

# Veteran's Affairs Newsletter

UNC Pembroke • Office of Financial Aid

★ Spring 2016 ★  
Edition III

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**UNCP VA Certifying Official:**

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910.775.4405



**VETERAN'S AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER FROM THE  
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID!!!**

## **VA Updates**

### **Latest Changes to the Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer Rules**

**What changes were made?** Lawmakers in the House agreed to cut in half the amount of housing allowance children using a transferred GI Bill can receive in the future.

Right now kids who use the transfer receive the same housing allowance their service member parent would, which, in most cases, is based on E-5 BAH rates at the location of their school. Lawmakers wanted to save some coin, so they decided to cut that amount in half going forward, meaning that kids using a transferred bill can only receive half the rate.

**Who does this impact?** Under the current *proposed* legislation if you have already transferred the GI Bill to a child or make the transfer by 180 days after the new rules are signed into law, you are safe. The changes specifically grandfather you in.

**Military & Veteran Services:**

**Mr. Michael Clawson**  
**DF Lowry Building**  
**Michael.clawson@uncp.edu**  
**910.775.4499**

**Tuition Assistance:**

**Patricia St. Armour**  
**UNCP at Fort Bragg**  
**Patricia.st.armour@uncp.edu**  
**910.436.4295**

**Important Websites**

[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

[www.gibill.va.gov/wave](http://www.gibill.va.gov/wave)

**Contact VA:**

**VA Regional Office**  
**PO Box 100022**  
**Decatur, GA 30031**

**Education Benefits:**  
**1.888.442.4551**

**Interactive Voice Response**  
**(IVR)**  
**1.877.823.2378**

That means this only impacts people who transfer the bill after that time frame, including those of you who plan to transfer the hot second you're are eligible to do so, but will not make it in the window before the 180 day mark after the changes are in place.

**Speaking of, who is eligible?** To transfer the GI bill an active duty service member must have already served six years, and agree to a four years additional service obligation (known as an "ADSO.") A child cannot start using the transfer until the service member has hit 10 years in active service, and the child is 18 or has their high school diploma (or GED). The GI Bill cannot be transferred after retirement.

**Wait, wasn't that timeline supposed to change?** You're not imagining things. The legislation that passed *at one point* included a measure that would've increased the time in service requirement before transfer to 10 years, plus two years ADSO. In a fancy eleventh hour move lawmakers kicked that section out, and kept things at the current six plus four rule.

**When does all of this become actual law?**

Probably not for a while. First, the Senate has to bust a move on similar legislation. Then the whole thing has to be sent to the President for his signature. Watchdogs expect the Senate to move forward with it, so it's not safe to say "don't worry, this won't actually happen." It IS happening – just not right this hot second.

**So what should I do?** If you are eligible to transfer the GI bill, the answer is simple: transfer it! Transfer it now. Yes, right now. You can un-transfer it later if you want to ... but you cannot go back in time and transfer it under the current, more generous rules.

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Appointments**

On tomorrow March 3, 2016- the Chapter 31 VA Representative Ms. Veronica Allen will be at UNCP meeting with students who are receiving Chapter 31 benefits. If you are receiving Chapter 31 benefits and would like to schedule an appointment with her on this date, please call or email me so we can assign you a time.

## **Certification Information**

If you plan on using you VA benefits for the Spring 2016 semester, please submit them within the first 30 days of the semester. VA Enrollment Worksheets received after the first 30 days of the semester, can only be certified if the student has documented extenuating circumstances.

When completing the VA Enrollment Worksheet for certification, please be sure that it has been signed by your Academic Advisor prior to turning it into me.

The VA Certifying Official is not your academic advisor and cannot sign the form.

Please be sure you attach a copy of your **Detailed Schedule**, not the **Time and Day Schedule**. The Detailed Schedule provides me with all the accurate information I need to complete the certification. To access your Detailed Schedule, please follow the steps below:

- Log into Braveweb
- Click on Banner Self-Service
- Click on Student & Financial Aid
- Click on Registration
- Click on Student Detailed Schedule
- Select the term
- Print

### **Payment Information**

If you are Chapter 30, 35, or 1606/1607, **you should prepare to cover any initial costs due for the term you are enrolled to make sure that your enrollment is secure.** VA payments are sent to you directly; therefore it is your responsibility to make sure anything you owe is paid by the due date indicated by student accounts.

If you are Chapter 33 Post 9/11, **your enrollment is secure until payment has been received directly to the University after we have certified electronically.** You must have enough VA benefits to cover your tuition and fees. If you are considered less than 100% for your benefit payments, you must be prepared to pay any out of pocket expenses after VA has paid. To secure your classes, all certification documents are to be turned in as soon as you enroll.

### **VA Work-Study Opportunities**

The Robeson County Office of Veteran Services is looking for veterans/dependents who are interested in work-study. Your current enrollment status must be  $\frac{3}{4}$  time or full-time. If you are interested, please contact Chris Oxendine at (910)671-3071.

### **Question of the Month**

**How do I receive my VA Benefits during the summer?**

If you plan on using your GI Bill during the summer, please complete your VA Enrollment Worksheet and obtain your advisor signature. Once you have completed the worksheet and obtained the signature, please turn the worksheet into the VA School Certifying Official. If you plan on receiving financial aid, you will need to turn in a 2016 Summer School Application. The form will be available on the Financial Aid webpage under Forms and available in the Office of Financial Aid.

## **Upcoming Dates**

March 4th – Last Day of 1<sup>st</sup> 8 weeks

March 7th – Grades due for 1<sup>st</sup> 8 week courses

March 7th – Midterm grades due

March 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break

March 16th – Grad Finale (UC Annex: 10am-7pm)

March 17th – Grad Finale (UC Annex: 10am-4pm)

March 18th – Last day to withdraw from full semester courses.

March 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> – Advising Week

March 25th – Good Friday

March 28th - Pre-registration for Summer I, II & Fall 2016 (currently enrolled students)

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## **THINGS TO REMEMBER:**

-Turn in VA paperwork to the VA Certifying Official early.

-Do NOT complete the VA Enrollment Worksheet in pencil.

- The Department Of Veterans Affairs will NOT pay for any classes that are not within your degree program.

-Consult with your advisor if you have any questions about your program or classes.

-If you are Chapters 30 or 1606/1607 you must access the WAVE website with VA monthly to certify your enrollment. [www.gibill.va.gov/wave](http://www.gibill.va.gov/wave)