



UNC

Systemwide
Evaluation &
Recommendation for
Veterans
Education &
Services



2013
Resource
Guide

UNC SERVES

System Resource Guide

The *UNC SERVES April 2011 Report to the President* evaluated the current state of active duty military and veteran affairs at UNC institutions and provided recommendations for institutional, system-wide, and state/federal statutory policy changes, regulations and/or guidelines to improve access, retention and the graduation of active duty military and veterans at UNC institutions.

The *UNC SERVES 2013 Resource Guide* provides expanded information on current system-wide best practices and a progress report on system-wide efforts to implement UNC SERVES recommendations.

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Goal

Improve access, retention and graduation rates for active-duty service members, Veterans, and their families at UNC institutions.

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★★★★★ UNC General Administration Initiatives ★★★★★

UNC Military Affairs Council (MAC)

√ UNC SERVES Recommendation

The UNC Military Affairs Council is a standing Council that serves as the coordinating body for system-wide military affairs. The Council is comprised of a military liaison from each institution with knowledge and appreciation of both academic and military cultures. The Council held its first meeting in June 2012.

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Winston-Salem State University:	Dr. Esther Powell, Assistant Dean, University College and Lifelong Learning powelles@wssu.edu , 336.750.3464

★★★★★ UNC General Administration Initiatives ★★★★★

UNC System Military Policy, Regulations and Guidelines



UNC General Administration developed a draft system-wide Military Student Success Policy with associated regulations and guidelines to improve military-affiliated student admission, data collection, residency status, campus support structures, military credit transferability, and call to duty procedures. The policy, regulations and guidelines propose a framework for the UNC constituent institutions to develop and maintain a comprehensive network of services for military-affiliated students seeking to meet their educational goals.

North Carolina Military Educational Positioning System: *Explore, Navigate, Graduate*

With funding from the Aurora Foundation and the Cannon Foundation, UNC General Administration is developing the NC Military Educational Positioning System (NC MEPS), an interactive and online resource to assist current and former service members and their families with college preparation and transition to post-graduate careers. Based on the Global Positioning System (GPS) concept, NC MEPS will assist users in developing an academic path from matriculation to graduation.

UNC Faculty and Staff Professional Development Opportunities



The University of North Carolina system partners with the Center for Deployment Psychology, a component center of the Department of Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, to provide workshops throughout the state for mental and behavioral health clinicians on campuses and in the community as well as faculty and staff working with student veterans. In 2013, workshops will be held in the western, central and eastern part of the state and hosted by a UNC constituent institution in that region.

UNC System Presence on North Carolina Military Installations



The University of North Carolina System has worked collaboratively with Fayetteville Technical Community College and the United States Army Special Operations Command (JFK Special Warfare Center and School) to provide educational pathways for Army Special Operators. In March 2013, President Ross signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Commanding General Thomas Gorry of Marine Corp Installations-East (MCI-EAST) to establish a UNC system office aboard Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The UNC system, on behalf of the constituent institutions, offer recruiting, advising and enrollment assistance to soldiers and Marines at their respective military installations.

UNC Partnership for National Security Web Portal



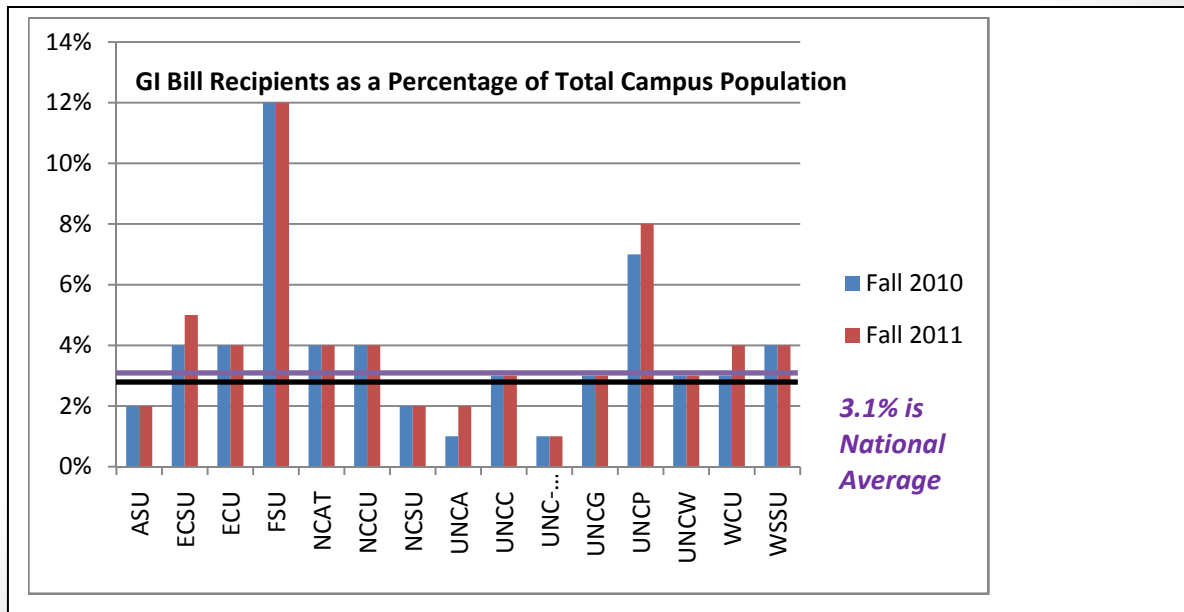
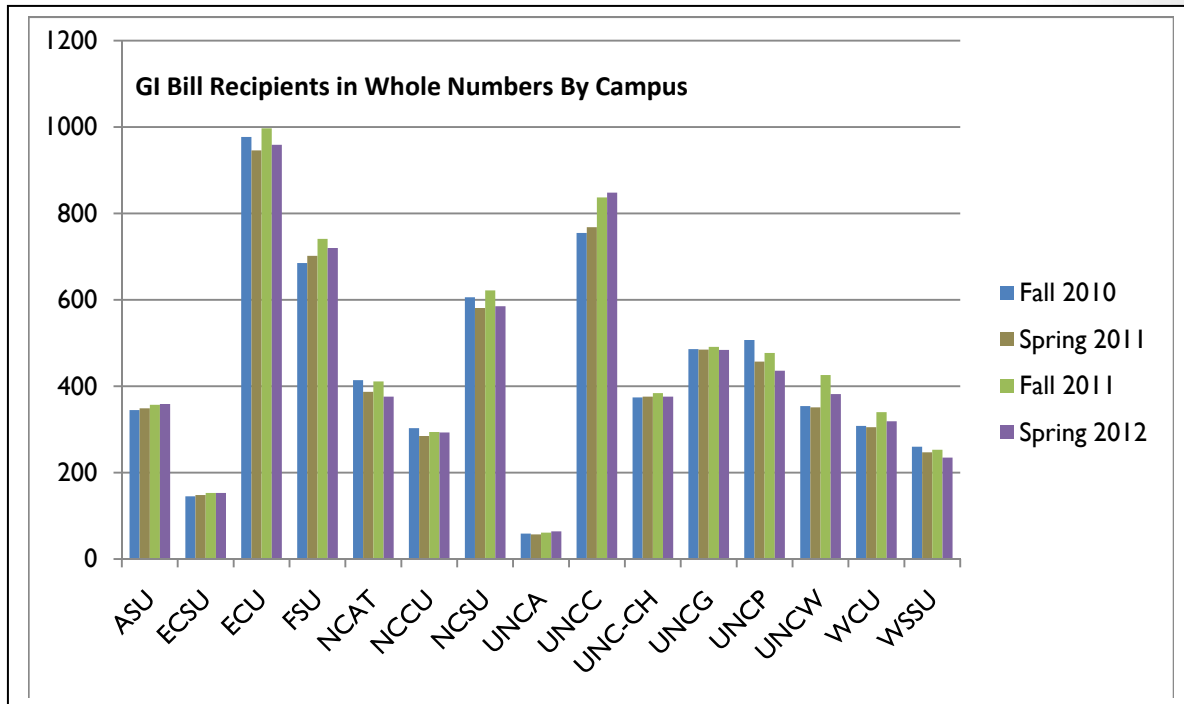
UNC General Administration has developed the UNC Partnership for National Security web portal to provide information on and access to UNC system academic policies, enrollment procedures, and residency rules. There are also links to UNC constituent institution websites as well as information on UNC Partnership for National Security efforts. This web portal serves as the primary point of entry for active duty and veteran members of the armed services and their families.

For more information on these and other UNC system military education initiatives please contact Ann Marie Beall, Director of Military Education, Federal Relations Division, UNC General Administration, 910.399.6405, ambeall@northcarolina.edu.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ UNC System GI Bill Recipients ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Total UNC System GI Bill Population	Term	Share of System Population
6589	Spring 2012	3.2%
6844	Fall 2011	3.1%
6444	Spring 2011	3.1%
6578	Fall 2010	3.0%

The column charts below compare the actual size of the populations on different campuses and the relative size of that population among the general student body.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ UNC SERVES Best Practices ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This matrix illustrates campus progress with the UNC SERVES recommendations as of April 2013.

UNC SERVES

UNC SERVES Best Practice Recommendation															
															Grants PE Credit to Service Members
															Clearly Articulated Military to Campus Credit Equivalencies
															Offers Priority Enrollment for Active Duty Military Students
															Clearly Articulated Call to Duty Student Policy
															Classifies Military Students as Transfer Students
															Admissions Counselor for Military-Affiliated Students
															Offers Conditional Admission Contracts
															Financial Aid Counselor for Military-Affiliated Students
															Accepts Tuition Assistance
															Accepts Veterans Education Benefit
															Offers Payment Plan for Students with VA Payment Delay
															Offers Scholarship or Grant for Military, Veterans or Dependents
															Offers Military or Veteran Specific Housing or Assistance with Off Campus Housing
															Student Affairs Person for Military-Affiliated Students
															Established Student Veteran Organization or Other Military Student Organizations
															Veteran or Military Student Space on Campus
															Military or Veteran Orientation Session
															Tracks Active Duty Military and Veteran Student Populations
															Identifies Military-Affiliated Students on the Student Data File
															PTSD, TBI and Military Stress Trained Support Staff in Counseling Center
															Yellow Ribbon Program Participation
															Military Affairs Liaison Appointed
															Targeted Collateral Material for Military Students
															Established Military Affairs Committee
															Offers Core Education Curriculum Online
															Designated Military Ombudsman to Advocate on Behalf of Students
															Offers Targeted Online Programs to the Military
MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	MoU	Affiliated with the Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC)
															Employs VA Work Study Students
															Dedicated Web Presence for Military-Affiliated Students
															Conducts Military Student Awareness Training for Faculty, Staff and Students
															Military or Veteran "Seminar" Classes
															Delivers Classes on Military Base (with approval from Military Installation)
															Army ROTC
															Air Force ROTC
															Navy/ Marine Corps ROTC

Color Key		Established
		In Progress
		Planning
		TBD

Appalachian State University



Web Resources:

- Admissions – <http://admissions.appstate.edu/military>
- ROTC – <http://rotc.appstate.edu/>
- Student Veterans Association – <http://veterans.appstate.edu/>
- Veterans Benefits – <http://financialaid.appstate.edu/va>

Key Personnel:

- Admissions:** Jayne Dowdy, Admissions/Military Recruitment, dowdyj1@appstate.edu
- Financial Aid:** Jennifer Coffey, Financial Aid and Veterans Benefits, coffeyjd1@appstate.edu
- GI Bill:** Jennifer Coffey, School Certifying Official, coffeyjd1@appstate.edu
- Military Affairs Liaison:** Susan McCracken, External Affairs, mccrackensd@appstate.edu
- Military Ombudsman:** Jennifer Coffey, Financial Aid, coffeyjd1@appstate.edu
- Student Affairs:** Bob Gibbard, Advising and Orientation, gibbardro@appstate.edu
- Transfer Course Credit:** Jane Rex, Office of Transfer Articulation, rexjm@appstate.edu
- Tuition Assistance:** Jennett Reece, Student Accounts, reeceje@appstate.edu

Benefit Delay Policy

When processing GI Bill certifications each semester, the School Certifying Official works with Student Accounts to automatically apply a hold on all GI Bill recipients course registration so their classes will not be dropped for non-payment if there is a delay in receipt of benefits.

Housing (On-Campus or Off-Campus)

The Division of Student Development, through the Office of Off-Campus Community Relations, maintains an online off-campus housing and roommate referral service to assist students with finding apartments and roommates (<http://offcampus.appstate.edu/>).

Military Affairs Committee

ASU established and conducted the first meeting of the Military Affairs Committee in spring 2013. A comprehensive mission statement and pressing issues are the first items to be addressed.

ROTC

Appalachian State University's Army ROTC battalion, the ASU Mountaineer Battalion, was established through the Department of Military Science approximately 40 years ago (<http://rotc.appstate.edu/>). ASU is a host battalion with no extension or cross enrolled schools. The U.S. Army is the only branch to offer ROTC at the university.

Appalachian State University (continued)

Scholarships

Military Science and Leadership (ROTC) Scholarship – The Department of Military Science offers 2 and 3-year scholarships for students attending ASU and 4-year scholarships for high school students who are admitted to ASU. The Army is looking for scholars, athletes and leaders to become officers in the National Guard, Army Reserve and Active force upon graduation. Applicants with GPA's of 3.0 or above who have had leadership experience and participate in athletic activities are the most competitive.

Student Veterans Organization

The mission of the ASU Student Veterans Association (<http://veterans.appstate.edu/>) is to provide a social group and support structure to help veterans adjust to and become successful in civilian and college life, raise awareness for veteran issues and facilitate the dissemination of information to veterans, provide mentorship to ROTC students as well as anyone interested in military service, promote community service and volunteerism, and organize worthwhile projects and events pertaining to veterans' needs and issues.

Transfer Credit

The ASU Transfer Articulation Team assesses transfer credit for all students including credit for military training and experience. In addition to awarding Health/Physical Education credit for basic training, ASU also awards Military Science credit when the student submits his or her DD-214. The Team continues to evaluate military transfer credit on a case-by-case basis and the articulation of credit is made easier as they have representation and influence for the entire campus. For more information refer to the ASU Office of Transfer Articulation website <http://ota.appstate.edu/>.

Web Resources:

- Military Outreach – <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/militaryoutreach/>
- Military Programs Office – <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/militaryprograms/>
- ROTC – <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/afrotc/index.cfm>, <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/AROTC/index.cfm>
- Veterans Affairs/Benefits – <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/registrar/Veterans.cfm>
- Veterans Society – <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/militaryprograms/ECUVetSociety.cfm>

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- Military Affairs Liaison:** Jeff Netznik, Continuing Studies, netznikj@ecu.edu
- Military Ombudsman:** Steve Duncan, Admin., Finance and Military Programs, duncans@ecu.edu
- SOC Counselor:** Tierini Hodges, Associate Director of Admissions, hodgesti@ecu.edu
- SOC Representative:** Steve Duncan, Admin., Finance and Military Programs, duncans@ecu.edu
- Student Affairs:** Hank Bowen, Student Services, bowenh@ecu.edu
- Tuition Assistance:** Connie Blake, School Certifying Official, blakec@ecu.edu

Admissions

The Undergraduate Admissions Department at ECU has identified a specific staff member to represent the department for active-duty students on military installations (Tierini Hodges, hodgesti@ecu.edu). This staff-member has experience and knowledge working with the unique needs of service members during the admissions process.

Benefit Delay Policy

If there is a delay in receipt of benefits, ECU will hold the courses as scheduled and allow the student to attend classes pending receipt of funds. Students are also able to negotiate a delay in book payments on a case-by-case basis.

Call to Duty Policy

If a student is notified of a deployment while enrolled in an academic program at ECU, the campus administration will work with the student's instructors to determine if distance education or 'incompletes' are available options. If not, the campus will process a retroactive withdrawal from all classes and issue a full refund.

Distance Education

Through Military Outreach (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/militaryoutreach/>) ECU offers online degree programs to military affiliated students, regardless of duty station. ECU online courses are taught by the same faculty as campus classes and the readings, assignments and exams mirror the on-campus section. These programs include structured, well-designed courses and special instructional techniques to help students succeed in an online environment.

East Carolina University (continued)

Honors/Recognition

The Registrar's Office provides graduating ECU student veterans with honor cords to wear during commencement. In addition, the commencement program indicates that graduates wearing red, white, and blue honor cords are veterans of the armed forces.

The College of Health and Human Services coordinates the Memorial Walk Brick Paver Campaign. Donors have the chance to purchase a brick paver in honor of a veteran, engraved with the veteran's name to be placed along the Memorial Walk on campus. This is a successful fundraising campaign for the ECU ROTC Scholarship Fund.

Military Appreciation Day is an annual event each football season at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Each year one home football game is designated as Military Appreciation Day and ECU fans donate specially priced tickets to local military personnel and their immediate families. On game day there are special patriotic displays and music, and some of the faculty host local officers and wounded warriors for pre-game events.

In 2010, ECU was honored by the Department of Defense with the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. ECU has also received several Patriot Awards and the ESGR Pro Patria Award.

Military Affairs Committee

Members of ECU's Military Advisory Board include a Brigadier General in the Nurse Corps, Navy personnel in health sciences, Marine Corps leaders who advise on the wounded warrior issues, Air Force leaders who help with fly-bys and other Air Force issues, Army personnel, and leadership from both ROTC programs. The Military Advisory Board provides advice to campus leadership on issues such as campus space, facilities, equipment, budget, training, and extra events for cadets and military-affiliated students on campus. The board meets twice a year and communicates via email continuously throughout the academic year.

Programs/Research Initiatives

ECU has a strong community of research initiatives connected with military subject areas. Among their projects:

- Operation Re-entry North Carolina
- Essential Life Skills Research for Military Families
- Integrated Care with Military Families
- Bio-technology Training for Optimal Performance
- SERVIRE Project – Stopping End Organ Vulnerability in Rural Eastern NC

Resources/Support Services

The ECU Military Programs Office (MPO) serves at the primary support office for ECU veterans. The MPO assists students with questions about course offerings, tuition, and residency, as well as special issues that can occur due to military deployments.

To further support their military students and employees, ECU has established Essential Life Skills for Military Families (ELSMF), a series of one-day workshops that equip Guard and Reserve service members and their families with family-readiness tools to use during deployment.

East Carolina University (continued)

ECU is a member of the Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Program that serves to increase career opportunities for military spouses by “partnering with organizations that offer vast career options, portability assurances, and salaries equivalent to their civilian counterparts.”

ROTC

The Military Programs Office oversees the Air Force and Army ROTC programs at ECU and can assist prospective cadets as well as enlisted service members who are interested in returning to college to complete a degree and receive officer commissions (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/afrotc/index.cfm>, <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/AROTC/index.cfm>).

SOC Affiliation

ECU is an institutional member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium.

Student Veterans Organization

The ECU Veterans' Society (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/militaryprograms/ECUVetSociety.cfm>) is a social organization for veterans of all branches of military service, their reserve components, the National Guard and active duty service members who are students, faculty or staff at ECU. The purpose of the society is to provide camaraderie and fellowship for veterans and actively serving military members and to assist veterans in their transition to the academic environment. The Veterans' Society also promotes the good conduct, character and work ethic that a veteran brings from military service to civilian life through leadership by example.

Transfer Credit

ECU has awarded PE and HLTH 1000 credit for military training since the 1980s. Students are required to submit a DD-214 to receive credit. The student is informed of this academic credit during the admissions process, at orientation, by the academic advisor, and at the Senior Summary Check-off Meeting.

Elizabeth City State University



Web Resources:

Credit for Military Experience – http://www.ecsu.edu/undergrad_catalog/military-school-credit.htm

Residency – http://www.ecsu.edu/undergrad_catalog/military-personnel.htm

ROTC – <http://www.ecsu.edu/academics/militaryscience/index.cfm>

Veterans Benefits – http://www.ecsu.edu/undergrad_catalog/veteran-students.htm

Key Personnel:

GI Bill: Wilhelmina Godfrey, School Certifying Official, wlgodfrey@mail.ecsu.edu

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Student Affairs: Anthony Brown, Student Affairs, abrown@mail.ecsu.edu

Tuition Assistance: Wilhelmina Godfrey, Registrar's Office, wlgodfrey@mail.ecsu.edu

Military Affiliations/Partnerships

ECSU shares a close relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard in Elizabeth City and continues to strengthen the relationship in many ways including hosting a reception for new Coast Guard members and their families and developing paid summer internship programs for ECSU students at the Coast Guard Aircraft Repair and Supply Center.

ROTC

The ECSU Department of Military Science is the home of the Army ROTC Viking Battalion (<http://www.ecsu.edu/academics/militaryscience/index.cfm>). Their program prepares students to serve as officers and to have careers of service and success in the United States Army, Army Reserves and Army National Guard.

SOC Affiliation

ECSU is an institutional member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium.

Transfer Credit

In addition to awarding PE Credit, ECSU also awards other credit for military experience and training. The Registrar may award up to 24 credit hours toward a degree. The military transfer credit policy is available on the ECSU website at http://www.ecsu.edu/undergrad_catalog/military-school-credit.htm.

Fayetteville State University



Web Resources:

- FSU Fort Bragg Center – <http://www.uncfsu.edu/ftbraggcampus>
- FSU Seymour Johnson AFB Campus – <http://www.uncfsu.edu/sjafb>
- GoArmyEd – <http://www.uncfsu.edu/bursar/GoArmyEd.htm>
- ROTC – <http://www.uncfsu.edu/armyrotc>, <http://wpblog.uncfsu.edu/afrotc/>
- Student Veterans Organization – https://uncfsu.collegiatelink.net/organization/FSU_SVA
- Veterans Affairs – <http://www.uncfsu.edu/military-students>
- Veterans Benefits – <http://www.uncfsu.edu/ftbraggcampus/va-services>
- Veterans Business Outreach Center – <http://www.fsuvboc.com/>

Key Personnel:

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- Financial Aid:** Veronica Alexander, Military Affiliated Services, valexander@uncfsu.edu
- FSU Ft. Bragg Center:** Veronica Alexander, Military Affiliated Services, valexander@uncfsu.edu
- GI Bill:** Veronica Alexander, School Certifying Official, valexander@uncfsu.edu
- Military Affairs Liaison:** Veronica Alexander, Military Affiliated Services, valexander@uncfsu.edu
- Military Ombudsman:** Veteran’s Administration Educational Student Services
910-672-1628 (main campus) or 910-672-2965 (Ft. Bragg campus)
- SOC Counselor:** Veronica Alexander, Military Affiliated Services, valexander@uncfsu.edu
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- Student Affairs:** Greg Moyd, Student Affairs, gmoyd@uncfsu.edu
- Tuition Assistance:** Veronica Alexander, Military Affiliated Services, valexander@uncfsu.edu

Call to Duty Policy

FSU’s close proximity to Fort Bragg results in many active-duty service members enrolling in classes on the main campus and through the FSU Ft. Bragg extension site. Therefore they often have students that must leave on military deployments. FSU waives the application fee for re-admission for these students to encourage their return to campus.

Distance Education

FSU first established its presence on Fort Bragg in 1973. Since then, the FSU Fort Bragg-Pope Army Airfield Center has continued to provide educational opportunities for all military personnel, their dependents, and citizens of the surrounding communities. The focus is to “Target & Achieve” the specific needs and requirements unique to the military. Students may take a minimum of three semester hours or a maximum of nine semester hours credit each term, depending upon personal obligations. All courses are taught after standard business hours to afford greater flexibility and opportunity for learning. FSU also offers classes in the Interactive Remote Classrooms at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Watkins-Das Education Center using the latest video conferencing techniques to deliver content.

Fayetteville State University (continued)

Military Affairs Committee

The Campus Military Task Force works to address current and future issues affecting the admission, continuing enrollment, progress toward a degree, and quality of the university experience for FSU students who are active duty members of the military, military veterans and military spouses and dependents. The Task Force reports to the Office of the Chancellor and is comprised of FSU faculty and staff from the College of Arts and Sciences and graduate programs as well as representatives from the offices of Admissions, the Registrar, Financial Aid and Veteran Services, Auxiliary Services, Career Services, and Student Affairs.

Orientation

FSU provides a specialized orientation session for all of its military affiliated students. In addition to the content provided to traditional students FSU also includes topics such as transfer credit for military training, benefits enrollment, and the campus resources available on base at Fort Bragg.

Resources/Support Services

The FSU Veteran Student Center is a one-stop shop for student veterans and connects students with resources on campus and with one another. The Center staff assists students with benefits processing, registration, advising, career services, and student organization events. The 1,100-square-foot center has offices and a conference room, a waiting area for families and computers for veterans to use. It houses three full-time staff members and two VA Work Study student workers.

The FSU Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) provides resources for student veterans at FSU as well as those veterans residing in the region. The VBOC mission is to advance the growth and commercial competitiveness of veteran owned small business enterprises through education and services. Working in concert with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the VBOC focuses on business development, technology deployment, and e-commerce. The VBOC staff provides counseling, training, business plan assistance, and resources to help with finance options.

ROTC

Through the Department of Military Science, FSU is the home of Bronco Company, part of the Army ROTC Campbell Battalion consisting of Fayetteville State University, Campbell University, Methodist University and UNC Pembroke (<http://www.uncfsu.edu/armyrotc>). The Department of Aerospace Studies is the home of FSU Air Force ROTC Detachment 607 whose members include students from FSU, Methodist College and UNC Pembroke (<http://wpblog.uncfsu.edu/afrotc/>).

SOC Affiliation

FSU is an institutional member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium and Degree Network System (SOCAD – Army).

Student Veterans Organization

The FSU chapter of Student Veterans of America (SVA) is a network of veterans committed to excellence and service (https://uncfsu.collegiatelink.net/organization/FSU_SVA). Established on February 18, 2011, the FSU SVA mission is to provide a network of support for fellow veterans, active military and family members of military service members attending the university.



North Carolina A & T State University

Web Resources:

- Distance Education – <http://www.ncat.edu/academics/distance-learning/military.html>
- ROTC – <http://www.ncat.edu/divisions/academic-affairs/rotc/>
- Veterans Benefits – <http://www.ncat.edu/student-affairs/student-services/ovdss/veteran/education-benefits.html>
- Veteran & Disability Support Services – <http://www.ncat.edu/student-affairs/student-services/ovdss/index.html>

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Admissions: Joseph Montgomery, Enrollment Management, jmontgom@ncat.edu

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Military Affairs Liaison: Eve Andree, Military Student Liaison, evea@ncat.edu

SOC Representative: Sherri Avent, Student Financial Aid, avent@ncat.edu

Student Affairs: Judy Rashid, Student Affairs, jrashid@ncat.edu

Tuition Assistance: Eve Andree, Military Student Liaison, evea@ncat.edu

Call to Duty Policy

As soon as an enrolled student receives notification of a pending deployment, the student should submit a copy of their orders to the Military Student Liaison. Additional details can be found online at <http://www.ncat.edu/academics/distance-learning/military.html>.

Distance Education

For students whose circumstances will not allow traditional access to North Carolina A&T State University’s bachelor, master and doctoral programs, students may access degree programs through an array of online courses. The Distance Education Office can connect service members and veterans to courses offered online through the university (<http://www.ncat.edu/academics/distance-learning/index.html>).

Honors/Recognition

North Carolina A&T State University organizes several events throughout the year to recognize their veteran students:

- a Veterans Day event,
- a social event for veteran students and their families,
- a luncheon for veterans at the beginning of the year to discuss local resources, and
- a pre-Memorial Day event at the end of the spring semester.

Orientation

As part of the larger orientation for adult and nontraditional students, an all-inclusive veteran session takes place to address the needs of veterans. Students learn about their VA education benefits and financial aid options, managing wellness on and off campus, special veteran events and support programs. This is also an opportunity to meet North Carolina A&T State University faculty, staff as well as other student veterans making the transition to academic life.

North Carolina A & T State University (continued)

Resources/Support Services

The Office of Veteran and Disability Support Services occupies a convenient space on campus and houses the School Certifying Official, VA Work Studies, and other staff providing resources for veteran students. The space also offers several work stations for students to use for school work and study groups.

ROTC

Through their Department of Military Science, North Carolina A&T State University is the home of the Screaming Blackbirds, Air Force ROTC (<http://www.ncat.edu/divisions/academic-affairs/rotc/airforce/index.html>) and the Army ROTC Aggie Battalion (<http://www.ncat.edu/divisions/academic-affairs/rotc/army/index.html>).

SOC Affiliation

North Carolina A&T State University is an institutional member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium.

Staff Awareness

In spring 2013, North Carolina A&T State University partnered with the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP), a grant-funded organization, to provide an intensive training workshop for university and community clinicians who interact with service members pre-, mid-, and post-deployment. The workshop will also be open to university faculty and staff who work with active duty and veteran members of the armed services.

Student Veterans Organization

North Carolina A&T State University student veterans are in the process of establishing a Student Veterans Organization on their campus.

Transfer Credit

North Carolina A&T State University awards 6 hours of PE credit to veteran and military students. Service members may be eligible to receive additional college credit. Students must submit their DD-214 to the Admissions Office to be considered for all transfer credit options.

VA Work Study

The North Carolina A&T State University Office of Veteran and Disability Support Services (OVDSS) employs part-time student workers under the VA's Work Study Program. VA Work Study students assist with record keeping for GI Bill certification and answering phones for the School Certifying Official. In addition, the student workers help design flyers and other marketing materials for the OVDSS programs.

North Carolina Central University



Web Resources:

- ROTC – <http://www.nccu.edu/Academics/sc/artsandsciences/militaryscience/>
- Student Veterans Organization – <http://www.nccu.edu/veteransaffairs/links.cfm>
- Veterans Affairs – <http://www.nccu.edu/veteransaffairs/index.cfm>
- Veterans Law Clinic – <http://law.nccu.edu/clinics/veterans-law/>

Key Personnel:

- Financial Aid:** Sherry Henderson, Scholarships & Student Aid, hendersons@nccu.edu
- GI Bill:** Tomeka Davis, School Certifying Official, davist@nccu.edu
- Government Relations:** Starla Tanner, Government & Community Relations, stanner@nccu.edu
- Military Affairs Liaison:** Tomeka Davis, School Certifying Official, davist@nccu.edu
- Registrar:** Joyce Kovalik, Registrar’s Office, jkovalik@nccu.edu
- SOC Representative:** Clayton Mack, Extended Studies, cmack@nccu.edu
- Tuition Assistance:** Brenda Mitchell, Student Accounting, bmitchell@nccu.edu

Resources/Support Services

The NCCU Office of Veterans Affairs recently launched a new web site to serve as a comprehensive resource for all of their student veterans (<http://www.nccu.edu/veteransaffairs/index.cfm>). Included on the site are links to potential student employment opportunities and scholarship sources specifically for veterans.

The NCCU School of Law operates a Veterans Law clinic that provides legal advice to veterans in the community and throughout the state (<http://law.nccu.edu/clinics/veterans-law/>). Under extensive supervision, law students assist veterans and their families with the complexities and technical aspects of filing their claims with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Offices nationwide, the Board of Veterans Appeals, and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. They have expanded this service to reach veterans throughout North Carolina using the TALIAS Network.

The NCCU Veterans Center, funded by an \$18,000 grant from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, opened in fall 2012 in the Miller-Morgan building on the Durham campus. In addition to resources specifically for student veterans, there is a computer center and lounge to help students connect with one another.

ROTC

The Department of Military Science provides students with the opportunity to become a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army upon completion of an undergraduate degree (<http://www.nccu.edu/Academics/sc/artsandsciences/militaryscience/>). The Army ROTC Program is the headquarters for Army ROTC at NCCU and Duke University.

NCCU has a cross-town agreement with Duke University to offer Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) through the Office of Aerospace Studies. AFROTC offers a four-year and a two-year curriculum leading to a commission as a second lieutenant.

North Carolina Central University (continued)

SOC Affiliation

NCCU is an institutional member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium.

Student Veterans Organization

NCCU Eagle VETS is a recognized chapter of Student Veterans of America and was established to assist veterans and dependents with their assimilation into academia by providing the proper networks and resources required for optimal academic and professional achievement (<http://www.nccu.edu/veteransaffairs/links.cfm>). In the spirit of NCCU's motto, "Truth and Service," Eagle VETS proudly promotes service to our community, University, and organization.

Web Resources:

NCSU Veterans Affairs – <http://www.ncsu.edu/veterans/>
Leadership in the Public Sector Online Degree – <http://lps.ncsu.edu/military/>
ROTC – <http://www.ncsu.edu/rotc/>
General H. H. Shelton Leadership Center – <http://www.ncsu.edu/extension/sheltonleadership/>
Student Veterans Association- <http://clubs.ncsu.edu/sva/>

Key Personnel:

GI Bill: Holly Danford, School Certifying Official, hmdanfor@ncsu.edu
Military Affairs Liaison: Tracey Ray, Student Diversity, teray@ncsu.edu
SOC Representative: Richard Kearney, Public & International Affairs, rick_kearney@ncsu.edu
Tuition Assistance: Allison Bennett, Cashiers Office, ambennet@ncsu.edu

Benefit Delay Policy

The NCSU Cashiers Office will defer the tuition balance to the end of the semester for GI Bill recipients when VA benefits are delayed. A payment plan is initiated using the Tuition Management Systems (TMS) allowing the student to continue the semester without financial hardship.

Call to Duty Policy

NCSU waives the application fee for re-admission to encourage students to return to the university and complete their degrees after a military deployment.

Distance Education

NCSU has increased its ability to deliver distance education and courses on military installations by employing adjunct professors who live near the area bases. This allows greater flexibility to meet the demand of active-duty service members who seek a higher education but cannot commute to campus during regular class hours.

The NCSU Leadership in the Public Sector (LPS) program is an undergraduate degree completion program delivered entirely by distance education (<http://lps.ncsu.edu/military/>). The LPS program was created to provide military and non-traditional students with a liberal arts foundation in the ethical, theoretical, and policy analytical skills necessary to be effective leaders in public sector organizations. The core curriculum focuses on leadership in local, state, federal, and nonprofit organizations, but the program itself includes a broad range of courses that allow students to complete their bachelor’s degree requirements within the NCSU College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

Honors/Recognition

The NCSU School Certifying Official provides graduating active duty and veteran students with red, white, and blue honor cords to wear during commencement. The cords are provided free of charge.

North Carolina State University (continued)

New Student Seminar

USC 120 is a credit-bearing class that focuses on the transition of veterans and service members into the academic environment and campus community. Topics include academic success skills and academic culture typical of any new student seminar course, but USC 120 also includes campus resources and student services specifically for veterans. The course is offered through the First Year College.

Outreach Efforts

NCSU reaches out to young children of military families through Operation Military Kids NC. This program connects civic and community groups, military, businesses, and educators to plan educational and recreational programs for military dependents. For more information about Operation Military Kids refer to <http://www.operationmilitarykids.org>.

Resources/Support Services

The NCSU Veteran Affairs Office provides student veterans with an online introduction to the university that provides information about accessing and utilizing VA benefits and assists with the transition from military to academic life (<http://www.ncsu.edu/veterans/index.html>, click on VA Orientation).

ROTC

NC State offers all four Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs in one location – Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps ROTC (<http://www.ncsu.edu/rotc/>). These programs are designed to train young men and women to assume leadership roles in today's military. The end result of these programs is a commission as an officer in their respective service. All NCSU ROTC programs offer some sort of scholarship and other monetary incentives.

SOC Affiliation

NCSU is an institutional member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium through the NCSU Department of Public and International Affairs.

Staff Awareness

As part of new employee orientation, the NCSU Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity offers a veterans affairs workshop. In this workshop, participants learn about veterans and the discrimination they may experience. Participants also learn about the laws regarding veteran status.

Student Veterans Organization

The NCSU Student Veterans of America Chapter was founded in 2009 and continues to grow. The group is devoted to creating a veteran friendly campus. Interested student veterans may contact the organization through their website <http://clubs.ncsu.edu/sva/>.

Transfer Credit

Student veterans are awarded PE credit for military training and Military Science credit as appropriate. Credit is awarded upon enrollment.

North Carolina State University (continued)

VA Work Study

The School Certifying Official enlists the aid of part-time student workers under the VA's Work Study program. These students help with VA benefits processing and play an integral role in the advocacy efforts of the veteran student organization leading to increased support and resources for veterans at NCSU.

UNC Asheville



Web Resources:

Student Veterans Organization – <http://transition.unca.edu/veterans-programs-and-services>
 Veterans Benefits – <http://registrar.unca.edu/veteran-services>
 Veterans Programs and Services – <http://transition.unca.edu/veterans-programs-and-services>

Key Personnel:

Financial Aid: Katie Keith, Financial Aid Office, kkeith@unca.edu
GI Bill: Amanda Deweese, School Certifying Official, adeweese@unca.edu
Military Affairs Liaison: Stephanie Franklin, Transition & Parent Programs, sfrankli@unca.edu
Military Ombudsman: Stephanie Franklin, Transition & Parent Programs, sfrankli@unca.edu
Registrar: Debbie Race, Office of the Registrar, drace@unca.edu
Student Affairs: Stephanie Franklin, Transition & Parent Programs, sfrankli@unca.edu
Tuition Assistance: Amanda Deweese, Office of the Registrar, adeweese@unca.edu

Benefit Delay Policy

In the case of a delay in GI Bill benefits, a UNCA student veteran is allowed to continue attending classes and is not dropped from any courses due to the delay. If a student in this situation needs money for books or living expenses, emergency loans are available from the Financial Aid Office through the Leonard S. Levitch Student Loan Fund. The maximum loan amount is \$250 and must be repaid prior to the start of the next semester.

Call to Duty Policy

Whenever a UNCA student is called to active duty, he/she must notify the Registrar's Office in order to be retroactively dropped from all courses. A full refund is initiated and the School Certifying Official notifies the local VA so that this will be correctly reflected on their record and their benefits will be restored accordingly upon their return to campus.

Military Affairs Committee

The UNCA Military Task Force Committee is comprised of faculty and staff from all academic and administrative areas and meets monthly to discuss veteran-related issues. Task Force meetings are open to all faculty, staff and students.

Outreach Efforts

The Division of Student Affairs, Veterans Programs and Services organizes student veteran initiatives at UNCA including a Veterans Day event and an information workshop presented by representatives from the Asheville VA Medical Center where students are introduced to and encouraged to sign up for benefits.

Student Veterans Organization

In spring 2013, UNCA will establish the Veteran Alliance, a new veteran student organization. Veteran Alliance is open to all student veterans, as well as students interested in veterans' affairs (<http://transition.unca.edu/veterans-programs-and-services>).

UNC-Chapel Hill



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Web Resources:

- Admissions – <http://admissions.unc.edu/Apply/Veterans/default.html>
- Military Family Resources – <http://fsp.unc.edu/military-families-resources>
- Veterans Benefits – <http://registrar.unc.edu/AcademicServices/VeteranAffairs/index.htm>
- Veteran Services – <http://deanofstudents.unc.edu/news-events/news/are-you-student-veteran>

Key Personnel:

Accessibility Resources: Jim Kessler, Accessibility Resources and Services, jim_kessler@unc.edu

Admissions: Kyle Brazile, Undergraduate Admissions, kbrazile@email.unc.edu

Financial Aid: Aesha Greene, Scholarships and Student Aid, aesha_greene@unc.edu

GI Bill: Jan Benjamin, School Certifying Official, jan.benjamin@unc.edu

Military Liaison: Taffye Clayton, Diversity & Multicultural Affairs, taffye@unc.edu

Student Affairs: Dean Blackburn, Dean of Students Office, blackburn@unc.edu
Aaron Bachenheimer, Fraternity/Sorority Life & Community Involvement,
bachenhe@email.unc.edu

Tuition Assistance: Diana Malinsky, Accounting & 3rd Party Billing, malinsky@email.unc.edu

Admissions

Admission to UNC-Chapel Hill is competitive, but the Office of Undergraduate Admissions recognizes that students travel many paths to college. Their holistic review considers each application thoroughly, as fairly and as thoughtfully as possible, for all-around excellence in academics, the arts, athletics, leadership, service, citizenship, and character. Undergraduate Admissions will grant an expedited admissions decision process for any prospective student on active-duty status at the time of application.

UNC-Chapel Hill’s “Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program,” or “C-STEP,” is a conditional admissions process that the university maintains with community colleges throughout the state. The program selects promising community college and pre-college students and accepts them to the university on a conditional basis pending success at a community college. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions holds 20 spots in C-STEP specifically for service members attending Fayetteville Technical Community College. The service members are conditionally accepted to UNC-Chapel Hill, connected with a community college representative, and provided with a UNC-Chapel Hill mentor.

Call to Duty Policy

The university has an official call to duty policy that includes the full refund of tuition and fees, as well as an option for faculty to use distance education and “incomplete” options. The full policy is published online at <http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/veteran-affairs/withdrawals/>.

UNC-Chapel Hill (continued)

Distance Education

The UNC-Chapel Hill online Master of Public Administration, MPA@UNC: Continue Serving Your Country by Leading It (<http://onlinempa.unc.edu/admissions/military-veterans-information/>) allows active duty and veteran members of the armed services to apply their military experience to earning a Master of Public Administration from the UNC School of Government, a national leader in public management education. By leveraging the latest advancements in online technology, MPA@UNC offers the knowledge and skills required to hold leadership positions in state, local, and federal governments, as well as nonprofit organizations.

UNC-Chapel Hill's online Master of Business Administration, MBA@UNC: Operation Education for Tomorrow's Veteran Leadership (<http://onlinemba.unc.edu/admissions/military/>) provides active duty and veteran members of the armed services with the opportunity to leverage their military leadership, management and relationship skills to prepare for a dynamic future in the global business world. Covering multiple functional areas, from global marketing strategy and corporate finance to operations, the MBA@UNC was designed by world-class research faculty to expand business knowledge and organizational perspective with a strong global context.

Housing (On-Campus or Off-Campus)

UNC-Chapel Hill offers an on-campus housing option for student families through their Baity Hill at Mason Farm apartment community (<http://housing.unc.edu/baityhill>).

The UNC-Chapel Hill Admissions Office provides information on off-campus housing options (<http://www.law.unc.edu/studentlife/housing/default.aspx>). The Admissions Office works with several local apartment complexes and has representatives at the Open House/Admitted Students Days.

Military Affairs Committee

The UNC-Chapel Hill Veterans Resource Team is a comprehensive group of staff-members representing departments from across the campus working specifically with veterans and active duty service members. The team was designed based upon recommendations from the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education and meets once or twice a semester for professional development or to discuss improving policy, programs, and services on campus. Other matters are addressed electronically through email or a password protected portal where the team stores and shares documents and other resources for review.

Outreach Efforts

The UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School is dedicated to helping veterans take their skills as leaders to the next level. Veterans represent an average of 5-7% of enrolled MBA students at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, hailing from every branch of and role within the military, including Foreign Service. UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School supports veterans with:

- a waived application fee for all applicants from the U.S. military,
- a robust Military Veterans Club comprised of service members and partners, and
- a strong and growing student community of military veterans.

The University's School of Social Work has also developed comprehensive resources for military families in partnership with the Family Support Network of North Carolina and Camp Lejeune.

UNC-Chapel Hill (continued)

Programs/Research Initiatives

The Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP) is a congressionally authorized, federally funded initiative administered through the Odum Institute for Research and Social Science at UNC-Chapel Hill. CSSP is a capacity-building initiative designed to strengthen community support for National Guard and Reserve Component Members and their families. CSSP focuses on increasing geographic and financial access to deployment and post-deployment related behavioral health services, especially for those living in rural areas. The program has produced valuable online resources for soldiers and their families, such as a comprehensive database of local resources (<http://www.warwithin.org>).

The UNC-Chapel Hill-Triangle Institute for Security Studies National Security Fellowship Program is a ten-month postgraduate research fellowship for military officers (lieutenant colonels and colonels) and civilian government officials. It is part of the Senior Service College Fellowship Program and is hosted by UNC's Curriculum on Peace, War and Defense in cooperation with the Triangle Institute for Security Studies (<http://nsfp.web.unc.edu/about-2/>). Upon completion of the program fellows receive credit for Senior Service School.

ROTC

Through its Air Force ROTC program, AFROTC Detachment 590, UNC-Chapel Hill provides interested students with the opportunity to experience training in leadership, officership, and physical fitness while gaining an understanding of Air Force life and culture (<http://afrotc.unc.edu/>).

The Naval ROTC program at UNC-Chapel Hill was established in 1940. Today, the program remains dedicated to the development of Midshipmen and cultivating them into leaders of sailors and Marines (<http://studentorgs.unc.edu/nrotc/>).

The mission of the UNC-Chapel Hill Army ROTC Tar Heel Battalion is “to educate, train, and inspire Cadets . . . so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the Army values and prepared to serve successfully as an officer in the United States Army” (<http://armyrotc.unc.edu/>).

Staff Awareness

The UNC-Chapel Hill Counseling Center partners with the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP), a grant-funded organization that provides intensive training workshops to families, employers, and educational institutions who interact with service members pre-, mid-, and post-deployment. The CDP delivered a workshop for UNC-Chapel Hill staff that provided clinical details of working with students who may be facing challenges related to military deployment.

Student Veterans Organization

The UNC-Chapel Hill Military/Service Veterans Club (MSVC) at Kenan-Flagler Business School (<http://specials.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/MBAclubs/veteran/Pages/default.aspx>) is an organization for military and government service veterans and those who support them. The MSVC provides outreach and advice to service members who are MBA applicants, transition and professional assistance for currently enrolled veterans, and networking and camaraderie for all veteran students of not only the Business School but the UNC community in general.

UNC-Chapel Hill (continued)

Transfer Credit

UNC-Chapel Hill awards credit for military training such as the Lifetime Fitness credit for Basic Training, certain History electives for War Tactics schools, and foreign language electives for special language training.

UNC Charlotte



Web Resources:

ROTC – <http://arotc.uncc.edu/>, <http://afrotc.uncc.edu/>
Student Veterans Organization – <http://www.sco.uncc.edu/veteransclub>
Veteran Student Services and Benefits – <http://veterans.uncc.edu>

Key Personnel:

GI Bill: Dominick Sheppard, School Certifying Official, Dominick.Sheppard@uncc.edu
Sherolyn Gibson, School Certifying Official, SD.Gibson@uncc.edu
Military Ombudsman: Alison Jenner, Veteran Student Services, ajenner@uncc.edu
SOC Representative: Jon Hutchins, Admissions, jhutch37@uncc.edu
Student Affairs: Alison Jenner, Veteran Student Services, ajenner@uncc.edu
Tuition Assistance: Alison Jenner, Veteran Student Services, ajenner@uncc.edu

Admissions

Both undergraduate and graduate Admissions at UNC Charlotte have implemented procedures that permit students to self-identify their military affiliation at the time of application. If the student is accepted, the School Certifying Official is notified and the student receives appropriate information on GI Bill and other veteran benefits.

Call to Duty Policy

If a UNC Charlotte student veteran is called to active duty during a term in which they are enrolled he/she can receive a complete withdrawal from classes without academic penalty. Tuition and general fees will be fully refunded unless the student requests otherwise. In addition, the School Certifying Official will assist students with refunds for meal plans and campus parking. UNC Charlotte waives the re-admission application fee upon the student's return to campus. The policy is outlined online at http://unccdsync.com/org/veteranstudentservices/VA_Call_Up.

Housing (On-Campus or Off-Campus)

UNC Charlotte maintains an online off-campus housing and roommate referral service to assist students with finding apartments and roommates (<http://offcampushousing.uncc.edu/>). This is one of the primary ways for students to find information about off-campus housing.

Orientation

UNC Charlotte new student orientations include breakout sessions for military-affiliated students. The Veteran Student Services Office presents information about resources on campus at the Transfer Student Orientation and the School Certifying Official presents information about GI Bill benefits at a separate breakout session at both the Transfer and First-Year Student Orientations.

Resources/Support Services

To better support and serve their military affiliated student population UNC Charlotte established the Veteran Student Services Office (<http://unccdsync.com/org/veteranstudentservices>). The mission of the Veteran Student Services Office is the successful transition and retention of veteran students through outreach and advocacy. It is a one-stop-shop for students utilizing Veterans Affairs benefits and for any student with prior military service.

UNC Charlotte (continued)

ROTC

Through the Department of Military Science, UNC Charlotte is home to the Army ROTC 49er Battalion whose goal is to provide every Cadet with world-class military training and leadership development. (<http://arotc.uncc.edu/>). The Department of Aerospace Studies is home to the UNC Charlotte Air Force ROTC program that prepares students for leadership positions with the United States Air Force (<http://afrotc.uncc.edu>).

SOC Affiliation

UNC Charlotte is an institutional member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium.

Student Veterans Organization

The UNC Charlotte Veterans Club (<http://www.sco.uncc.edu/veteransclub>) was founded with the primary goal of advancing veteran issues. These issues include educational benefits, career placement and advancement, and maximizing the use of VA benefits. The Veterans Club is dedicated to serve those who have served our country and wish to further their education.

Transfer Credit

Student veterans receive approximately 3 semester hours of elective credit upon submission of a copy of the DD-214 to the Veteran Services Office. Up to 6 additional credits may be added upon submission and evaluation of an unofficial copy of the American Council on Education transcript from the applicable military branch.

VA Work Study

The university employs part-time student workers under the VA's Work Study Program. The students work with the School Certifying Official to assist with GI Bill certification and the Veteran Students Outreach Program to orient new students and connect them with resources on campus.

UNC Greensboro



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

Web Resources:

Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project – <http://library.uncg.edu/dp/wv/about.aspx>
Career Services – <http://csc.dept.uncg.edu/students/veterans/>
Dean of Students Office – <http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/vets/>
ROTC – <http://www.ncat.edu/divisions/academic-affairs/rotc/army/index.html>
Veteran Services – <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/veterans/>

Key Personnel:

Admissions: Clay Alexander, Undergraduate Admissions, csalexan@uncg.edu
Financial Aid: Gina Ingraham, Financial Aid Office, gsingra2@uncg.edu
GI Bill: Dedrick Curtis, School Certifying Official, ddcurtis@uncg.edu
Government Relations: Michael Tarrant, Strategic Initiatives, mttarran@uncg.edu
Military Affairs Liaison: Dedrick Curtis, Registrar’s Office, ddcurtis@uncg.edu
Military Ombudsman: Dedrick Curtis, Registrar’s Office, ddcurtis@uncg.edu
Registrar: Dedrick Curtis, Registrar’s Office, ddcurtis@uncg.edu
Student Affairs: Joshua Green, Dean of Students Office, jagreen@uncg.edu
Lisa McGuire, Adult, Transfer & Commuter Programs, lmccguir@uncg.edu
Tuition Assistance: Ashley Sodre, Cashiers Office, apmcdani@uncg.edu

Admissions

The UNCG application for admissions allows prospective students to self-identify their military affiliation at the time of application. The School Certifying Official sends a “Welcome Letter” upon acceptance to the university notifying student veterans of available resources on campus, as well as the necessary steps to initiate GI Bill and/or Tuition Assistance benefits.

Benefit Delay Policy

The Cashier’s Office at UNC Greensboro provides payment plans for GI Bill recipients in the event that benefits are delayed. The School Certifying Official provides documentation to the Cashier’s Office showing how much funding will be provided by the VA and the balance is divided into installments throughout the semester.

Call to Duty Policy

Students called to active duty while enrolled at UNCG receive a full refund and withdrawal from their courses unless they can work out an early exam or incomplete grade option with the faculty member. The policy and instructions for receiving a refund are available online at <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Policy/MilitaryCall.html>.

Housing (On-Campus or Off-Campus)

The Office of Campus Activities and Programs through its *OnTheGo* program for commuter and adult students maintains an online off-campus housing and roommate referral service to assist students with finding rental properties (houses and apartments) and roommates (<http://cap.uncg.edu/onthego/off-campus-housing-overview/apartments/>).

UNC Greensboro (continued)

Military Affairs Committee

On November 11, 2010, Veterans Day, Chancellor Linda P. Brady announced the creation of the UNCG Military, Veterans, and Families (MVF) Task Force. The Task Force was charged with conducting a University-wide evaluation of educational opportunities and services for military-affiliated students. That evaluation led to 24 recommendations to improve services, policies, and procedures for military affiliated students at UNCG. Upon completion of the Task Force's initial mission, a smaller MVF committee was formed to carry out the recommendations as directed by the Chancellor.

Orientation

Breakout sessions for military-affiliated students are offered as part of the regular new student orientations. Comprehensive presentations are offered during the Transfer Student Orientations introducing new student veterans to campus resources and a more abbreviated presentation is provided for military dependents during First-Year Student Orientation.

Outreach Efforts

UNCG collaborated with US Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) and other community and government organizations to offer a Veteran and Military Expo on campus. The event provided veterans on campus and in the community with access to information on local veteran resources and employment initiatives. Expo activities included a resource fair and employment panel.

Resources/Support Services

As part of their Veteran Student Support program, UNCG has formed a cadre of faculty and staff who serve as allies for veteran students. The Veteran's Ally program supports the student veterans' transition from military to academic life and strives to enhance the overall experience at UNCG (<http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/vets/veterans-ally/>). The Ally serves as a source of information and support as the student veteran works toward completing a degree.

ROTC

UNCG offers Army ROTC through a cross-town agreement with North Carolina A&T State University (<http://www.ncat.edu/divisions/academic-affairs/rotc/army/index.html>). Participating students are considered members of the North Carolina A&T Aggie Battalion.

Staff Awareness

The UNCG staff awareness training on military affiliated student issues and concerns is incorporated into their *UNCG Cares* training for special populations (<http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/uncg-cares/>).

Student Veterans Organization

The UNCG Student Veterans of America Chapter assists with Veterans Day programming, has socials, and is working on a networking program. Interested students can contact the organization through their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UNCGSVA/?ref=ts&fref=ts>.

Transfer Credit

Most veterans attending UNCG receive approximately 6 elective credit hours toward graduation for completing basic training, but more may be awarded depending upon training completed in the military. In order to receive more than the basic 6 hours, the student must contact the Transfer Articulation Department located in the university Registrar's Office.



UNC Pembroke

Web Resources:

- Distance Education at Fort Bragg – <http://www.uncp.edu/distance/off-campus/bragg.html>
- Military and Veteran Services – <http://www.uncp.edu/veterans/>
- ROTC – <http://www.uncp.edu/army>
- Student Veteran Association – <http://www.uncp.edu/veterans/sva.htm>
- Veterans Benefits – <http://www.uncp.edu/veterans/benefits>

Key Personnel:

- Admissions:** Natalya Freeman Locklear, Admissions, natalya.freeman@uncp.edu
- Financial Aid:** Lee Hammonds, Financial Aid Office, lee.hammonds@uncp.edu
- GI Bill:** Lee Hammonds, School Certifying Official, lee.hammonds@uncp.edu
- Military Affairs Liaison:** Michael Clawson, Military/Veteran Services, michael.clawson@uncp.edu
- Military Ombudsman:** Michael Clawson, Military/Veteran Services, michael.clawson@uncp.edu
- SOC Representative:** Tiffany Dalmida, Fort Bragg Program, tiffany.dalmida@uncp.edu
- Student Affairs:** Aubrey Swett, Community & Civic Engagement, aubrey.swett@uncp.edu
- Tuition Assistance:** Lee Hammonds, Financial Aid Counselor, lee.hammonds@uncp.edu
- UNCP Ft. Bragg:** Tiffany Dalmida, Fort Bragg Program, tiffany.dalmida@uncp.edu

Admissions

UNCP waives the admissions application fee for all active-duty applicants and veterans. In addition, the university has a fully dedicated admissions representative stationed on base at Fort Bragg to connect students with distance education and on-campus programs.

Communication

The Military and Veteran Services office operates an email listserv for the campus. Those who sign up receive updates about important policy changes to military education benefits or campus resources for military-affiliated students, as well as information about campus initiatives and events.

Distance Education

The UNCP Ft. Bragg Distance Education Site offers several undergraduate and graduate degree programs on post at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, NC. In addition, the university has a fully dedicated admissions representative stationed on post to connect students with distance education and on-campus programs. This representative is available to assist service members and their families with the application and enrollment process.

Military Affairs Committee

The UNCP Task Force on Military and Veteran Outreach was created in 2011 to define the importance of outreach to the military community in terms of UNCP's mission and strategic priorities. The task force was charged to conduct an evidence-based assessment of current efforts with regard to the military community, survey activities at like institutions that serve the military community and establish goals to enhance UNCP's military outreach efforts. The task force developed actionable items and prioritized recommendations to the Chancellor regarding policies, procedures, and organizational structures to help the university realize its goals. The task force meets regularly each semester to examine, review, and take action to enhance outreach efforts to the military community.

UNC Pembroke (continued)

Orientation

UNCP hosts New Student Orientations for all incoming students. Each orientation includes a specific break-out session for military-affiliated students. Exclusive sessions for the military/veteran students further provide information regarding VA benefits and UNCP services UNCP to assist student veterans in their transition. Additionally, during Welcome Week there is a required two-day program (for new students) and a mandatory Military and Veteran student meeting that provides more in-depth coverage of VA benefits and UNCP academic requirements.

Resources/Support Services

The Military and Veterans Services Team (<http://www.uncp.edu/veterans/about.htm>) is made up of representative staff and administration who serve veterans needs and interests. The team assists veterans in making the transition from military service to a successful academic experience.

ROTC

The UNCP Army ROTC Program (<http://www.uncp.edu/army/>) is of modular construction and is composed of a Basic and an Advanced Course. Enrollment in the Basic Course is open to all full-time students, and it carries with it no obligation for military service. Completion of the Basic Course is a prerequisite for application to the Advanced Course. Entrance into the Advanced Course is selective and is based on demonstrated performance and leadership potential. Students who satisfactorily complete the Advanced Course and graduate from the university are commissioned as second lieutenants.

Scholarships

The Stacy Ryan Locklear Air Force ROTC Endowed Scholarship Fund was established to honor the memory of Stacy Ryan Locklear, who profoundly impacted the lives of his father, family, and friends. Ryan was a vibrant 3-year-old who passed away unexpectedly on July 25, 2004. He was proud of his dad, who was commissioned an Air Force officer in 1989 through the UNCP Air Force ROTC Program. Candidates for award of this scholarship shall be American Indian residents of Robeson County. The candidate shall be a full-time, undergraduate student in the junior or senior year of study participating in the Air Force ROTC Program at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The candidate shall maintain a 3.0 QPA and must be of demonstrated financial need.

The Faye Nye Lewis Endowed Scholarship, generously supported by Ms. Lewis, is awarded annually to a sophomore ROTC candidate who has completed his or her freshman year as a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) student. It is to provide funds for the student's sophomore year as an ROTC cadet, and is based on his/her overall achievement.

SOC Affiliation

The University of North Carolina Pembroke is a member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium and the SOC Degree Network System (SOCAD – Army).

Student Veterans Organization

The UNCP Student Veterans Association (SVA) is a student run service and support organization whose goal is to improve the welfare of all student veterans and family members of veterans. The SVA strives to assist student veterans attending UNCP make a successful transition to the classroom and campus community (<http://www.uncp.edu/veterans/sva.htm>).

UNC Pembroke (continued)

Transfer Credit

Members of the armed services who have served one or more years will be awarded two semester hours credit for each year of service, up to 12 semester hours of credit, as elective credit. In addition, military members will receive credit for physical education courses. A copy of the student's DD-214 form and military transcript must be submitted with the application in order to receive credit.

Credit may be awarded for service school courses comparable to those offered by UNCP. The amount of credit granted will be based on the recommendations of the American Council on Education as listed in the most recent edition of *A Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services*. These recommendations are evaluated by faculty in terms of courses offered and curriculum accepted at UNCP.

VA Work Study

UNCP hires part-time student workers under the VA's Work Study Program to assist the School Certifying Official with GI Bill benefits processing and work with Student Affairs on military outreach initiatives. The work study team has their own office suite on campus which provides other student veterans with the access they need to get connected to resources on campus.

UNC Wilmington



Web Resources:

- Admissions – <http://uncw.edu/admissions/military.html>
- Financial Aid/Veterans Benefits – <http://uncw.edu/finaid/veterans.htm>
- Onslow County Extension Site – <http://uncw.edu/onslow/>
- Professional Development – <http://www.uncw.edu/profed/military.html>
- Registrar – <http://uncw.edu/reg/military.htm>
- Student Veterans Organization – <http://www.uncw.edu/perch/svo.html>

Key Personnel:

- Academic Advising:** Reed Curtis, University College, curtisr@uncw.edu
- Admissions:** Amanda Parkstone, Office of Admissions, parkstonea@uncw.edu
- Financial Aid:** Shannon Miles, Financial Aid & Scholarships, miless@uncw.edu
- GI Bill:** Shannon Miles, School Certifying Official, miless@uncw.edu
- Military Affairs Liaison:** Jill Fegley, Onslow County Extension Site, fegleyj@uncw.edu
- SOC Representative:** Jill Fegley, Onslow County Extension Site, fegleyj@uncw.edu
- Student Affairs:** Amy Hector, Dean of Students Office, hectora@uncw.edu
- Tuition Assistance:** Sissy Hendricks, Student Accounts, hendricksi@uncw.edu
- UNCW Extension Site:** Jill Fegley, Onslow County Extension Site, fegleyj@uncw.edu

Admissions

At UNCW all active duty and veteran members of the armed services applying for undergraduate admission are considered transfer students based on their military training and experience. Students are required to submit official military transcripts in addition to high school and college transcripts (if applicable). The application fee is waived for all active duty members of the armed services.

UNCW recognizes that some student veterans may be better served by beginning their studies at a community college and has established partnerships with Cape Fear and Coastal Carolina Community Colleges that include:

- Points of contact at each institution for admissions, financial aid, registrar and student support services.
- Conditional admission contracts for each prospective student that specifically outlines what courses will need to be successfully completed to assure admission to UNCW.

Benefit Delay Policy

When processing GI Bill certifications, the School Certifying Official works with Student Accounts to apply a “do not drop” hold to all GI Bill recipients’ records. If there is a delay in receipt of benefits, this policy ensures that courses will not be dropped for non-payment and the student will not be held financially responsible.

The campus maintains a small no-interest emergency loan fund for service members that can be used if the living stipend portion of the Post 9/11 GI Bill is delayed. The campus book store also issues book vouchers for students receiving military benefits. Both the loan and voucher can be repaid later when the student receives his or her funds from the VA.

UNC Wilmington (continued)

Call to Duty Policy

If a student is called to active duty while enrolled at UNCW, the university will grant a leave of absence, after being notified of the deployment. A copy of the student's orders is requested, but not required. The student is released from all financial obligations for all academic terms during the call to service. Upon return from active duty, a re-enrolling application and application fee is not required. Students notify the Registrar's office of their intent to return and for which term.

If a student is deployed between the time of acceptance and enrollment, the offer of admission is deferred until after deployment. The student is not required to reapply and will receive another acceptance package for the new start term. A copy of the student's orders is requested, but not required.

Communication

The Dean of Students Office at UNC Wilmington maintains an email listserv to communicate information regarding the latest updates on veterans and military affairs on campus. The announcements also include topics about the Student Veterans Organization.

Distance Education

The UNCW Onslow County Extension Site in Jacksonville, NC and aboard MCB Camp Lejeune provides active and veteran members of the armed services, military families, and members of the surrounding communities with the opportunity to earn a college degree without commuting to the main campus in Wilmington (<http://uncw.edu/onslow/>). Students at the site have the unique opportunity of completing their general education courses through UNCW's partnership with Coastal Carolina Community College (CCCC). Upon receiving an Associate of Arts or Science Degree from CCCC, students have the option of transferring to the UNCW Onslow County Extension Site to complete a Bachelor's Degree through UNCW in any of the Extension Site degree offerings. Daytime and evening classes are held aboard Camp Lejeune MCB, at the John A. Lejeune Education Center, and on the CCCC campus.

UNCW Extension Offices are located at Coastal Carolina Community College and aboard MCB Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River Air Station. All offices are fully staffed and provide general information about UNCW as well as financial aid and admissions.

Honors/Recognition

The ranks and branches of graduating veterans and active duty service members are read aloud as part of the commencement ceremony to recognize them for their service. The UNCW Student Veterans Organization provides student veterans with honor cords to wear during commencement.

Housing (On-Campus or Off-Campus)

The Dean of Students Office, through the UNCW PERCH, maintains an online off-campus housing service to assist students with finding an apartment (<http://uncw.edu/perch/housing.html>). This is the primary way that UNCW students find information about off-campus housing. Additionally, The PERCH hosts an Off-Campus Housing Fair every summer, fall, and spring.

UNC Wilmington (continued)

Military Affairs Committee

The UNCW Military Task Force was created in 2003 and consisted of a chair and representatives from Admissions, Financial Aid, the Dean of Students office, University College, the Registrar's Office, and the Student Veterans Organization. The Task Force has grown to more than 30 members representing staff, faculty, students and administration. The mission and charge from the Chancellor is as follows:

The UNCW Military Task Force will work to address current and future issues affecting the admission, continuing enrollment, progress toward a degree, and quality of the university experience for UNCW students who are active duty members of the military, military veterans and military spouses. The Military Task Force will be comprised of UNCW faculty and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences and in the professional schools and will include representatives from the offices of Admissions, the Registrar, Financial Aid and Veterans Services, Auxiliary Services, Career Services, and Commuter and Nontraditional Student Services. It will also include students in leadership positions with the Student Veterans Organization. The Military Task Force will report to and respond to guidance from the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs and the UNCW Military Advisory Board.

Orientation

As part of transfer orientation UNCW offers a Military and Veteran Services break-out session. Representatives from Financial Aid, Academic Advising, and Student Services are there to provide information to military affiliated students regarding veteran benefits and university support services.

Resources/Support Services

The UNCW PERCH, a Dean of Students service for off-campus, military-affiliated, non-traditional and graduate students, promotes student success by providing resources, educational opportunities and personal support which connect these populations to the university and Wilmington communities. This connection helps students transition to and experience the highest level of engagement while attending UNCW. Assistant Dean of Students Amy Hector is responsible for all PERCH activities and serves as the advisor to the UNCW Student Veteran Organization.

Scholarships

The MSgt (Ret.) E. S. Moncrief Military Dependents Scholarship was established by the Moncrief family in memory of "Big Ed" Moncrief, who served his country as a member of the USAF for over twenty years. It is available to an undergraduate or graduate student. Preference is given to the spouse of an active duty military member currently stationed in North Carolina, with demonstrated financial need.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9408 Leland Scholarship is available to a first-year, transfer or graduate student who is a member or dependent of a member of Post 9408 or the auxiliary. Recipients who maintain a GPA of at least 2.50 may reapply.

SOC Affiliation

UNCW is a member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium and the SOC Degree Network System participating in the following networks: SOCMAR (Marine Corps) and SOCNAV (Navy) for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and the Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice.

UNC Wilmington (continued)

Staff Awareness

In spring 2013, UNCW partnered with the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP), a grant-funded organization, to provide an intensive training workshop for university and community clinicians who interact with service members pre-, mid-, and post-deployment. The workshop will also be open to university faculty and staff who work with active duty and veteran members of the armed services.

Student Veterans Organization

The purpose of the UNCW Student Veterans Organization (SVO) is to foster support for all veterans of the Armed Forces, members of the Reserves, National Guard and their spouses. Membership in the SVO is open to any degree-seeking student who is a veteran of the armed forces, a member of the reserves, National Guard or the spouse of any military service member (<http://www.uncw.edu/perch/svo.html>).

Transfer Credit

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Registrar's Office rely on ACE credit equivalency recommendations as reported on military transcripts for academic credit determinations. UNCW has established equivalencies such as Health and Wellness credit and management/leadership and marketing elective credit for students who have completed basic training, military leadership school and recruiter training. Students can view equivalencies for transferable military credit through the Registrar's website http://appserv02.uncw.edu/dasapps/transfer_articulation/ (select Military-Americas from the first drop down box and Military Credit from the second drop down box).

VA Work Study

UNC Wilmington maintains two part-time positions for the VA Work Study Program. These students help with outreach and VA benefits processing.

Western Carolina University



Web Resources:

- Army Career Degrees – <http://www.wcu.edu/24233.asp>
- Distance Education – <http://www.wcu.edu/24227.asp>
- Military Student Services – <http://www.wcu.edu/2830.asp>
- Professional Development – <http://www.wcu.edu/24230.asp>

Key Personnel:

- Admissions:** Steven Cote, Office of Admissions, sbcote@email.wcu.edu
- Distance Education:** Regis Gilman, Division of Educational Outreach, rgilman@email.wcu.edu
- Financial Aid:** Trina Orr, Student Financial Aid, torr@email.wcu.edu
- GI Bill:** Briana Ford, School Certifying Official, blford@email.wcu.edu
- Military Affairs Liaison:** Lisa Winders, Military Student Services, lawinders@email.wcu.edu
- Military Ombudsman:** Thomas Johnson, Faculty, Criminology, tjohnson@email.wcu.edu
- SOC Counselor:** Lisa Winders, Military Student Services, lawinders@email.wcu.edu
- SOC Representative:** Regis Gilman, Division of Educational Outreach, rgilman@email.wcu.edu
- Student Affairs:** Shawna Young, Enrollment Support, scyong@email.wcu.edu
- Tuition Assistance:** Briana Ford, Military Student Services, blford@email.wcu.edu

Admissions

The admissions application at WCU allows students to self-identify active duty, veteran, spouse or dependent. Students indicating active duty or veteran status are asked to submit a military transcript for transfer credit review based on ACE credit equivalencies. Students receive a waiver of the Liberal Studies Wellness Requirement based on recruit training as well as credit for any other training or experience that fits within the degree plan.

Benefit Delay Policy

WCU will hold the bill for tuition and fees for student veterans pending receipt of benefits from the military branches and VA. In addition, the Financial Aid Office has an emergency, no-interest loan program for students who have personal expenses prior to refund day. Students who have refunds pending are allowed to charge at the bookstore beginning the week before through the first week of classes.

Call to Duty Policy

Students who must withdraw from a course or the university due to deployment or other military contingency will be allowed to do so without penalty and with full refund during any part of the academic term. The Advising Center will work with the Office of Military Education, as needed, to substantiate the validity of the withdrawal request. Requests to withdraw based on attendance of non-emergency or routine training courses will not automatically be approved, but will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Distance Education

WCU offers undergraduate and graduate online degrees and certificates through their Distance Education Program (<http://www.wcu.edu/24227.asp>). These are portable programs designed for the military affiliated student who may be transferred or deployed.

Western Carolina University (continued)

Military Affairs Committee

The WCU Military Affairs Committee combines top-down support, which is essential for mobilizing resources, with a collective, university-wide, responsibility for serving veterans which transcends individual job descriptions.

Orientation

Beginning in spring 2013 WCU will offer a military break-out session as part of their regular orientation. WCU's online orientation program, *Catwalk*, contains supplementary modules for military-affiliated students with information about the GI Bill benefits enrollment process and military student support services available on campus.

Priority Enrollment Policy

Military and veteran students are allowed to register for courses on the first day of registration. Being first in line allows them to get the courses they need when they need them. This is extremely important for military or veteran students using education benefits with time limits, such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Resources/Support Services

The Director of Military Student Services, Division of Educational Outreach provides direct and comprehensive support to both on-site and online students. The Office of Military Student Services provides information on and assistance with application, admission, course registration, military tuition assistance, vocational rehabilitation, GI Bill benefits, and transfer credit for military training and experience. The Director of Military Student Services is the liaison between the military student and the university's various academic departments and student support offices.

Scholarships

The ZO TKE Endowed Scholarship provides financial support for fellow Tau Kappa Epsilon members, their descendants, student veterans and other deserving students as determined by the ZOCC Scholarship Committee and affirmed by the University Scholarship Committee. The recipient must demonstrate community and civic involvement and maintain a 3.0 GPA.

SOC Affiliation

WCU is an institutional member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium and Degree Network System (SOCAD – Army).

Staff Awareness

WCU's Division of Educational Outreach coordinated a conference for faculty and staff to promote military awareness on campus. The conference included a workshop led by representatives from local VA resources, a military student panel, as well as presentations by faculty within WCU's College of Health and Human Sciences.

Western Carolina University (continued)

Student Veterans Organization

WCU has an established chapter of the Student Veterans Association on campus. More information can be found on Facebook under WCU SVA.

Transfer Credit

WCU honors ACE credit recommendations to the greatest extent possible. Official military transcripts that list training and experience, along with corresponding recommendation for college credit, are prepared by each branch for its members. Military transcripts of veterans admitted to the university will be evaluated for potential credit to be applied towards graduation.



Winston-Salem State University

Web Resources:

- Distance Education – <http://www.wssu.edu/academics/distance-learning/default.aspx>
- ROTC – <http://www.wssu.edu/college-arts-science/departments/social-sciences/programs-of-study/air-force-rotc.aspx>
- Veterans Benefits – <http://www.wssu.edu/administration/registrar/veterans-affairs.aspx>
- WINGS Network for Military and Veteran Students – http://www.wssu.edu/academics/ucall/support-engagement/student-experience/military_ed.aspx

Key Personnel:

- Financial Aid:** Cynthia Peace, Financial Aid Office, peacecw@wssu.edu
- GI Bill:** Patricia Oliver, School Certifying Official, oliverpa@wssu.edu
- Military Liaison:** Esther Powell, Support and Engagement Services, powelles@wssu.edu
- Registrar:** Patricia Oliver, Office of the Registrar, oliverpa@wssu.edu
- Student Services:** Cynthia Joel, Military Support Services, joelce@wssu.edu
- Tuition Assistance:** Patricia Oliver, Office of the Registrar, oliverpa@wssu.edu

Resources/Support Services

The WSSU Military Support Services Manager in Student Support and Engagement Services is the campus lead for veteran and military student initiatives. This position coordinates outreach efforts and directs WINGS (With Information and Guidance to Soar), the campus-wide network of services for military affiliated students. The WINGS program connects student veterans to on-campus resources and support services.

ROTC

WSSU offers an Air Force ROTC program through the College of Arts and Sciences, Social Sciences Department (<http://www.wssu.edu/college-arts-science/programs-of-study.aspx>, click on Air Force ROTC).

Staff Awareness

The Office of Non-traditional and Adult Student Services organized a presentation from the local VA and Vet Center staff in Winston-Salem for the WSSU faculty and counseling center staff. The discussion focused on common challenges facing returning veterans and the resources available in the community to support their transition.

Student Veterans Organization

The WSSU Military Veterans Student Organization (MVSO) is in the process of reorganization. The WSSU ROTC and Student Affairs Office are assisting the group with this effort. They hope to resume full operations by fall 2013.

★★★★★ Terms and Acronyms ★★★★★

American Council on Education (ACE) – A higher education organization that comprises approximately 1,800 accredited, degree-granting colleges and universities and higher-education related associations, organizations, and corporations. ACE conducts public policy advocacy, research, and other initiatives related to key higher education issues and plays a significant role in higher education leadership development. In addition, ACE collaborates with the Department of Defense to review military training and experiences and recommend appropriate college credit for members of the Armed Forces.

Call to Duty (also known as Deployment) – Deployment is the movement of armed forces and their logistical support around the world in preparation for military action. Specifically, it is the physical movement of individuals and units from their home installation to the designated theater of operations (a sub-area within a theater of war).

DD-214 – Officially known as DD Form 214 "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty," it is a document issued by the Department of Defense upon a military service member's retirement, separation or discharge from active-duty military. It represents the complete, verified record of a service member's time in the military, awards and medals, other pertinent service information, such as promotions, combat service or overseas service, and record of training and schools completed.

GI Bill – The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, known as the GI Bill, provided a range of benefits for returning World War II veterans including low-cost mortgages, low-interest loans to start a business or farm, cash payments of tuition and living expenses to attend college. In 1984, former Mississippi Congressman Montgomery revamped the GI Bill. Under the Montgomery GI Bill active duty members received a monthly stipend for a maximum of 36 months of education benefits. In the summer of 2008, Congress approved an expansion of benefits for military veterans serving since September 11, 2001, referred to as the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Recipients became eligible for greatly expanded benefits that included a housing allowance and a stipend for books.

Military Transcripts – The American Council on Education (ACE) provides quality assurance and policy guidance to the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps for military transcripts. More than 2,300 colleges and universities recognize these transcripts as official documentation of military training and experiences and applicable ACE credit recommendations. Service members with valid credit recommendations can request official transcripts online through their branch of service or ACE.

MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) – A document describing a bilateral or multilateral agreement between two or more parties. It expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action. It is often used in cases where parties either do not imply a legal commitment or in situations where the parties cannot create a legally enforceable agreement. Whether or not the document constitutes a binding contract depends only on the presence or absence of well-defined legal elements in the text proper of the document.

PTSD (Posttraumatic Stress Disorder) – An anxiety disorder that can occur after someone goes through a traumatic event like war, assault, or disaster. Most people have some stress reactions after a trauma. If reactions such as disturbing memories or difficulty sleeping do not go away over time, disrupt day-to-day activities or worsen then a person may have PTSD.

ROTC (Reserved Officers' Training Corps) – A college-based program for training prospective commissioned officers of the United States armed forces. ROTC students attend college like other students, but also receive basic military training and officer training for their chosen branch of service, through the ROTC unit at the college or university. The students participate in regular drills during the school year, and extended training activities during the summer. Under ROTC, a student may receive a competitive, merit-based scholarship, covering all or part of college tuition, in return for an obligation of active military service after graduation.

School Certifying Official (also known as VA Certifying Officials) – Campus representatives authorized to sign and submit forms to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs on behalf of veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard members and their dependents. Certifying officials verify enrollment, document changes in status and report circumstances affecting GI Bill benefits. Schools receiving GI Bill benefits are required to appoint a certifying official.

SOC (Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges) – SOC functions in cooperation with 15 higher education associations, the Department of Defense, and Active and Reserve Components of the Military Services to expand and improve voluntary postsecondary education opportunities for service members worldwide. Approximately 1,900 higher education institutions are SOC Consortium members and agree to adhere to the SOC Criteria of reasonable transfer of credit, reduced academic residency, academic credit for military training and experience, and academic credit for nationally recognized testing programs.

Student Veterans of America (SVA) – A non-profit coalition of over 700 student veteran organizations on college campuses globally. SVA's mission is to provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation.

TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) – Occurs when an external force injures the brain. TBI can be classified based on severity, mechanism, or other features. Firearms and blast injuries from explosions can result in TBI, which is the leading cause of death and disability in war zones. According to Representative Bill Pascrell (Democrat, NJ), TBI is "the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Military Tuition Assistance – A benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Congress has given each service the ability to pay for the tuition expenses of its members. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application process and restrictions. This money is usually paid directly to the institution by the individual services.

VA Work Study – If a veteran is using the GI Bill or certain other Department of Defense assistance programs to attend college on a full-time or three quarter time basis he/she may be eligible for a VA work-study allowance. The VA selects students for the work-study program and the number of applicants selected will depend on the availability of VA-related work at the school or at VA facilities in the area.

Yellow Ribbon Program – A provision of the Post 9/11 GI Bill designed to help students avoid some or all of the out-of-pocket tuition and fees associated with education programs that exceed the Post 9/11 GI Bill tuition benefit, which will pay up to 100 percent of the public in-state tuition and up to \$17,500 a year for private institutions. The program allows college and universities to enter into an agreement with the VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed these amounts if a veteran is attending a private school or a public school as a nonresident student. The VA will match the amount and issue payment directly to the institution.