



Higher Education Veterans Programs

FROM MILITARY TO COLLEGE: A CHECKLIST FOR VETERANS

The following is intended to be a basic resource for veterans entering college. It is not designed to be comprehensive and does not cover all benefits and possibilities – just the most frequent situations. Please consult a Higher Education Veterans Programs Regional Coordinator for additional information or a benefits consultation.

- Decide what school you wish to attend. Minnesota has three main systems:**
 - Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), www.mnscu.edu
 - University of Minnesota System, www.umn.edu
 - Private Colleges and Universities, www.mnprivatecolleges.org
 - There are also a number of online opportunities and unaffiliated private colleges.

- Take admissions test (if required)**
 - Most Minnesota 4-year colleges and universities require the ACT to be considered for admission. However, this requirement might be waived for transfer students or those who graduated high school three or more years ago. Check with the college you are interested in attending.
 - Visit www.actstudent.org for more information about the ACT as well as testing times and locations.

- Apply for admission**
 - Check with the individual college for requirements.

- Send official transcripts**
 - Have official transcripts for previous college level coursework, including military training, sent to the college you plan to attend for evaluation of transfer credit. Usually, transcripts should be sent to the admissions office.
 - Visit www.mymilitaryeducation.org for information about obtaining your military transcript. Click on Military FAQ's and enter 1002 into the "Search by Keyword" section and hit "Search."

- Apply for financial aid**
 - Complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA), found online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
 - FAFSA determines your eligibility for low/no interest student loans as well as state/federal grants.
 - Make sure to report any veteran/military benefits you will be receiving.
 - Financial aid is initially based off of your previous year's earnings. If this doesn't accurately reflect your income at the time you will be taking classes, make sure to complete a financial aid appeal at your college to have your award reassessed.

- Search for scholarships**
 - There are many scholarships available to veterans.
 - Visit www.mymilitaryeducation.org or contact the Veterans Resource Center on your campus for a listing of military related scholarships.
 - Check with college financial aid office for general scholarships.

- **Take placement tests (if required)**
 - MnSCU programs may require assessment testing for course placement.
 - Check with your college for details.

- **Attend orientation**
 - You will be required to attend an orientation session, where you will get details on the registration process, campus services, and other information.

- **Register for classes**
 - After you attend orientation, you will be able to register for courses. This should be done in consultation with an advisor, and is usually done at the orientation session itself.

- **Apply for benefits**
 - Depending on your time and type of service, residency, and other factors, you may be eligible for all or some of the following. Check with the Higher Education Veterans Programs Regional Coordinator for a one-on-one benefit consultation.
 - **Montgomery GI Bill**
 - Visit the Certifying Official on campus to apply or <http://vabenefits.vba.gov/vonapp/main.asp> to apply.
 - Once you begin receiving your benefit checks, you need to verify attendance every month: <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave> or call 1-877-823-2378.
 - Notify your campus Certifying Official of any changes in your status.
 - **Minnesota GI Bill**
 - Minnesota residents who served on active duty after 9/11/2001 or those who have not served on active duty but served at least 5 years in the National Guard/Reserves may be eligible to attend Minnesota public or private institutions.
 - Some dependents/spouses are eligible.
 - Pays up to \$1,000/semester for a \$10,000 lifetime max.
 - Applicants must first submit a FAFSA and apply through the financial aid office or on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - Visit www.getreadyforcollege.org/military for more information.
 - **Federal Tuition Assistance**
 - Apply early, money for this program can run out!
 - Available to active duty members and some members of the National Guard and Reserve.
 - Army National Guard members apply at: <http://www.virtualarmory.com>
 - Army Reserve members apply at: <https://rcms.ocar.army.pentagon.mil/education/>
 - **Minnesota National Guard – State Tuition Reimbursement**
 - Complete required paperwork with your unit education specialist.
 - A funding request must be submitted annually.
 - Request payment through your unit once grades have been received.
 - **Request Other Services**
 - Veterans Resource Center – information regarding benefits and resources
 - Student Organizations – many campuses have veterans clubs
 - Counseling – personal and career counseling
 - Disability Services – provides accommodations for students for disabilities

For more information visit <http://www.mymilitaryeducation.org>