

# VETERANS SERVICES

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs provides assistance to veterans, reservists, service persons, and eligible dependents. The office processes all certifications that must be filed with the Department of Veteran and Military Affairs before educational benefits can be received. Students must register with the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs each semester to begin receiving or to continue receiving benefits. In addition to helping students apply for benefits and complete VA certifications, the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs provides academic, personal, and financial referrals to students in VA programs. VA sponsored work-study programs and tutoring are available to those who qualify. Students eligible for veterans benefits include VEAP veterans, reservists and veterans on the "New GI Bill®," disabled veterans, dependents of persons who have total and permanent service-connected disabilities, and dependents of persons whose deaths were service-connected.

VA Education Benefits belong solely to the eligible student and it is the student's responsibility to advocate for, manage, and provide documentation regarding benefits while at UA. Parents of students utilizing benefits will direct questions regarding benefits to the students first, and students will bring questions regarding their benefits to VMA.

Information about services, application procedures, and compliance with VA requirements is available at the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, Houser Hall, Ste. 3000, or by contacting The University of Alabama, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, Box 870251, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0251; 205- 348-0983.

## Isakson & Roe Requirements and Veterans Benefits Disclosures

Effective August 1, 2021, *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, MD, Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020* requires institutions that participate in educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide additional disclosures for veterans approved for aid from the GI Bill.

University of Alabama employees shall comply with program integrity requirements issued by the Department of Defense, including but not limited to those contained in 34 CFR 668.71 – 668.75 & 668.14. Specifically, university employees shall comply with restrictions on fraudulent and aggressive recruitment of military students including, but not limited to, providing compensation to individuals for securing military enrollments or engaging in high-pressure recruitment tactics.

## GI Bill® Complaint Policy

For students receiving VA education benefits, any complaint against the school should be routed through the VA GI Bill Feedback System by going to the following link: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/feedback.asp>. The VA will then follow up through the appropriate channels to investigate the complaint and resolve it satisfactorily.

## Undergraduate Terms for Federal VA Certification Purposes

Below is UA's determination for VA purposes of how the academic policy for full-time status would apply to VA students for determining rate of pursuit for VA purposes: UNDERGRADUATE POLICY FOR FULL-TIME STATUS WITHIN ANY SEMESTER = 12 HRS UNLESS SPECIFIED BY THE VA AS A NON-STANDARD TERM (EXAMPLE - SUMMER TERMS)

To bring clarity and equity to this situation, the Office of Veteran & Military Affairs has established the following policy when certifying graduate students in non-standard terms that takes the academic policy of what the institution considers full time and allocates the policy's

equivalent to the individual parts of the term when certifying benefits to the VA and is publishing this certification policy guidance to bring the institution into federal compliance by having this information published in UA's catalog. Otherwise, graduate students using benefits would be unfairly subjected to the lesser-weighted undergraduate hours.

## Shopping Sheet Disclosures

Schools must provide a covered individual (a student using benefits under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33 or 35 of title 38, U.S.C., or chapter 1606 of title 10, U.S.C.) with a personalized shopping sheet that contains:

- Estimated total cost of the course that includes tuition, fees, books, supplies and any other additional costs. View the cost of attendance for UA programs.
- Other types of Federal financial aid, not administered by VA that is offered by the institution, that the individual may be qualified to receive. Learn about types of aid offered at UA and how to apply.
- Estimated amount of student loan debt the individual would have upon graduation.
- Information regarding graduation rates. View UA statistics and graduation rates.
- Information regarding the acceptance of transfer credits including military credits. View our transfer credit policies.
- Any additional requirements including training, experience, or examinations that are required to obtain a license, certification or approval for which the course of education prepares the individual.
- UA's Shopping Sheet information can be found in the students MyBama using the Financial Aid Self - Service Link.

## Net Price Calculator

This tool is designed to estimate costs and eligibility for financial aid based on the information you enter about yourself and your family.

## Consumer Finance Protection Bureau

A useful tool for incoming students can be found at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Paying for College. This resources provides detailed financial information on higher education institutions and students can enter actual information to better calculate their circumstances.

## Residency for Tuition Purposes Policy

The Residency for Tuition Purposes policy addresses the residency of Veteran or members of the United States Armed Forces in accordance with PL 115-251 sec. 301.

## Pending Payment Compliance

Pending Payment Compliance is in accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679(e) in accordance with PL 115-407 sec. 103.

## Military Service Credit

Military Service Credit information is found on the Transfer Credit Policy catalog page.

## Military Transcripts

Students are required to disclose all prior training. Evaluation of all prior transcripts will be completed in accordance with [38 CFR 21.4254(c)(4); 4253(d)(3)]. Students must submit transcripts by the end of their first term of enrollment. Failure to submit transcripts will result in a loss of VA funding after the second term of enrollment.

VA students are not allowed to receive VA Educational Benefits for courses in which they have earned credit. VA students are not allowed to repeat courses in which they have a passing grade unless a higher grade is required to pursue their course of study.

Order Transcripts

## **Priority Registration**

Information on the Priority Registration Policy.

## **Office of Disability Services**

The Office of Disability Services, ODS, is the central campus resource for students with disabilities who need to request academic accommodations.

## **GI Bill® Comparison Tool**

The US Department of Veterans Affairs has it's own GI Bill Comparison Tool® to compare academic programs and benefits by school.