

Military and Veterans' Information

Military and Veterans Resource Center

The University of West Florida recognizes that many active duty military personnel face formidable barriers in the pursuit of a college degree. As part of the University's continuing commitment to educational opportunities for military personnel, in the fall of 2011 UWF opened a center dedicated to supporting all military and veteran affiliated students, including spouses and dependents. This center is the Military and Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) (<http://uwf.edu/mvrc>) located in building 38, room 147. The primary goal of the MVRC is helping military and veteran students successfully make the transition from the military environment to campus life. Transition coaches are available to assist students with GI Bill® benefits, the university process, support service, counseling and tutoring, etc. A computer center is housed within the MVRC for use by veterans on coursework. Contact the MVRC at mvrc@uwf.edu or, 850-474-2550.

Many departments have agreed to offer degrees through a system tailored to the specific needs of active duty military personnel. Previous college credit, work experience, service schools, and other forms of nonacademic experiences will be considered for college credits. For further information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (<http://uwf.edu/admissions>).

UWF VetSuccess on Campus

The VetSuccess on Campus program is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of West Florida (UWF). The goal of the program is to help military Veterans and eligible dependents of military Veterans make a smooth transition to university life and to successfully complete their educational goals. Our VetSuccess Coordinator can assist all students with all things related to VA.

Military Transcripts

Instructions for ordering transcripts for each of the various branches of service can be found at the following locations:

Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy (Active Duty, Reserve and Veterans): <https://jst.doded.mil/smart/welcome.do>

Air Force: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/barnes/ccaf/transcripts.asp>

Veterans Benefits

The University of West Florida is approved by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) for the education of veterans, active duty personnel, reservists, and eligible dependents under current law. The Military and Veteran's Resource Center (MVRC) (<http://uwf.edu/militaryveterans>) is the point of contact for students receiving benefits from the DVA. The office has a professional staff augmented by veteran transition coaches to assist in providing information about entitlements, filing claims to the DVA, and certifying enrollment. The MVRC monitors the academic progress of students receiving DVA educational benefits. Students who receive DVA benefits are subject to different academic regulations and should be aware that auditing courses, enrollment status, withdrawals, repeating courses, changing degree programs, adding majors and minors, grade forgiveness, and other actions may affect eligibility for educational benefits. Contact the MVRC at mvrc@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550, with any questions.

To receive educational benefits from the DVA, the student must be pursuing an approved bachelor's or higher level degree, or be enrolled in a VA authorized certificate program at the University. VA will only pay benefits for classes required for graduation or for completion of an authorized VA certificate program. Required courses must be reflected in a student's degree audit before they can be certified for VA benefits. Substitutions to the degree audit must be made prior to VA certification. To avoid delays in a certification, it is a student's responsibility to ensure that required classes are being taken. Failure to do so may prohibit certification of classes for future semesters. Students who do not have an on-line degree audit must submit a signed program description sheet.

Yellow Ribbon

The University of West Florida is an approved participating Yellow Ribbon Institution for the **2017-2018** catalog year. The Yellow Ribbon program is designed to help non-Florida residents cover the cost of their education that exceeds the in-state tuition and fees. It is only available to those individuals eligible for the maximum benefit rate (100%) of the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), and also who are **not eligible** for the C.W. Young Veteran Tuition Waiver. Yellow Ribbon will be granted to the first 250 qualified students on a first-come, first-served basis.

Congressman C.W. "Bill" Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program

UWF students who are honorably discharged Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserves Forces, or the National Guard who physically reside in Florida, as well as their dependents currently using VA education benefits who are physically residing in Florida are eligible for a waiver of out-of-state fees. The student must present to the Military and Veterans Resource Center a copy of the Department of Defense Form 214 (DD-214; veterans only) and/or Certificate of Eligibility (COE), documentation of their residence, and completed C.W. "Bill" Young Tuition Waiver Application. The form to request this waiver can be found by going to this web site: <http://uwf.edu/offices/military-veteran-resource-center/scholarships--waivers/cw-young-veterans-out-of-state-fee-waiver/>. Students will remain eligible under the waiver as long as are continuously enrolled at UWF. Dependents must be actively using benefits to remain eligible.

VA Tuition Deferment

Deferred payment status for tuition and registration fees may be granted upon application by the student according to the following: 1) the University reserves the right to deny deferral status to students who have established an unfavorable credit rating, 2) students receiving financial aid are ineligible for tuition deferments, 3) deferral eligibility is granted to students receiving veterans' educational assistance benefits from federal or state assistance programs if aid is delayed in transmission to the student due to circumstances beyond the student's control, 4) veterans and other eligible degree-seeking students receiving benefits on active duty and under Chapters 30, 32, 33, 35, 1606, and 1607, U.S.C., are eligible for one deferment each academic semester and, 5) a 90-day deferment will be issued for the spring and fall semesters and a 30-day deferment will be issued for summer and mini-terms.

An additional deferment extension may be issued if there is a delay in the receipt of benefits, provided the extension is requested prior to the deferment due date and not after the last day of the semester.

Semester (Year)	1 Term	2 Term	3 Term	4 Term
Fall 2017	Nov 25	Sep 26	Nov 14	
Spring 2018	Apr 3	Feb 3	Mar 27	
Summer 2018	Jun 09	Jun 12	Jul 18	Jul 14

Tuition and Fees must be paid by the last day of a semester, VA deferments DO NOT extend beyond the posted semester dates.

A veteran may request a deferment (promissory note) via their VA Enrollment Certification Form found in their MyUWF account (<https://my.uwf.edu>) or at the MVRC for the amount of tuition and fees. The MVRC will submit the approved promissory note to the University Cashier prior to the fee payment deadline. Failure to make payment by the deferment due date will result in a \$100 late payment fee. Students who do not make payment or request a deferment may be deleted for non-payment. Students who are deleted for non-payment may appeal for reinstatement and will be assessed a \$200 reinstatement fee.

Any change in a VA deferment to a National Guard or other military billing status after the fee payment deadline will result in the assessment of the late payment fee of \$100.00.

A University withdrawal does not cancel the veteran's responsibility to pay the deferment. A veteran must submit a fee appeal explaining the circumstances behind the request. This is not an automatic approval.

Academic Progress

University academic standing is discussed in the Academic Policies section (<http://catalog.uwf.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies>) **of the Catalog. However, students receiving veterans' benefits must meet the requirements listed below consistent with UWF's academic policies.**

Students will be notified formally by US mail and/or via email (UWF email account) when placed on VA Academic Probation, Suspension, and/or Termination.

VA Academic Probation

The intent of academic probation is to serve formal notice that a student may not be making satisfactory progress which can result in loss of VA educational benefits. Placing students on VA Academic Probation provides students notification of their need for immediate attention to academic improvement. Students whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) for University of West Florida course work is lower than the minimum listed below will be placed on VA academic probation by the UWF VA Certifying Official. Calculation of the GPA is described in the grading system section of this catalog.

Minimum GPA required for academic standing:

- 0-15 semester hours, less than 1.60 cumulative GPA
- 16-30 semester hours, less than 1.80 cumulative GPA
- more than 30 semester hours, less than 2.00* cumulative GPA

VA Academic Suspension

A student with more than 30 semester hours, with consecutive semesters of cumulative GPAs below a 2.0*, will be placed on VA academic suspension.

VA Academic suspension will remove the students VA educational benefits until the following action is completed:

- The student must enroll in the MVRC mentoring program and follow the prescribed plan provided by the MVRC Veterans Counselor.

- The student must obtain written counseling from his or her academic counselor and provide that written documentation to the MVRC.

VA Termination

A student's VA benefits will be terminated if the student's cumulative GPA remains less than a 2.0* for three consecutive semesters. The MVRC will notify the DVA of unsatisfactory progress and educational benefits will be terminated.

*** 2.5 for those programs requiring a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.**

Advance Payment

Advance payment of DVA benefits may be available to new students and those students who were not enrolled in the previous semester. Applications should be made through the MVRC no later than 45 days before the first day of classes of the anticipated enrollment semester.

Reporting Requirements

Re-certification of benefits is not automatic and must be requested each semester by students via the VA Enrollment Certification Form found in their MyUWF account. It is the responsibility of each student to notify the MVRC immediately of any changes which may affect the student's eligibility for benefits. Failure to do so may result in an overpayment and subsequent indebtedness to the Federal Government.

Class Registration

After registering for classes, eligible students should request VA certification via the VA Enrollment Certification Form found in their MyUWF account. For questions, students may visit or email the MVRC (mvrc@uwf.edu) for information and help. The earlier a student registers and provides the registration information to the MVRC, the earlier certification paperwork can be forwarded to the DVA.

Changes to Schedule

Any additions, drops, withdrawals, or other interruptions must be immediately reported to the Military and Veteran's Resource Center by the student.

Class Attendance

Routine class attendance is required for those receiving DVA benefits. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor(s) concerning absences from class(es) prior to, or as soon as possible after, the absence. Students must check with their respective instructor(s) regarding the attendance policy for each class. Students who are unable to attend class(es) for an extended period of time should notify the instructor(s) and the MVRC. An NF grade is assigned to students who have ceased attending class but have not officially withdrawn. NF Grades count 0 grade point hours in the GPA. If a student receiving DVA benefits receives a grade of NF, the DVA will be notified and benefits may be reduced accordingly.

Courses Not Eligible for Benefits

Courses not meeting University requirements for graduation cannot be certified to the DVA for benefits payment. Although not all inclusive, the following list reflects types of courses that will not be certified to the DVA:

- Courses not on the student's degree audit or Program Description Sheet (PDS), unless an addendum is provided before the last day of the drop/add period;

- Repeated courses that have been previously completed with a grade of "D-" or higher unless the student's program requires a higher grade; this includes courses transferred from other colleges;
- Courses taken to fulfill requirements at another institution unless a transient authorization is received;
- Courses taken on an audit or noncredit basis or courses in which the permanent grade is "non-punitive," e.g., "W" or "V";
- Courses for which an "I" or "I*" was assigned, but not changed to a letter grade (A through F) within one year of the completion of the semester; in this case, the DVA will be notified retroactively;
- Remedial & deficiency courses;
- Distance Learning classes designed for career enhancement or continuing education.

Change of Address

If a student's address changes, both the DVA and UWF via the MyUWF home page.

Certificate Programs

Not all certificate programs are certified for VA benefits. Check with the Military and Veteran's Resource Center (<http://uwf.edu/mvrc>) for further information.

Part of Term Courses

Part of Term courses are those beginning and/or ending on dates other than the regular semester dates. These are referred to as: Part of Term 5, Part of Term 6, Part of Term 7, Part of Term 8 and Part of Term 9. The Part of Term designation is determined by which month in the semester the course begins; i.e. a course starting in the first month of the semester but beginning/ending on a non-standard date would be identified as Part of Term 5. Students should be aware that the DVA review is made on a term-by-term basis and not by semester.

Taking Part of Term courses may affect the student's training time or rate of pursuit for pay purposes; since this varies by benefit chapter, students should contact the MVRC (mvrc@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550) to determine their training time and qualifications for full benefits.

Semester (Year)	1 Term	2 Term	3 Term	4 Term
Fall 2017	8/28-12/16	8/28-10/13	10/16-12/08	XX
Spring 2018	1/08-5/05	1/08-02/23	2/26-4/27	XX
Summer 2018	05/14-08/10	05/14-06/26	06/28-08/10	06/14-08/10

VA Withdrawal

Official Withdraw Date

The date you officially withdrew from a course.

Unofficial Withdraw Date

First time in College (FTIC) Students who stop attending Gen Ed Courses and receive NF grades, are considered to have unofficially withdrawn.

Medical Withdrawal:

Medical withdrawals are processed by the Dean of Students. Students who may qualify for a medical withdrawal should submit the Request for Medical Withdrawal and supporting documents to the Dean of Students Office.

Active Duty, DoD Civilian, Military Spouse

Active Duty Non-Resident Waiver

According to Florida Statute Title XLVII, K-20 Education Code, Chapter 1009.26 Educational Scholarships, Fees and Financial Assistance, Section (14)(a): All active duty members of the Armed Forces who are residing or are stationed outside the state of Florida shall have all out of state fees waived by the university. To apply for this waiver contact the Military and Veterans Resource Center at 850-474-2550 or mvrcta@uwf.edu.

Active Duty and Active Duty Dependents Residing in Florida

Active Duty Military and their dependents stationed in Florida are eligible for temporary residency for tuition purposes. For more information contact the Military and Veterans Resource Center at 850-474-2550 or mvrcta@uwf.edu.

Military Active Duty and Civilian General Tuition Assistance Information

Service members and civilians of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible for the Tuition Assistance (TA) programs which pay for voluntary higher education. General military tuition assistance information is available from the Military Tuition Assistance Information Center (<http://www.militaryta.com>). Tuition assistance information for each specific service is available from the following links: USAF (<https://www.my.af.mil/faf/FAF/fafHome.jsp>), USN (https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/ta_info.aspx), USMC (https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/ta_info.aspx), US ARMY (https://www.earmyu.com/public/public_tuition_assistance_policies.aspx), USCG (http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/cgi/active_duty/pay_for_college/ta), National Guard (<http://www.1800goguard.com/hooah/rightschool.php>)

Tuition Assistance Information

Submit completed and approved Tuition Assistance Vouchers to the MVRC (mvrc@uwf.edu, 850-474-2550) before the end of regular registration (day before classes begin). In addition, log in to your MyUWF account, complete and submit the Enrollment Certification Form (ECF) after you have enrolled in your courses.

If you have courses within the semester that start in a later term, the application window for your branch of service may not yet be open for that term. If so, review the deferment request on the ECF form in your MyUWF account to determine if you would like the Cashier to defer your tuition.

Make sure that the dates on your TA voucher match the dates for the course(s) that you are enrolled in. If you have courses in more than one term within the semester, you will need to submit a separate TA Voucher for each term. **VOUCHERS WITH INCORRECT DATE OR COURSE INFORMATION CANNOT BE PROCESSED.**

You may submit the TA voucher by:

Email attachment: mvrcta@uwf.edu

Fax: 850-474-2671, Attn: *Certifying Officials*

Mail:

UWF MVRC

Attn: Certifying Officials

11000 University Parkway
Building 38, Room 147
Pensacola, FL 32514

MyCAA Scholarship

The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MYCAA - Spouse Tuition Assistance) is a Department of Defense program administered by the Air Force. Program eligibility is limited to spouses of service members on active duty in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2 and O-1 to O-2 who have received approval for coursework while their military sponsor is on Active Duty military orders. Spouses married to members of the National Guard and Reserve Components in these same pay grades are eligible. This scholarship assists military spouses in pursuing: licenses, certificates, and certification or associate degrees necessary to gain employment in high-demand, high-growth portable career fields and occupations

Withdrawals

Military Duty

In the case of a student called to active duty military service or change of orders due to military conflict within a semester, the student must contact the MVRC and provide a copy of military orders immediately. Students will have the option of withdrawing with a complete refund, withdrawal with a grade of "W", or accepting incomplete grades to allow the student to complete the course at a later date. Transcripts of students who have adhered to this procedure and were subsequently: withdrawn, awarded refunds, or given incomplete grades, will be annotated with an appropriate statement indicating action taken was due to military service.

Students who are eligible for Military Duty Withdrawal are:

1. Students who are currently on active duty with any unit of the U.S. Armed Services who receive orders that will require them to be reassigned to a different duty station or be absent from class for an extended period of time during the semester in which they are enrolled.
2. Students who are members of a National Guard, Air National Guard, or other military reserve units who receive orders calling them to active duty for operational or training purposes during the semester in which they are enrolled, excluding any regularly scheduled weekend and summer training duty.
3. Students who are veterans of the U. S. Armed Services and who are recalled to active duty during the semester in which they are enrolled.
4. Students who enlist in any branch of the U. S. Armed Services and whose induction date falls within the semester in which they are enrolled.

Medical Withdrawal:

Medical withdrawals are processed by the Dean of Students. Students who may qualify for a medical withdraw should submit the Request for Medical Withdrawal and support documents to the Dean of Students Office

TA Regular Withdrawals

As participants in the Department of Defense Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding, the University of West Florida is required to calculate the TA earned when a military student using TA withdraws. Students who officially or unofficially withdraw from a course before completing more than 60 percent of the

semester have not earned 100% of the amount of their voucher for the withdrawn course.

The University is required to return the unearned portion of the TA funds to the military service that provided the TA funding. Unearned TA funds that are returned to the appropriate military branch of service will become a debt that the students owe the university. This amount will be placed on the student's account and a "hold" will be placed on the student's account preventing registration, grades, and transcripts until the debt is paid.

If a student is eligible to receive a refund from the University for tuition and fees, the University will apply the refund against the debt that results from unearned TA.

Official Withdraw Date - Students who stop attending and receive NF grades, or a combination of NF, W, and I (Incomplete) grades, are considered to have unofficially withdrawn, UWF will use the last date of participation to determine if the service member completed at least 60 percent of the course.

The calculation used to compute the amount of refund can be found at the TA withdrawal (<http://uwf.edu/offices/financial-services/student-financial-services/student-accounts-cashiers>) calculator (<http://uwf.edu/offices/financial-services/student-financial-services/student-accounts-cashiers>) . Select the Third Party Authorization & Waivers dropdown.

For clarification or questions, contact the MVRC at mvrc@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550.