. We strive to empower you with all the information you need to make informed choices throughout your educational experience.

Comfortable furniture with lots of large tables to spread out your work. You don’t have to wander around a building full of students looking for a space to study for several hours. We have separate “quiet study” spaces from the main lounge area.

Refrigerator, coffee maker, microwave, electric tea kettle available for your convenience (and sometimes there is even food and snacks here!) After-hours access available (you must visit during business hours to get your OneCard activated)! Really great for weekend study sessions or group work.

Camaraderie with others who have shared life experiences.