



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

Student Life

Veterans Education and Transition Services

VETERANS SERVICES



UMAINE.EDU/VETERANS



WELCOME TO THE UMaine VETS OFFICE

The UMaine VETS Office (Veterans Education and Transition Services) works in every way possible to make the transition from military to student life simple and hassle-free.

Our Mission:

The VETS Office connects veteran students to programs and resources at the University of Maine and the surrounding community to support their success. As the VA Certifying Official, the VETS office staff facilitates the administration of Veterans Educational Benefits for veteran students or dependents attending the University of Maine.



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Contact Us:

Room 143, Memorial Union
Phone: 207-581-1316
Email: UMVETS@umit.maine.edu
Office Hours: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Monday-Friday



WELCOME TO UMaine

Striving to make our campus veteran-helpful

Welcome,

We would like to take a moment to introduce you to the veteran services on campus. The V.E.T.S office is the place where both certifying and veteran programming takes place. Once you register for classes and receive your Certificate of Eligibility visit our website at: <https://umaine.edu/veterans/certification-request/> to fill out your 'Request for VA Educational Benefits' form. This needs to be done every semester. Tony Llerena is the certifying official for UMaine. Any educational benefits questions can be answered in the V.E.T.S. office. The V.E.T.S. office is staffed by VA student staff who are here to help you with any questions you may have about veteran educational benefits, the different chapters, or how to request educational benefits. Staff members can help you understand your VA educational benefits, and apply for VA work-study or VA funded tutoring. Stop on by, and they will also be able to tell you the next veteran event on campus!

Campus veteran programming also takes place in the V.E.T.S. office. The office coordinates veteran activities, events, and runs the Veterans Advisory Committee on campus. Once a month, the V.E.T.S. office sponsors a student veteran day where they offer guest speakers, veteran support agencies such as the DAV or the Vets Center, and/or free food for veterans. Veterans Week on campus is a great time of year when we offer a whole week of veteran related activities. Another great program found at UMaine is the M-Project Guide program, matches incoming student veterans with seasoned UMaine student veterans to aid in new student transition. If you are interested, fill out the form at this website: <http://www.umaine.edu/cntsp/mproject/>.

UMaine has two groups that advocate for student veterans. The V.E.T.S. Advisory Committee consists of faculty, staff, and students that are either veterans or interested in veterans issues. This advisory invites different departments to meetings to better understand how the decision making process happens on campus and how we can include new ways of helping student veterans.

The UMaine Veterans Association (UMVA) is a student group that anyone can join which advocates for veterans on campus. This group is both active in improving veteran marketing and offering veterans a place to meet and mingle with other veterans. Every semester the UMVA hosts a student veteran event such as the Veteran Meet-n-Greet Luncheon on-campus, range day, camping trips, and community outreach programs. The UMVA attends the Annual Student Veterans of America conferences to bring back useful information to the veterans on campus.

There are many services and people to help you with your transition to UMaine. Please feel free to use these resources. It can be overwhelming to in-process on your own, so take advantage of the V.E.T.S office or the UMaine Veterans Association to help you with it! That is why we are here!

Congratulations for choosing UMaine!



CHECKLIST FOR VETERAN STUDENTS

- ☐ Get your **COE** (Certificate of Eligibility) or **NOBE** (Notice of Basic Eligibility) from the VA by going on <http://www.gibill.va.gov/> and clicking on **"Apply for Benefits"** obtaining your COE/NOBE may take a while, continue with following steps if you have completed the online portion).
- ☐ Transferring Students, will have to fill out another form on VONAPP (<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>), a 22-1995.
- ☐ Sign up for classes (for help doing this contact the Admissions Office).

After Acceptance to UMaine:

- ☐ Fill out a *signed Request for VA Educational Benefits* form online. This form is available on our website at: <https://umaine.edu/veterans/certification-request/> (**you must do this for every semester, as soon as you have signed up for classes**).
- ☐ Log onto **Mainstreet** and fill out your **"Anticipated Resources"** to avoid being charged a late fee from the Bursars Office.

★**IMPORTANT:** (For Ch. 30, 1606, & 1607) at the end of every month you must log onto **WAVE** (Web Automated Verification of Enrollment) to let the VA know you are still attending the University of Maine. Go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov/> and click on **"Verify Attendance."**

★ If you have **any changes** to your **COE, class schedule or academic standing** you **MUST** let the VETS office know immediately.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION



The UMaine Student Veterans Association (SVA) is made up of students from various military branches as well as faculty veterans.

Who we are:

The University of Maine Veteran Association is a student organization with three goals:

1. Advocates on behalf of student veterans attending UMaine.
2. Supports veterans in their academic endeavors.
3. Provides opportunities for UMVA veterans to socialize, relax, and have fun.

What we do:

We actively participate in the policy making process on campus to ensure veterans concerns are heard.

Events on and off campus:

Hiking Trips
Camping Trips
Socials
Fundraisers
Family BBQs
Sporting Events
And much, much more!

How to join:

The best way to get involved is to attend one of our weekly meetings in the Memorial Union. To find out times and dates of these meetings contact the UMaine VETS Office at: 207-581-1316. Or check out the UMVA folder on FirstClass.

Everything you need to know can also be found on our Facebook page, which is: UMaine Vets or UMaine Veterans Association



Mission

To provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation.

Vision

All veterans will succeed in higher education, achieve their academic goals, and gain meaningful employment.

About SVA

Today's veterans face numerous obstacles in their path of attaining a college degree. These challenges range from a missing sense of camaraderie to feeling like an outsider amongst 18 year old traditional students to a lack of understanding by university faculty. When coupled with the visible and invisible wounds of war, a college degree can be an elusive goal for men and women returning from military service. Student Veterans of America (SVA) makes that goal a reality.

SVA is a 501(c)(3) coalition of student veteran groups on college campuses across the globe. These member chapters are the "boots on the ground" that help veterans reintegrate into campus life and succeed academically. Each chapter must be an officially recognized student group by their university or college and provide a peer-to-peer network for veterans who are attending the school. Additionally, chapters often coordinate campus activities, provide pre-professional networking, and generally provide a touchstone for student veterans in high educations.

Student Veterans of America is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. The UMaine SVA is a recognized student chapter of the national SVA.

<http://www.studentveterans.org>

GENERAL STUDENT RESOURCES UMaine CAMPUS

Student IDs and Parking Passes

Student ID cards and parking passes can be purchased in Rm 130 on the 1st floor of the Memorial Union. Make sure to park in the correct areas or you will get ticketed!

Cutler Health Clinic

Cutler Health Clinic offers free counseling. Open M-F. For more info call them at: 581-4000. In addition, for a fee, they offer: allergy shots, ambulance services, foreign travel medicine, immunizations, lab services, minor surgery, nurse triage, physical exams, women's healthcare, x-ray.

Computer Lab

There is a computer lab with printing capabilities across from the V.E.T.S. office. After downloading the software to your laptop, you can wirelessly send documents to the cue from around campus. Each semester you will receive \$16 on your MaineCard for printing costs.

Non-Traditional and Commuter Lounge

This lounge is on the second floor of the Memorial Union in Rm 228. Bring a cup with you and get free tea, coffee, or hot chocolate. There is a fridge, microwave, and toaster available for your use. The CNTSP office also rents lockers in the lounge. See Barbara Smtih in the lounge for more details.

Tutor Program

The Tutor Program provides small group tutoring for UMaine students who need academic assistance in 100 & 200 level, non-web based courses. A staff of peer tutors is hired to work with small groups of students who meet two times a week throughout the semester. In addition to group work, they have drop in hours for several classes and a writing center. Give them a call at 581-2351

University Park Family Housing

On campus housing for students with families (spouse or partner, and/or children) may apply to live at University Park Family Housing. University Park is located in Old Town, one mile from the center of campus and adjacent to the wooded bike paths that link the campus with Old Town. FMI call 581-4850.

Legal Services

Student Legal Services is a professional law office retained by Student Government. Legal advice and/or representation are provided to undergraduate students who have paid an activity fee. They can provide a list of referrals to other law offices. Call 207-581-1789 FMI.

VETERAN INFORMATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Bangor VA CBOC Clinic

The VA has an outreach clinic in Bangor. Bangor CBOC has a full complement of VA staff providing physical, mental health and administrative services. There is also a VA Mental Health Clinic on the 2nd floor of the same building. Services provided include primary care and preventive health services, mental health services, health promotion/disease prevention, medical benefits counseling, laboratory services, and smoking cessation.

The can be reached at 207-561-3600. Their address is 35 State Hospital St., Bangor, ME 04401.

Togus VA Hospital

Togus is the main VA hospital in Maine. They offer medical services and veteran's benefits help. Here is a list of important VA numbers:

VA Numbers

General number.....1-877-421-8263
Returning OIF/OEF ex 4266/5344
Veterans Benefits.....1-800-827-1000
GI Bill/Education.....1-888-442-4551

Service Organization Numbers

American Legion.....207-623-5726
DAV.....207-623-5725
VFW.....207-623-5723

Bangor Vets Center

The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life. The Bangor Vets Center staff visits UMaine frequently. We have heard that their group sessions are great, helpful, and a good way to meet new friends. Some of their services include:

- +Individual and group counseling for Veterans and their families.
- +Family counseling for military related issues.
- +Bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death.
- +Military sexual trauma counseling and referral
- +Outreach and education including PDHRA, community events, etc.
- +Substance abuse assessment and referral.
- +Employment assessment and referral.
- +VBA benefits explanation and referral.
- +Screening and referral for medical issues including TBI, depression, etc.

To make an appt. or for more info call them at 947-3391.

Their address is 368 Harlow St., Bangor, ME 04401.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I get things started to use my GI Bill benefits?

The first thing you should do is contact the VA and determine what benefits you qualify for and then get your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or your Notice of Benefits Eligibility (NOBE). From there you can follow our checklist to get everything else going.

School has started why hasn't my bill been paid with the Bursar's office?

Depending on what chapter of benefits you are using we may be waiting on the add/drop period to pass before certifying your classes to the VA. This allows you to adjust your schedule without incurring a debt or an overage that will have to be paid back later. We suggest that you go to Mainstreet and update your anticipated resources so that you don't incur a late fee.

I still have fees from last semester and can't register for this semester. Why?

There could be several reasons. The one we most often encounter is that a fee is added by the program that you are enrolled in. The GI Bill will only pay the fees that are assessed to every student and not to specific schools or programs.

Do I have to go to class on Veteran's day?

University of Maine classes are in session on Veterans Day. Approval of Veterans Day off has occurred and will begin in AY 2015-16.

I filled out a request for VA benefits last semester.

Do I still have to fill this form out again?

You MUST certify your classes for each semester if you want to get paid by the VA.

How do I get started with my Army Guard benefits?

To start the process for Ch. 1606/1607 benefits go to: www.goarmyed.com

Do I have to let you know if I add or drop classes?

You should let us know any time there is a change in your class schedule. If it is done before the add/drop period we can help to ensure that you don't incur any overages or debts.

Why wasn't my payment this month the same as last month?

If you have been getting paid regularly and there is a sudden change in your benefits (not related to end of semester or break periods) you will have to contact the VA to find out why. We do not process the payment. We only report your credit hours to the VA the rest is handled by them.

I am going to UMaine and another school.

Do I still need to fill out a certification of my classes?

Yes, you still need to verify with us the classes that you are taking. It is your responsibility to verify that the classes you are taking are covered.

How do I get college credit for my military service?

For Navy and Marines go to <https://smart.navy.mil/smart/welcome.do>, for Army go to www.goarmyed.com, for Air Force request transcripts be sent from CCAF directly to the school www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp.

Can I use the GI Bill for graduate school?

It depends on your chapter.

What does the GI Bill pay for?

That is largely dependent on the chapter of benefits that you qualify for. For more information on your chapter go to: www.gibill.va.gov/

I am Ch. 33 (post 9/11 benefits). Where is the money for my books?

The stipend for books is at the beginning of each semester and is based on the number of classes that you are taking. The stipend is maxed at \$1000 for the entire school year.

Is there a place where I can meet and talk with other veteran students?

There is a veteran's lounge in the VETS office located at 143A in the Memorial Union. It is staffed from 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday. We would love to have you come in and visit.

What kind of Veteran's Clubs are available on campus?

UMaine Veterans Association

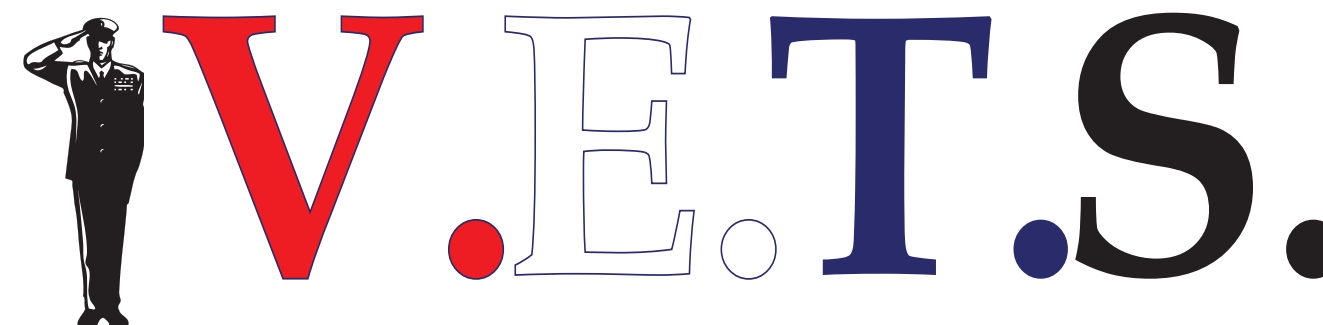
How do I get in touch with the VA education benefits office?

The office for this region is located in Buffalo. They can be reach at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

How do I find out how much of my benefits I have used and what I have left?

You can find out what benefits you have used and have remaining at: www.ebenefits.va.gov/

**If you have any questions that aren't answered here
then please submit them to: UMVETS@umit.maine.edu**



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