

VETERAN'S STUDENT HANDBOOK

BLADEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

“Bladen Community College shall comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other acts banning discrimination because of race, national origin, color, religion, sex, disability, age, veteran status, or political affiliation.”

Revised: July 2025

DIVISIONAL VISION STATEMENT

Student Services shall assist all credential and degree-seeking individuals to further their education by helping them establish sound educational goals. Within this division, The Center for Student Success and Engagement will be a centralized, responsive, and student-focused location of empowerment that partners with the entire campus to promote an inclusive and engaging college experience, where veterans and military-affiliated students become self-directed learners through the delivery of centralized, high-quality academic support services. It shall function as an integral part of the total institution in assuring that students will be recognized as individuals with needs, interests, and abilities.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Center for Student Success and Engagement holistically guides veterans and military-affiliated students in the completion of their academic and occupational goals by creating an accessible, responsive, constructive, learner-centered space for students to become active, independent, and confident learners. The Success Center supports instructional objectives of the faculty and advances the educational and retention efforts of Bladen Community College in a coordinated effort to support student success. Furthermore, Veterans Services shall treat all veterans and their eligible dependents with the tolerance, compassion, dignity, and understanding we would expect to receive ourselves in similar circumstances. The School Certifying Official (SCO) will assist veterans in correctly completing Veterans Affairs (VA) forms, applications for educational benefits, benefit claims and will serve as a liaison with the Administration.

Military Recruitment and Marketing Practices

Bladen Community College, its agents, and its employees are required to refrain from providing any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on securing enrollments or federal financial aid (including Tuition Assistance funds) to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting, admission activities, or making decisions regarding the award of student financial assistance.

BCC recruitment activities shall refrain from using high-pressure recruitment tactics, this would include when contacting by phone, email, or in-person. BCC will not engage in same-day recruitment and registration for the purpose of securing Service member enrollments.

Employees understand and do not engage in such practices.

The role of the Veteran's Services Department at Bladen Community College is to assist the student in pursuing their educational, professional and/or vocational objectives. The Veteran Services Specialist is available to answer questions about educational benefits, to certify enrollments for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and monitor student degree plans and academic progress.

BCC's VA Specialist is Mrs. Angelena Hall. She can be reached Monday thru Friday during regular college hours. Mrs. Hall's office is located in Building 2 Room 119A. Contact information for Mrs. Hall is 910-879-5580 or email ahall@bladencc.edu.

Although BCC works to ensure VA regulations are satisfied, the College has no authority to make judgments regarding benefit status. The eligibility of individuals for veteran educational benefits and approval of payment of benefits is made solely by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The National Toll-Free number for the Department of Veterans Affairs for educational benefits is

1-888-442-4551. All other VA inquiries should be directed to **1-800-698-2411.** Contact information for local Veterans Service Officers is as follows:

Bladen County Veterans Service Office	(910) 862-6950
Columbus County Veterans Service Office	(910) 640-6638
Cumberland County Veterans Service Office	(910) 677-2970
Lumbee Tribe Veterans Service Office	(910) 522-2210
Robeson County Veterans Service Office	(910) 671-3070
Sampson County Veterans Service Office	(910) 592-2862

A Message of Gratitude

Veterans, thank you for your service. We owe you a debt of gratitude for your unwavering selflessness. Our team is dedicated to ensuring your educational transition to civilian life goes smoothly and that you receive the best benefits for your unique situation.

Bladen Community College education programs are approved by the North Carolina State Approving Agency for the enrollment of persons eligible for education assistance benefits from the **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**. Those entitled to VA benefits are eligible veterans, participants in the Montgomery G.I. Bill® contributory program, active-duty military in voluntary education programs, drilling National Guard, drilling Reservists, and spouses and children of disabled or deceased veterans. The Office of Financial Aid and Veterans Services provides information and assistance to students applying for VA education benefits.

How to Get Started

How to Apply for VA Education Benefits

1. Go to va.gov
2. Choose [Apply](https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/) for Education Benefits at <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>. Complete the application and submit. The application takes approximately 20 minutes. The VA will contact you by mail after processing your information. You may choose to complete this step by mailing VA [22-1990](#) (veteran) or [22-5490](#) (spouse/dependent).
3. When/if you receive your Certificate of Eligibility (COE), please bring a copy to our office for your file. Also, a member copy of the veteran's DD-214 is needed by the Veterans Services Office.
4. It is important to note that prospective students choosing to utilize Tuition Assistance **must** first receive approval from the student's Education Service Officer (ESO), military counselor or Service *prior* to enrollment at Bladen Community College.

How to Apply for Admission

1. Go to [Apply Today](#)
2. Complete your Residency Determination Interview.
3. Complete the BCC Admissions Application.
4. Request all **official** transcripts (high school and college) sent to Bladen Community College.
5. Complete placement testing (if needed).
6. Meet with a Student Success and Engagement Representative for registration.

7. Apply for financial aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov and list our federal school code on the application: 007987.

After Registering

1. Bring a copy of your schedule to Mrs. Angelena Hall in the Financial Aid Office. You are **required** to do this **EVERY** semester to ensure certification.
2. The School Certifying Officer (SCO) will certify coursework. Students receiving tuition from the VA (Chapters 31 or 33) will have a hold placed on their coursework preventing them from being dropped while the school awaits payment from the VA directly. The student will be responsible for any portion unpaid by VA if the student is receiving less than 100% in VA education benefits.
 - a. Per Title 38 USC 3679(e), while payment to the institution is pending from VA, Bladen Community College will not: prevent the student's enrollment, assess a late penalty fee to the student, require the student to secure alternative or additional funding, deny the student access to any campus resources pending the student has provided the Financial Aid and Veteran Services Office with their Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and all above named documents required for VA certification (ie. class schedule, college transcripts, etc.).
 - b. Students receiving VA education benefits are to be charged as **in-state** residents in accordance with section 702 of the Veterans Choice Act. If you receive a bill for an out-of-state rate, please contact our office for a waiver.
 - c. VA will **NOT** pay for classes that are not required for your active major, audited coursework or classes taken previously for which you received a passing grade ("D" or higher).
3. Once you are registered for classes, if you make a change to your schedule (drop, add, withdrawal), you **MUST** notify our office. The VA will be notified of your last date of attendance rather than the date the change was processed. If you are receiving Post 9/11 benefits and you drop a class after classes begin, **you will be responsible for repaying the VA for that course(s)**.
4. All chapters except Chapter 35 and Post 9/11 have to self-certify each month. This can be done at <https://www.va.gov/education/verify-school-enrollment/> or by calling 1-877-823-2378 on the last day of each month.

Title 38 Compliance Information

Per Title 38 USC 3679 (e), while payment to the institution is pending from VA, Bladen Community College will not: prevent the student's enrollment, assess a late penalty fee to the student, require the student to secure alternative or additional funding, or deny the student access to any campus resources pending the student has provided the Office of Financial Aid and Veterans Services with their Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and all above named documents required for VA certification (i.e., class schedule previous college transcripts, etc.).

Military Credit

Any courses completed during the student's military service that the student wishes to be considered for college credit may be submitted to the Registrar at Bladen Community College's Admissions Office. The transcripts must be official copies in a sealed envelope. Military website for transcript requests:
Joint Services – JST System -- <https://jst.doded.mil/jst/>

Return of Tuition Assistance

Military Tuition Assistance (TA) is awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. When a student withdraws, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of TA funds originally awarded.

To comply with the new Department of Defense policy, Bladen Community College will return any unearned TA funds on a prorated basis through at least the 60% portion of the period for which the funds were provided. TA funds are earned proportionally during an enrollment period, with unearned funds returned based upon when students stop attending. These funds are returned to the military Service branch.

Instances when Service members stop attending due to a military service obligation, the educational institution will work with the affected Service member to identify solutions that will not result in student debt for the returned portion.

16-week Course Withdraw (112 days) submitted

Before or during weeks 1-2 100% return

During weeks 3-4 90% return

During weeks 5-6 75% return

During weeks 7-8 50% return

During week 9 40% return (60% of course is completed)

During weeks 10-15 0% return

16-week Course Withdraw (112 days) submitted, the 60% of course is complete at day 67 days: No return of TA funds after 68 days.

8-week Course Withdraw (56 days) submitted

Before or during week 1 100% return

During week 2 75% return

During weeks 3-4 50% return

During week 5 40% return (60% of course is completed)

During weeks 6-8 0% return

8-week Course Withdraw (56 days) submitted, the 60% of course is complete at 33 days: No return of TA funds after 34 days.

VA Benefit Programs and Requirements

The Department of Veterans Affairs has different programs which are determined by the veteran's military service. The application process for these programs may vary.

Chapter 30 – Montgomery GI Bill: Active Duty (MGIB-AD)

You can get benefits through MGIB-AD if you served at least 2 years on active duty and you meet all of these requirements.

All of these must be true:

- ☐ You were honorably discharged, **and**
- ☐ You have a high school diploma, GED, or 12 hours of college credit, **and**
- ☐ You meet other requirements

Note: If you have only 1 period of service that begins on or after August 1, 2011, and you start receiving payments for MGIB-AD, you may lose your eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. [Learn more about MGIB-AD](#)

You can get help deciding which education benefits to use by calling us at [888-442-4551](tel:888-442-4551) (TTY: [711](tel:711)). Hours of operation are: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET.

Chapter 1606 - Montgomery GI Bill: Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)

You can get benefits through MGIB-SR if you're a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserves, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard, and you meet all of these requirements.

All of these must be true:

- ☐ You have either a 6-year service obligation (you agreed to serve 6 years) in the Selected Service, **or**
- ☐ You're an officer in the Selected Reserve who agreed to serve 6 years in addition to your initial service obligation, **and**
- ☐ You meet other requirements

Chapter 31- Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)

You're eligible to apply for VR&E benefits and services if you meet both of these requirements:

All of these must be true:

- ☐ You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, **and**
- ☐ You have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% from VA

When we receive your VR&E application, we'll schedule your initial evaluation with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC). The VRC will determine if you're entitled to receive VR&E benefits and services.

If you were discharged from active duty before January 1, 2013, your basic period of eligibility ends 12 years from one of these dates, whichever comes later:

- ☐ The date you received notice of your date of separation from active duty, **or**
- ☐ The date you received your first VA service-connected disability rating

The basic period of eligibility may be extended if a VRC finds that you have a serious employment handicap (SEH). Having an SEH means your service-connected disability significantly limits your ability to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment (a job that doesn't make your disability worse; is stable; and matches your abilities, aptitudes, and interests).

If you were discharged from active duty on or after January 1, 2013, the 12-year basic period of eligibility doesn't apply to you. There's no time limit on your eligibility.

If I'm still on active duty, am I eligible for Veteran Readiness and Employment?

You may be eligible for VR&E benefits and services if you're a service member and you meet at least one of these requirements.

At least one of these must be true:

- You have a 20% or higher pre-discharge disability rating (memorandum rating) and will soon leave the military, or
- You're waiting to be discharged because of a severe illness or injury that occurred while you were on active duty

[Learn more about accessing VR&E services through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System \(IDES\)](#)

Note: Severely injured active-duty service members can automatically receive VR&E benefits before VA issues a disability rating. This is according to Sec. 1631(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-181).

Chapter 33- Post 9/11 GI Bill

Individuals who have served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001 may be eligible for this program. Individuals who were in the selected reserve component and served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 for at least 90 consecutive days may be eligible for this program.

Be Aware: Once you apply for (or switch to) the Post 9/11 GI Bill, you cannot go back to the Montgomery GI Bill. You may want to first exhaust your Montgomery GI Bill, then apply for Post 9/11 benefits.

Chapter 35 – Survivors and Dependent's Educational Assistance

You may be able to get these benefits if both you and the Veteran or service member meet certain eligibility requirements.

One of these descriptions must be true for the Veteran or service member:

- The Veteran or service member is permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, **or**
- The Veteran or service member died in the line of duty, **or**
- The Veteran or service member died as a result of a service-connected disability, **or**
- The Veteran or service member is missing in action or was captured in the line of duty by a hostile force for more than 90 days, **or**
- The Veteran or service member was forcibly detained (held) or interned in the line of duty by a foreign entity for more than 90 days, **or**
- The service member is in the hospital or getting outpatient treatment for a service-connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability

And one of these descriptions must be true for you:

- You're 18 years old or older, **or**
- You completed high school or secondary education

Note: If you're the child of a Veteran or service member, your marital status doesn't affect your eligibility for DEA benefits.

Chapter 33 - TOE – Transfer of Entitlement

Individuals who served on active duty or as a member of the selected reserve for at least six years and agreed to serve four more may transfer their basic educational benefits to:

- The individual's spouse

- One or more of the individual's children, or
- A combination of both.

Fry Scholarship – Named for Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry

Available for children and spouses of Service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level.

One of these must be true of the service member or member of the Selected Reserve:

- ☐ The service member died in the line of duty while serving on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, **or**
- ☐ The member of the Selected Reserve died in the line of duty other than active duty on or after September 11, 2001, **or**
- ☐ The member of the Selected Reserve died from a service-connected disability on or after September 11, 2001

DO NOT file for the same claim by mail and online. When you apply online you will receive a confirmation number for your application. If you are unsure whether or not your claim was submitted, you may call **1-888-422-4551** for assistance.

Once you receive your Certification of Eligibility from the Department of Veterans Affairs, you will need to submit a copy to Mrs. Hall at Bladen Community College.

NOTE: VA Educational Benefits are non-taxable.

GoArmyEd – Tuition Assistance (TA) Program available to Active and Reserve Army Soldiers.

MyCAA (Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts) – Provided educational assistance for spouses of Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Members.

Other Financial Aid

Check with the Bladen Community College Financial Aid Office for both federal and state financial aid programs which may be available to assist you with your educational expenses. The Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FASFA) is used to determine financial need for all forms of federal aid, as well as most scholarships. If eligible, you may receive **both** VA and financial aid funds during the same enrollment.

Certifying Enrollment

Certification is the process by which the college verifies to the VA a student's dates of attendance, degree program, and number of credit hours taken. **The VA will NOT pay any student without receiving this certification.** Therefore, **YOU** must bring your schedule to Mrs. Hall in the VA office at BCC upon the completion of registration for **each** semester.

NOTE: All courses taken must be in your active program of study and required for graduation in that program. VA students will not be certified for, nor paid by the VA, for courses that are not in their program, audited classes, withdrawals, or non-required classes. Continuing Education courses are only eligible when they are required for the student's Program of Study. For example, although the CNA I course is a Continuing Education class, it will be covered **if** the student's program of study is Practical Nursing or ADN.

Monthly Enrollment Verification for Chapter 30 and 1606

Students receiving the GI Bill under Chapter 30 and 1606 must verify enrollment with the VA at the end of every month they attend class. Chapter 33 and 35 recipients are not required to certify with the VA unless enrolled in a Non-College Degree (NCD) program measured in vocational/clock hours. To verify enrollment, students can call **1-888-422-4551** or access the VA's website at W.A.V.E and log-in. (First time users can follow instructions highlighted in blue.) Once you have logged in, select "Verify Monthly Enrollment Status".

Initial VA Benefit Check for First Time Students

The monthly VA educational award may be prorated if necessary. For example, if the first term of your enrollment begins on the 15th of the month, the monthly rate will be divided by 30 (days in a standard month) and the daily rate is multiplied by the number of days you attended class that month. This is the amount of your check for the first month of attendance. It may take 8 to 12 weeks after classes begin to receive the first check.

Payment is made at the beginning of each month for the previous month's attendance.

Standard Spring or Fall Semester (16 weeks) Credit Hours	Training Time	Monthly Rate of Pay
12 or more	Full time	Maximum allowance
9-11	$\frac{3}{4}$ time	75% of maximum
6-8	$\frac{1}{2}$ time	50% of maximum
5 or less	below $\frac{1}{2}$ time	tuition and fees