# Table of Contents

- Applying to UNC Chapel Hill .............................................................. 3
- In-State Tuition for Non-Resident Active Duty Service Members and North Carolina National Guard Members ....... 3
- In-state Tuition for Qualifying Military Veterans and their Dependents (Choice Act Section 702) ......................... 3
- Obtaining Residency ........................................................................ 4
- Yellow Ribbon Scholarship .............................................................. 4
- Applying for VA Education Benefits .............................................. 4
- Transferring your VA Education Benefits from another institution ............................................. 4
- Eligibility for VA Education Benefits ............................................. 5
- Chapter 33: Post-9/11 GI Bill .......................................................... 5
- Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty ......................... 6
- Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill – Selective Reserve ............... 6
- Chapter 31: VA Vocational Rehabilitation Education Program ....... 6
- Chapter 1606: MGIB Selected Reserve ....................................... 7
- Chapter 1607: Reserve Educational Assistance Program ........... 7
- Chapter 1606 and 1607 Recipients ................................................. 8
- What else do you need to know? .................................................... 8

This pamphlet is provided by the Carolina Veterans Resource Center to serve as guidance only.
Applying 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 and application deadlines.

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/

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:
  o All except Air Force: https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signIn.do

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

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/

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.

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/](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/](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. Once accepted to the university, you will need to notify our School Certifying Official that you would like to be placed on the Yellow Ribbon Scholarship waiting list.

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/](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 need to complete VA Form 22-1990.

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.

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.

Transferring your VA Education Benefits from another institution

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](https://www.vets.gov/education)

- Veterans and Reservists - VA Form 22-1995
- All dependents - VA Form 22-5495
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/

The following is only a summary of types of benefits that might available to you.

Chapter 33: Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of educational support for individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, OR individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, OR National Guard members who are on active service under title 32 U.S.C. orders. An honorable character of service is now required for all service periods ending on or after Jan. 4, 2011, including those with the following separation reasons: A Condition Interfering With Duty (CIWD)

- A Condition Existing Prior to Service (EPTS)
- A Hardship (HDSP)

A CIWD, EPTS, and HDSP discharges prior to Jan. 4, 2011, that are not dishonorable still may be qualifying.

If you have eligibility for any other GI Bill program and the Post 9/11 GI Bill, you must make an irrevocable election of the Post-9/11 GI Bill before you can receive any benefits. The amount of support that you may qualify for depends on where you live and what type of degree you are pursuing. Please note: You may enroll for up to two terms as a non-matriculated student and use your GI Bill Educational benefit. For a summary of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, see the VA benefit comparison tool at http://department-of-veterans-affairs.github.io/gi-bill-comparison-tool/.

For veterans and their transferees, Chapter 33 will pay all public school in-state tuition and fees, as well as the mandated medical insurance. Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, and vocational/technical training. For a complete list of covered training, please visit http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp. Additionally, monthly housing allowance, book stipend, and a one-time rural benefit payment are approved under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Active-duty members are limited to the net cost for tuition and fees prorated based on the eligibility tiers (40 - 100 percent) previously established for veterans. Active-duty member are eligible to receive a book stipend.

- The same limitations apply to transferee spouses of active-duty service members.
- This applies to degree programs with a rate of pursuit of more than one-half time.

Housing Allowance rates will change effective Aug. 1 of each year. This allows those who are eligible for both Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31) benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to choose a higher subsistence allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to an E-5 with dependents based on the facility code of the school.

Monthly housing allowance (MHA) is payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance payable is equal to one half the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents.

Notes

- Both the in-resident MHA and distance learning MHA are prorated based on rate of pursuit and rounded to the nearest 10th. A 100 percent eligible student studying at a rate of pursuit of 75 percent would receive 80 percent of the MHA rate. If you cross register for the in-resident MHA, your rate of pursuit will be based on the total number of credits at both institutions.
- The distance learning MHA allocation is equal to half the national average housing allowance for an E-5 with dependents. Allocations are determined by the VA.
Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty

You may be eligible if you have an honorable discharge; AND you have a high school diploma or GED or in some cases 12 hours of college credit; AND you meet the requirements listed in detail at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_ad.asp. These benefits provide veterans with up to 36 months of full-time education pay that must be used prior to the 10-year delimiting end date.

- **Chapter 30 Kicker:** A kicker is part of the enlistment contract. It is often referred to as the Army or Navy College Fund. Higher monthly benefits are paid to Chapter 30 participants with kickers. The higher benefit rates are paid automatically. If veterans do not receive the benefit they believe they are entitled to, they should call the VA regarding the discrepancy so that it can be resolved with the Department of Defense.

- **Chapter 30 Buy-up Program:** Some service members may contribute up to an additional $600 to the GI Bill to receive increased monthly benefits. For an additional $600 contribution, service members may receive up to $5,400 in additional GI Bill benefits. The increased benefit is payable only after leaving active duty, and the additional contribution must be made while on active duty. For more information, contact your personnel or payroll office.

- **Maximum 48 Months for Combined Eligibility:** If you are eligible under more than one VA education program, you may receive a maximum of 48 months of benefits. However, you cannot receive more than 36 months under MGIB. For example, if you were eligible for VEAP before electing MGIB, you may receive up to a total of 48 months of benefits. If you received 12 months under VEAP, you would also have your full 36 months under MGIB.

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_ad.asp

Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill – Selective Reserve

To qualify, you must meet the following requirements:

- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your original obligation. For some types of training, it is necessary to have a six-year commitment that begins after Sept. 30, 1990.

- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT).

- Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT. You may not use 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement.

- Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit. You will also retain MGIB-SR eligibility if you were discharged from Selected Reserve service due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct. Your eligibility period may be extended if you are ordered to active duty.

For more information, please visit http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_sr.asp

Chapter 31: VA Vocational Rehabilitation Education Program

VA Vocational Rehabilitation is a program whose primary function is to help veterans with service-connected disabilities become suitably employed, maintain employment, or achieve independence in daily living. The program offers a number of services to help each eligible disabled veteran reach a rehabilitation goal. These services include vocational and personal counseling, education and training, financial aid, job assistance, and, if needed, medical and dental treatment. Services generally last up to 48 months, but can be extended in certain instances. Veterans may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31) benefits if they:

- Have received, or will receive an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- Have a VA service-connected disability rating of 10% with a serious employment handicap or 20% or more with an employment handicap
- Apply for VR&E services.

Eligible veterans generally have 12 years from date of separation from active military duty OR the date the veteran was first notified of the service-connected disability rating. The VA may approve an extension of time and/or length of training in certain cases.
Veterans who are eligible for an evaluation under Chapter 31 first must apply for services and meet with a vocational rehabilitation counselor. The vocational rehabilitation counselor will work with them to determine if an employment handicap exists as a result of their service-connected disability. If an employment handicap is established and they are entitled to services, the VRC will continue counseling to select a track of services and jointly develop a plan to address their rehabilitation and employment needs. For more information, please visit http://www.benefits.va.gov/voc rehab/index.asp.

Form 28-8832 is an application for counseling only. Do not use this form to apply for vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits (Chapter 31). Use VA Form 28-1900, Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation. These forms are available at www.va.gov/vaforms. You can apply online at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/.

**Chapter 1606: MGIB Selected Reserve**

This is an educational program for active members of the Selected Reserve. Basic eligibility requires a six year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve and satisfactory participation in required Selected Reserve training. Participation in Chapter 1606 requires no monetary contribution on the part of the service member. The Selected Reserve components of the Ready Reserve include the Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, and Air National Guard. Chapter 1606 eligibility is determined by the DoD or the Department of Transportation (Coast Guard), not by the VA. To apply complete VA Form 22-1990.

1606 Kicker: A kicker may be added to the benefit of some Chapter 1606 students. A Chapter 1606 kicker may be part of the original enlistment contract or part of a re-enlistment contract.

**Chapter 1607: Reserve Educational Assistance Program**

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) was established in 2004 as part of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act. It is a DoD education benefit program designed to assist members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency. This program makes certain individuals who were activated or mobilized for more than 90 consecutive days after Sept. 11, 2001 eligible for either education benefits or increased benefits. To apply complete VA Form 22-1990.

**Tuition Assistance or Service Branch sponsored**

Tuition Assistance (TA) is a Department of Defense (DoD) program. VA does not administer TA. TA rules vary by branch of service and can even vary between components within the branches depending on whether the service member is Active duty, Reserve, or National Guard.

If a student receives education benefits from VA and receives TA benefits from the military, duplication of benefits may be an issue. The issue might involve VA regulations, DoD regulations, military branch specific regulations or all three since VA, DoD, and the military branches all have regulations about receiving VA benefits and TA at the same time. Potential duplication issues are outlined below.

DoD has established a policy that Federal Tuition Assistance will not be authorized for classes for which a member is also receiving benefits under Chapter 1606, 1607, or any other GI Bill program other than Chapter 30 or Chapter 33.

If your branch of service is directly funding your education, you will need to ensure that a finance representative has provided a memorandum to the Student Accounts office. You can get further information or assistance by emailing sponsored@unc.edu, http://cashier.unc.edu/payment-options/sponsored/

**Chapter 33 Recipients**: Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members may receive Chapter 33 benefits for the same courses for which they receive TA from the military. Depending on their mobilization time, National Guard and Reserve service members may have varying percentages of Chapter 33 benefits ranging from 40 to 100%. Schools must deduct TA benefits from the net tuition and fees submitted to VA, and Chapter 33 is used to pay toward the remaining out – of – pocket costs.

**Chapter 30 Recipients**: Active duty service members and National Guard and Reserve AGRs may not receive standard Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive TA from the military (with the exception of Top - up). If a student takes several courses, the student cannot receive Chapter 30 benefits for the courses for which TA is paid, but the student can receive Chapter 30 benefits for the courses for which TA is not paid.

Former Active duty service member, who earned Chapter 30 benefits while on Active duty and are currently M – day members of the National Guard or Reserve, may receive standard Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive TA from the military National Guard and Reserve (AGRs cannot).

**Chapter 30 and “Top - up”**: What is Top - up? Top – up allows VA to pay the difference between what TA pays and the cost of the course. The law prohibits Active duty students from receiving regular Chapter 30 benefits and TA for the same course; however, VA students, to
include National Guard and Reserve service members who earned Chapter 30 benefits while on Active duty, in receipt of TA may receive the Chapter 30 Top–up benefit. Service members, current or separated, apply for Top – up by sending a TA authorization form directly to VA. SCOs should not certify courses for which an Active duty service member will receive TA under Chapter 30; however, they should certify courses for which a National Guard or Reserve service member will receive TA under Chapter 30 as long as they are in M - Day status and not AGR status. Detailed information about Tuition Assistance Top–up and about applying for Top–up is available on the GI Bill website at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/tuition_assistance.asp.

Chapter 1606 and 1607 Recipients: As noted in the beginning of this section, DoD will not authorize Federal Tuition Assistance for classes for which a member is also receiving benefits under Chapter 1606 or 1607. National Guard and Reserve M-day service members can receive Federal TA for some classes, and receive Chapter 1606 or 1607 benefits for other classes (for which Federal TA isn't paid) during the same term. Also, students may receive Chapter 1606 or 1607 benefits and State TA simultaneously. For more information, please visit http://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/job_aids/SCO_Handbook.pdf.

What else do you need to know?

What makes a successful application
Living in Chapel Hill and surrounding community
Financial support beyond the GI Bill
Preparing for income gaps

Notes

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

8