Military and Veterans' Information

Military and Veterans Resource Center

The University of West Florida (UWF) is committed to supporting Active Duty service members, Reservists, National Guard members, Veterans, military-affiliated students, and their families as they navigate the challenges of higher education.

The Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a comprehensive support hub, ensuring these students have access to the resources needed for academic success. Designed as a "One-Stop Shop," the MVRC provides guidance in achieving educational goals and making a smooth transition from military service to campus life.

The MVRC's dedicated staff offers assistance with mentoring, finding counseling, tutoring, and navigating GI Bill®/DEA benefits, third-party military funding (TA, MyCAA, SF-182, and EDD), as well as UWF policies, procedures, and campus support services.

Previous college credit, work experience, military training, and other nonacademic experiences may be considered for college credit.

Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions or Graduate School Admissions for more information.

UWF VetSuccess on Campus

The VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and UWF. The program aims to help service members, military veterans, and eligible dependents make a smooth transition to university life and successfully complete their educational goals. Our VetSuccess Coordinator can assist students with all things related to VA. Contact the MVRC at mvrc@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550 with any questions.

Academic Progress

The university's academic standing is discussed in the <u>Academic Policies</u> section of the Catalog. Students receiving VA education benefits must meet requirements consistent with UWF's academic policies.

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

Graduate VA Academic Probation

Students using VA education benefits will be placed on Academic Probation by the MVRC Mentor Coordinator upon the completion of the semester if their UWF cumulative GPA falls below 3.0

The Mentor Coordinator notifies students placed on Academic Probation to assist with academic improvement as they are at risk of losing their VA education benefits.

Graduate VA Academic Suspension

Students using VA education benefits with two consecutive semesters of UWF cumulative GPAs below 3.0 will be placed on VA Academic Suspension. VA Academic Suspension will place a hold on the student's VA education benefits until the following action is completed:

 The student acknowledges and signs the Student/MVRC Agreement For Suspension and completes the prescribed plan provided by the MVRC Mentor Coordinator.

Graduate VA Academic Suspension Extension

Students utilizing VA education benefits who maintain consecutive semesters at UWF with a cumulative GPA below 3.0—while demonstrating satisfactory progress by passing all courses—will be placed on a Suspension Extension.

Graduate VA Termination

In compliance with federal law, educational assistance benefits for Veterans and other eligible individuals must be discontinued if the student fails to make satisfactory progress toward their training objective. At UWF, students utilizing VA education benefits (excluding Chapter 31, VR&E counselors make this decision) must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. If a student's GPA remains below 3.0 for three consecutive semesters, the Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) must notify the VA of unsatisfactory progress. This will terminate education benefit payments until the student's cumulative GPA improves above 3.0.

Active/Reserve and National Guard Military Duty or DoD Civilians

Per the DoD MOU Voluntary Education Partnership, 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. 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 the action taken was due to military service. In accordance with ED 34 CFR 668.18 and Chapter 3 of Volume 2 of the Federal Student Aid Handbook, service members who withdraw from a course(s) due to military service are eligible to be readmitted to their program. The cumulative length of the absence and all previous absences from the school for military service may not exceed five years subject to cumulative length of absence exceptions cited in Chapter 3 of Volume 2 of the Federal Student Aid Handbook.

In the case of service members whose studies are temporarily interrupted due to military service for a period of less than 30 days, provisions shall be made so that they are readmitted to their program or allowed to continue their program in lieu of withdrawal.

Students who may be eligible for Military Duty Withdrawals are:

- Service members and DoD Civilians who are not able to complete their course(s) due to unanticipated increases in operational tempo (Command letter required) or military orders (Command letter or copy of orders required). Members of a National Guard, Air National Guard, or Military Reserve unit who receive orders to active duty for operational or training purposes (orders required) during the semester in which they are enrolled.
- Students who are veterans of the U. S. Armed Services are recalled to active duty during the semester in which they are enrolled.
- 3. Students who enlist in any branch of the U. S. Armed Services and whose induction date falls within the semester they are enrolled.

Military Tuition Assistance (TA) Regular Withdrawals

As participants in the Department of Defense Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU), the University

of West Florida must calculate the Tuition Assistance (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 their voucher amount for the withdrawn course. The university must 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 will bill 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. Once the military service receives the tuition reimbursement, it will trigger a recoupment action with the student for the remainder (less the amount refunded by UWF) of the tuition originally funded. The service typically places a hold on your account until that balance is paid.

If a student is eligible to receive a refund from the university, the university will apply the refund against the debt that results from unearned TA. For clarification or questions, contact the MVRC (mvrcta@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550).

Medical Withdrawal

The Dean of Students processes medical withdrawals. Students who may qualify for a medical withdrawal can contact the MVRC Mentor Coordinator to assist with the Request for Medical Withdrawal and supporting documents required by Case Management in the Dean of Students Office. Contact the Mentor Coordinator (militaryadvisor@uwf.edu (mvrc@uwf.edu) or 850-474-2550) with any questions. (The last date of attendance or approved date of withdrawal is required. When the last date of attendance is not provided, we will use the date listed in Banner for the withdrawal.) Medical withdrawals with an approved withdrawal date on or after the last day of the term/ semester will not be reported to VA.

Official Withdraw Date – The official withdrawal date is when the student officially withdraws from all classes.

Unofficial Withdraw Date – Students who stop attending and receive NF grades or a combination of NF and/or all F grades are considered to have unofficially withdrawn. The last day of attendance (LDA) is viewed as the withdrawal date and will be reported to the VA if using VA Benefits.

Enrollment & Registration VA Educational Objective

Students using VA education benefits must pursue an approved bachelor's or graduate-level degree or enroll in an approved certificate program. Required courses must be reflected in the student's degree audit before the courses can be certified for VA benefits.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they are enrolled in the required course in their degree audit. Failure to do so may result in delays in certification.

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): <u>Request Official Joint Services Transcript</u>
- Air Force: Air University Transcript Requests

Transfer Credit

Age of Credit

Undergraduate credits over ten years old may be reviewed and reevaluated for credit toward current degree requirements at UWF. Specific programs and teacher education programs may have more stringent requirements. Refer to the Graduate Catalog "Transfer of Credit" for specific information on graduate transfer credits.

Reporting Requirements for VA Certification

Certification of courses to the VA is not automatic. Request for certification must be submitted each semester by the student via the VA Enrollment Certification Form (ECF) found in MyUWF. It is the student's responsibility to immediately notify the MVRC of any changes to a current ECF or anything that may affect the student's receipt of VA education benefits. Failure to do so may result in an overpayment and subsequent indebtedness to the Federal Government or the University.

Change of Address and Contact Information

All students must report a change of address and change of contact information to UWF. Students can update their information via the Contact and Privacy Information app in MyUWF. Students using VA education benefits (except Chapter 31) must also contact the VA at 1-888-442-4551 if there are any changes to their address or contact information (telephone or email). Chapter 31 students must log on to va.gov to update their information.

Degree and Certificate Programs

All Degree and Certificate programs listed on the VA public WEAMS website for UWF are approved for VA education benefits. Check <u>VA public WEAMS Institution Search</u> or contact the UWF MVRC for further information (<u>mvrc@uwf.edu</u> or 850-474-2550).

Registration & Attendance

Priority Registration

All military personnel and veterans in a degree-seeking program and dependents/spouses actively using VA Benefits who are registered with the Military and Veterans Resource Center will be given priority registration to begin on the first day of advanced registration. Students can check their Priority Registration via their MyUWF account.

Class Registration

After registering for classes, students using VA education benefits must request VA certification via the VA Enrollment Certification Form (ECF) found in MyUWF. The earlier a student registers and provides the registration information to the MVRC, the earlier certification paperwork can be certified to the VA. Students may visit or contact the MVRC for further assistance (myrc@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550).

Students in an ROTC program can be certified for courses required for their degree (including electives) and for courses required for the ROTC program.

Changes to Schedule

Any additions, drops, withdrawals, or other interruptions must be immediately reported to the UWF MVRC by the student (mvrc@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550), and a new ECF must be submitted that reflects the changes.

Class Attendance

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; failure to attend class could result in debt of funds received from the VA and/or the university. Students must check with their respective instructor(s) regarding the attendance policy for each class. Students who cannot attend class(es) for an extended period should notify the instructor(s) and the MVRC.

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, Part of Term 9, and Part of Term 20. 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 using VA education benefits should be aware that the VA review is made on a term-by-term basis and not by semester. Taking Part of Term courses may change the student's training time or rate of pursuit for pay purposes; since this varies by benefit chapter, students should contact the MVRC to determine their training time and qualifications for full benefits (mvrc@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550).

Terms	Fall	Spring	Summer
	2025	2026	2026
1	08/25-12/13	01/07-05/02	05/11-08/07
2	08/25-10/18	01/07-02/28	05/11-06/23
3	10/20-12/13	03/02-05/02	06/25-08/07
4	N/A	N/A	06/15-08/07
10	N/A	N/A	05/11-07/03
90	N/A	N/A	06/22-08/07
91	08/25-11/15	01/07-04/11	N/A
92	09/22-12/13	02/09-05/02	N/A
96	N/A	N/A	05/11-06/26

Graduate Non-Standard Term Enrollment Status Policy

Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Beneficiaries

The Graduate Non-Standard Term Enrollment Status Policy applies only to students receiving VA Education Benefits. It is not representative of the official enrollment status reported to the National Student Clearinghouse. The policy is only used for VA reporting.

VA Students

Standard Term Reporting

Graduate students using VA benefits are considered full-time if enrolled in 6 graduate semester hours within Term 1.

Term 1	6 semester hours
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Non-Standard Term Reporting

Enrollment in any term other than Term 1 within a semester is considered a Non-Standard Term enrollment. Non-standard terms must be converted to a "full-time equivalency" number of semester hours to provide proper reporting to the VA. Please review the Training Time Chart below to determine how many graduate enrollment hours

equal full-time for that specific term. The following terms are provided with full-time equivalency.

Term 2	3 semester hours
Term 3	3 semester hours
Term 4	4 semester hours

NOTE: The UWF catalog describes full-time based on the total number of hours enrolled within a semester, which meets the certification requirements of lenders, insurance companies, sponsors, and the National Student Clearinghouse. To meet the requirements of VA, however, certifications are based upon the training time of each individual term (vice semester total), which is why School Certifying Officials are required to report the beginning and end dates of each individual course enrollment. When taking a course in an accelerated non-standard term, fewer credit hours may be required to be considered full-time by the VA. Review those requirements on the MVRC Training Time Requirements for VA Benefits page.

It is important to know that the VA pays education benefits that are earned one day at a time. Consequently, monthly benefits funding reflects the sum of benefits earned each day within the month. The benefits earned each day depend upon the total training time (or rate of pursuit) the student is enrolled in for that day. VA is prohibited by law from paying for days of non-enrollment within a semester. By certifying terms (vice semester) and reporting the equivalent full-time or training time for each term certified, the VA is able to comply with federal law while accommodating the myriad of institutional enrollment models that report to the VA.

The training time that UWF certifies to the VA is based upon the University classification of enrollment policy applied to a standard term (term 1). The VA refers to the adjusted full-time credit hour for non-standard terms as "equivalent credit hours". For students subject to Chapter 33 certification, VA will calculate the rate of pursuit based upon the equivalent full-time that UWF certifies for the term and determine the sum of training time for overlapping terms.

Additional Non-Standard Term Reporting Dissertation, Thesis, or Cooperative Education

Graduate and Doctoral students enrolled in a dissertation, thesis, or cooperative education are considered full-time regardless of the hours enrolled.

A Non-Standard term is any term not listed in the academic catalog as part of term 1.

For Non-Standard Terms, the table below shows the UWF "equivalent credit hours" based on the total number of weeks in a term. (Rounding is in accordance with VA guidelines).

Graduate students receiving VA Educational Benefits enrolled in a (non-standard) part-of-term in a semester will have their training time determined and reported to the VA according to the Graduate Training Time chart below.

Weeks in the Term	Full Time Equivalent Semester Hours	3/4 Time Equivalent Semester Hours	1/2 Time Equivalent Semester Hours	Less than Half Time Semester Hours
1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	2	N/A	1	N/A
4	2	N/A	1	N/A

5	3	N/A	1.5	<1.5
6	3	N/A	1.5	<1.5
7	4	3	2	<2
8	4	3	2	<2
9	5	4	2.5	<2.5
10	5	4	2.5	<2.5
11+	6	5	3	<3

The <u>Graduate Enrollment Classification</u> that the UWF Registrar reports to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) is based on the total graduate hours enrolled in the semester. Note that VA certifications are based on equivalent hours for each individual term, and the Registrar certifications are based on total hours in each semester.

 * Changes made to Non-Standard Term Enrollment Status Policy information effective May 27th, 2021.

Tuition, Benefits & Waivers

Tuition Information for Military, Uniformed Services and Civilian

(see below for VA funding information)

As a Florida state institution, the University is subject to the tuition set by the Florida legislature for a course cost. The Course Cost is a combination of Fees (Base Tuition and the Florida Tuition Differential) and Non-Tuition Fees.

For Undergraduate Courses:

A waiver is applied for the non-tuition fee portion of a course cost if using military TA.

For Graduate Courses:

Waivers for the non-tuition portion of a course cost are not available for graduate courses.

For Undergraduate, Graduate, and Certificate Programs:

Some courses are self-supporting. These are "flat rate" tuition charges and do not include non-tuition fees. The tuition-only charge is equal to 100% of the course cost

In certain circumstances, military TA can be combined with VA education benefits. For more details, contact the MVRC (mvrcta@uwf.edu).

Active Duty & Dependents Residency

Full-time active-duty military and Uniformed Service members assigned to military units within the state of Florida are granted temporary residency for tuition purposes, thereby providing in-state tuition to the servicemember and their dependents who are listed in the military DEERS system. A copy of orders for the service member and DEERS verification for dependents will be required.

Full-time active duty and Uniformed Service members assigned to military units outside the state of Florida are eligible for a waiver of Florida non-resident tuition. A copy of orders and a current LES showing non-Florida residency will be required. It is strongly recommended that all financial information be redacted before submitting the LES.

 Students request the waiver from within their <u>MyUWF</u> account using the "Active Duty Out of State Waiver" request.

- Dependents are not eligible for the waiver if the service member is not stationed in Florida.
- Non-Florida Resident tuition will be charged unless proof is provided before the enrolled semester ends.

Military Tuition Assistance (TA) Vouchers & DoD/Service Branch Civilian TA, Florida National Guard Education Duty for Dollars (EDD)

Submit approved Vouchers to the MVRC (<u>mvrcta@uwf.edu</u>) before the end of regular registration (the day before classes begin). Funding documents (vouchers) must meet the following guidelines:

- The start and end date for each course listed on the voucher must match the course's actual start and end dates.
- If courses are in different terms, then the service portal used to request TA typically requires a separate voucher for each term within the semester.
- VOUCHERS WITH INCORRECT DATES OR COURSE INFORMATION CAN NOT BE PROCESSED per military service policy.

Vouchers can be submitted by emailing mvrcta@uwf.edu

DoD MyCAA Scholarship

The MyCAA Scholarship will fund up to \$4,000 for approved programs and is available to eligible spouses of active duty service members.

- Spouses submit an approved MyCAA Voucher to the MVRC (<u>mvrcta@uwf.edu</u>) before the end of regular registration (the day before classes begin).
- VOUCHERS WITH INCORRECT DATES OR COURSE INFORMATION CAN NOT BE PROCESSED per military service policy.

MyCAA Vouchers can be submitted by emailing mvrcta@uwf.edu

DoD Civilian TA, Civilian Acquisition TA, and Palace Acquire TA

Submit completed and approved Civilian Acquisition (ACQ), Palace Acquire (PAQ), and Civilian ACQ Tuition Assistance (TA) Vouchers to the MVRC (mvrcta@uwf.edu). Funding documents (vouchers) must meet the following guidelines:

The start and end date for each course listed on the voucher must match the actual start and end dates of the course.

- If courses are in different terms, then the service portal used to request TA typically requires a separate voucher for each term within the semester.
- If enrolling in courses that begin in a later term within the semester (see Part-of-Term Courses for <u>Graduate</u> (p. 2) and <u>Undergraduate</u> students), submit a request to the MVRC (<u>mvrcta@uwf.edu</u>) requesting a tuition deferment to allow time for the military.
- VOUCHERS WITH INCORRECT DATES OR COURSE INFORMATION CAN NOT BE PROCESSED per military service policy.

TA vouchers can be submitted by emailing mvrcta@uwf.edu **Non-Florida Resident tuition will be charged unless proof of Florida residency is provided before the enrollment semester ends.

FERPA completion requirement for Grade Release

Per the Requirements for Third Party Funded courses (Military TA, EDD, etc.), grades must be posted at the end of each of your funded courses. Due to the requirements in our DoD MOU, we must have a Release of Information on file to authorize the University to release your grades to your education center.

By following these instructions, students can update this information through the "Contact and Privacy" App in MyUWF under the "Info Release" tab.

Veterans Benefits

The University of West Florida is approved by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) to educate veterans, active-duty personnel, reservists, and eligible dependents under current law. The Military and Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) (uwf.edu/mvrc) is the point of contact for students receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The office has a professional staff of School Certifying Officials, a Mentor Coordinator, a VetSuccess on Campus Counselor, and Student Transition Coaches to assist in providing information about entitlements, certifying enrollment and locating resources. The MVRC monitors the academic progress of students receiving VA educational benefits. Students who receive 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 educational benefits eligibility. Contact the UWF MVRC for more information (mvrc@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550).

VA Yellow Ribbon Program

The Yellow Ribbon GI Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows an institution of higher learning to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The Yellow Ribbon program at UWF covers the out-of-state tuition fees for individuals eligible for the maximum benefit rate (100%) of the Post 9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33) residing outside the state of Florida and are considered non-Florida residents for tuition purposes. 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

Established in <u>s. 1009.26 (13), F.S.</u>, the C.W. "Bill" Young Veteran Tuition Waiver is a program that requires a state university, Florida College System institution, or career center to waive out-of-state fees for an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Reserve Forces, or the National Guard or any other student who is entitled and uses educational assistance provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and who physically resides in Florida while enrolled in the institution.

Students eligible for the waiver must submit the "Veteran O/S Waiver Form" or the "Veteran Dependent O/S Waiver Form" online via MyUWF (my.uwf.edu) before the end of the semester they are enrolled. Veterans must upload a copy of their DD-214 or Certificate of Eligibility. Eligible dependents must upload a most recent copy of their Certificate of Eligibility (must not be older than one year) along with completing their VA Enrollment Certification form (ECF) online via

MyUWF (my.uwf.edu). Documentation of their Florida residence must also be provided.

Veteran students will remain eligible under the waiver as long as they are actively enrolled. Dependents will remain eligible under the waiver as long as they are actively enrolled students using benefits.

Chapter 35 Survivors and Dependents Out of State Waiver

Students utilizing Chapter 35 Survivors and Dependents benefits who reside in the state of Florida qualify for a waiver of out-of-state fees. Students eligible for the waiver must submit the "Veteran Dependent O/S Waiver Form" online via MyUWF (my.uwf.edu) before the end of the semester they are enrolled.

Veterans Using Chapter 31

Students using Chapter 31 benefits will receive in-state tuition if residing in the state of Florida. Notify MVRC if your residency is listed as a Non-Florida Resident (mvrc@uwf.edu or 850-474-2550).

Section 1018 of Public Law 116-315

<u>Section 1018 of Public Law 116-315</u>, Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 is in effect June 15, 2021. The provision mandates adherence to the requirements of the Principles of Excellence, currently in Executive Order 13607.

UWF will make available to the student through the UWF Personal College Financing Plan the following information:

- 1. Costs covered by benefits.
- 2. Financial aid the student may qualify to receive
- 3. Expected student-loan debt after graduation
- Additional information to use to compare aid packages at different institutions.

Log in to your MyUWF account and search for your Personal College Financing Plan under the Financial Aid tab.

Our website has additional information on your <u>Personal College</u> Financing Plan.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Students using VA education benefits (Chapters 30, 31, 33, 35, or 1606) can receive financial aid if eligible.

• Complete the FAFSA

VA STEM Scholarship

The Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship is a provision of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Forever GI Bill®). The STEM Scholarship allows eligible Veterans and dependents in high-demand fields to extend their Post-9/11 GI Bill® or Fry Scholarship benefits. The provision provides up to nine months (not to exceed \$30,000) of additional Post-9/11 (Chapter 33) VA education benefits to eligible students training in the high-demand fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) STEM Program List Revision 508. Approved applicants for the scholarship will receive a Certificate Of Eligibility (COE) with the additional benefits. The student will provide a copy of the new COE to MVRC and submit a VA Enrollment Certification Form (ECF) to have courses certified under the STEM Scholarship. Monthly verification of attendance with the Department of Veterans Affairs is required. For eligibility requirements,

visit the VA site <u>Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship | Veterans</u> Affairs.

Courses Not Eligible for VA Education Benefits

Students using VA education benefits will receive an automated email whenever they enroll in a course that does not meet their degree requirements. The email will give them directions to contact their advisor and tell them what they can do if the course can be used for graduation.

Courses not meeting university requirements for graduation cannot be certified by the VA for benefits payment. Although not all-inclusive, the following list reflects types of courses that will not be certified by the VA:

- Courses that are not on the student's degree audit and that an advisor does not approve;
- 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."
- Courses for which an "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 VA will be notified retroactively;
- · Remedial & deficiency courses;
- Distance Learning classes designed for career enhancement or continuing education;
- The Excess Hour surcharge for courses that exceed the Florida
 Excess Hour provision. NOTE: Courses taken by military personnel
 during their active duty service are exempt from the excess hour
 calculation. Notify the MVRC immediately if you believe those
 courses have been included in your excess hour calculation. This
 surcharge does not apply to graduate students.

No Credit (NC) Grades

For undergraduate FTIC students entering Fall 2022 or later, per <u>UWF REG 3.031</u>, a No Credit (NC) grade will be applied to grades of "D" or "F" in any <u>General Education</u> course taken within one year of their first enrollment date subject to the following parameters:

- The NC grade may be applied a maximum of four (4) times.
- NC grades count in the calculation of excess hours and credits attempted.
- · NC grades are not calculated in the student's GPA.
- Application of the NC grade does not exclude students from <u>Academic Standing</u> for Warning, Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal. Determinations of academic standing under <u>UWF REG</u> <u>3.008</u> are based upon the original letter grade (i.e., "D" or "F") rather than the NC grade.
- NC grades are not applicable to repeated courses.
- NC grades are not applicable in cases where students are found responsible for academic misconduct.
- The Office of the Registrar will automatically apply NC grades at the end of the term. Students who desire to have their original grade reflected on their transcript must appeal to the Office of the Registrar.

For students using VA Benefits: If assigned an NC grade, a debt from VA and the university for the course tuition and fees, plus the corresponding monthly housing stipend, will be sent to the student.

Students using VA education benefits may opt out of the NC Policy. Contact the Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) at 850-474-2550 or by email at mvrc@uwf.edu and ask to be connected to the Mentor Coordinator. A hold will be placed on the student's account and the final grade will be posted. The grade will not be converted to an NC grade.

By opting out of the NC Policy, you will receive the letter grade, and your GPA will be calculated with that grade. If you opt out and want to change your decision, you can contact the Mentor Coordinator and ask to remove the hold.

From the VA SCO Handbook:

Non-Punitive Grades - End Of Term (38 CFR 21.4203(c)): A non-punitive grade is a grade that does not count as earned credit, and that does not affect progress standards for graduation.

Non-attending/Fail (NF) Grades

UWF reports NF grades to the VA with the student's last date of attendance as the effective date of withdrawal.

The "Effective Date" (Last Date of Attendance/Effective Date).

If a student officially withdraws, the date the student last attended is the effective date.

If a student is administratively withdrawn or stops attending without officially withdrawing, the actual last date of attendance must be determined and reported.

If a student completes the term with all "F" and/or non-punitive grades, then determine and report the actual last date of attendance for each course and, if required, terminate the student for unsatisfactory progress.

Use one of the following methods to determine the last actual date of attendance: (1) attendance records, (2) grading reports, (3) last date on which examination or other papers filed, or (4) last day of activity in the instructor's records.

The VA 85/15 Rule

The 85/15 Ratio Requirement prohibits paying Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits to students enrolling in a program when more than 85% of the students enrolled in that program have any portion of their tuition, fees, or other charges paid for them by the school or VA.

If the ratio of Supported Students to Non-Supported Students exceeds 85% at the time a new VA beneficiary student enters or reenters (such as after a break in enrollment), the student cannot be certified to receive benefits in the program. The MVRC monitors the 85/15 ratio to ensure compliance.

VA Tuition Deferment

Students using Chapter 33 (Post 9/11) and Chapter 31 Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits will be issued a 90-day tuition deferment in accordance with Public Law 115-407 section 103. The policy ensures that the educational institution will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement

^{**} Passed by Faculty Senate 05/13/2022

of a payment to be provided by the student' VA education benefits under chapter 31 or 33.

Students must provide proof of eligibility and submit a VA Enrollment Certification Form (ECF) to receive a tuition deferment.

Submit a VA Enrollment Certification Form (ECF) via MyUWF (my.uwf.edu) and provide proof of VA education benefits with a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or one of the following VA application forms (1990, TEB +1990e, 5490).

Students rated at less than 100% eligibility for Chapter 33 (Post 9/11) benefits; a deferment will be applied for the total amount of tuition and fees due. Students must pay the portion of tuition and fees not covered by their benefits prior to the deferment due date. Contact MVRC for additional information.

Veterans and other eligible degree-seeking students receiving VA education benefits on active duty and under Chapters 30, 33, 35, 1606, and, U.S.C., are eligible for one deferment each academic semester. A 90-day deferment will be issued in term 1 for the spring and fall semesters, and a 30-day deferment will be issued for summer and mini-terms with a COE on file.

A deferment extension may be issued if there is a delay in the receipt of benefits. The deferment extension must be requested by email to mvrc@uwf.edu prior to the original deferment due date. A deferment will not be issued for a date after the last day of the term.

VA Deferments for Chapter 30, 1606, 35, and Chapter 33 Students Awaiting COE

Terms	Fall	Spring	Summer
1	11/23/2025	04/07/2026	06/11/2026
2	09/24/2025	02/06/2026	06/11/2026
3	11/19/2025	04/01/2026	07/26/2026
4	N/A	N/A	07/16/2026
10	N/A	N/A	06/11/2026
90	N/A	N/A	07/23/2026
91	09/24/2025	02/06/2026	N/A
92	10/22/2025	03/11/2026	N/A
96	N/A	N/A	06/11/2026

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

Veterans and other eligible degree-seeking students receiving VA education benefits under Chapters 30, 33, 35, 1606, and, U.S.C., may request a tuition deferment via their VA Enrollment Certification Form (ECF) found in MyUWF (my.uwf.edu). Failure to make payment by the deferment due date will result in a \$100 late payment fee (VA benefits do not cover this fee). Students who do not make a payment or request a deferment may be removed from classes for non-payment. Students who are removed due to non-payment may appeal for reinstatement and will be assessed a \$200 reinstatement fee (VA benefits do not cover this 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 student's responsibility to pay the tuition and fees owed. A student must submit a fee appeal explaining the circumstances behind the request. This is not an automatic approval.

VA 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.