



# UNC

## MILITARY AND VETERAN GUIDE



# PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE

Whether you're a Veteran, Active Duty, Reserve, Guard or family member, you'll find a supportive environment, liaisons and advocates at the University of Northern Colorado. We offer more than 200 undergraduate, graduate and online programs, designed to give you the opportunity to complete research, get professional experience, get involved in your community and hone your leadership skills. As one of more than 500 military-affiliated students, you can take advantage of resources, individual attention and opportunities that will help you reach your life goals.

UNC is dedicated to supporting the military-affiliated community by providing the Veterans Services office and offering many events throughout the year such as the Military Dinner and Military Challenge. UNC is committed to serving you and your family while you prepare to reach your next round of goals.

## VETERANS SERVICES

970-351-1403

[unco.edu/veterans-services](https://unco.edu/veterans-services)

UNC's Veterans Services exists to support veterans, military members and their dependents. Housed in a cottage on campus, Veterans Services is a place for you to get help with GI Bill information and university resources, employment opportunities, VA healthcare benefit information, to connect with other military-affiliated students, to hang out and do homework, and more.



**THANKS TO THE COLORADO GI PROMISE ACT**, honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (and their dependents) who have established domicile in Colorado can qualify for resident tuition regardless of length of residency in Colorado.

## MAJORS

For a complete list of our undergraduate and graduate programs, please visit [unco.edu/programs](https://unco.edu/programs). To learn more about our online and extended campus programs, visit [extended.unco.edu](https://extended.unco.edu).

A man with glasses and a backpack is smiling and holding a young child in his arms. They are standing on a sidewalk in front of a brick house with a white door and a hanging lantern. A red bicycle with a basket is parked on the grass to the right. The house has a dark roof and a white awning over the door. An American flag is partially visible on the left.

## APPLYING & BENEFITS

For more information on veteran's benefits, please visit [unco.edu/veterans-services](https://unco.edu/veterans-services)

For instructions on how to apply to UNC, visit [unco.edu/admissions/how-to-apply](https://unco.edu/admissions/how-to-apply)

To learn about applying for VA education benefits, visit [unco.edu/veterans-services/benefits](https://unco.edu/veterans-services/benefits)

# MILITARY BENEFITS

## POST-9/11 GI BILL

Provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or to individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Beginning August 1, 2018, Purple Heart recipients will also be eligible, no matter length of service.

## YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

Allows institutions of higher learning (degree-granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. You must be eligible for 100 percent of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Beginning August 1, 2018, Fry Scholarship or Purple Heart recipients may be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon program.

## MONTGOMERY GI BILL

Provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans and to members of the Selected Reserve (both Active Duty and Reserve).

## SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (SDEA)

An education benefit for eligible spouses and children of certain veterans. Eligible persons can receive up to 36 months of full-time or equivalent benefits.

## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFITS

A program that helps disabled veterans get and keep lasting, suitable jobs. It also helps seriously disabled veterans achieve independence in daily living.

## TUITION ASSISTANCE

A benefit for students currently serving in the military that assists in paying for tuition costs. Those interested should contact their unit education specialist to find out more.

## IN-STATE TUITION

The majority of students utilizing VA Education Benefits qualify for in-state tuition. Contact the Registrar's Office to inquire about your residency status at [unco.edu/registrar/residency/military-veterans](https://unco.edu/registrar/residency/military-veterans). Contact Veterans Services for more information.

## STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships may be available to student veterans. For more information, please visit [studentveterans.org](https://studentveterans.org).

## VETERANS INTEGRATION TO ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP (VITAL)

VITAL is a VA program that provides world-class healthcare and improves the overall mental health of veterans while supporting their successful integration into college and university campuses. This is achieved by promotion of positive cohesion between Veterans and the entire learning community through campus and community clinical education and training, seamless access to VA healthcare services and on-campus clinical counseling, and providing efficient care coordination of all available services.



“While I have experienced several college campuses, UNC felt grassroots to me. Beautiful architecture, inviting walkways for my family, and a genuine commitment to building community together — UNC feels like home.”

*David Bissell*  
Veteran, U.S. Marine Corps



# FAQ

*How do I check my eligibility or apply for VA Education Benefits?*

**A:** Visit [benefits.va.gov/gibill](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill). You'll need to apply in order to check your eligibility. (If this is your first time, you must create a new VONAPP account.) Click the "Apply for Benefits" tab, and then select the "Apply for Benefits" link. You can also call the VA Education Benefits line at 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to find out more.

*How much will I receive if I am eligible for VA Education Benefits?*

**A:** The Post-9/11 GI Bill can cover up to 100 percent of your tuition and most fees. The Montgomery GI (MGI) Bill and other benefits offer a flat rate that is evaluated annually by the VA.



“As a veteran at UNC, I feel welcome and accepted. Veterans Services at UNC offers the best support for any veteran or dependent looking for a ‘starting point’ in their journey through college. Did I mention that they have their very own cottage?! Besides the fact that they offer free coffee and tea, computers for the students to use, and comfy chairs to just relax in when you need a break from studying, their knowledgeable and friendly staff are always ready and willing to assist anyone that walks through that door. It’s a home away from home where veterans (and all students!) can get together with other veterans and just hang out or get a quick cup of joe in between classes.”

*Susan Rodriguez  
Veteran, U.S. Army*

*Do my VA Education Benefits cover my university-mandated healthcare insurance?*

**A:** The Post-9/11 GI Bill covers the health insurance costs for those authorized for 100 percent of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VA healthcare facilities located in Denver, Fort Collins and Cheyenne, Wyo., are also available. A VA representative is available at Veterans Services to assist with healthcare benefits.

*Does UNC participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program?*

**A:** Yes! UNC has unlimited student positions under the Yellow Ribbon Program. Out-of-state costs are covered if you wish to remain a resident of another state. To be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program, you must be 100 percent eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

### *Should I choose the Montgomery GI Bill or Post-9/11 GI Bill?*

**A:** For most students, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is more generous than the MGI Bill. We recommend comparing the two before making a decision. Certain circumstances may make the MGI Bill a better fit. For example, your Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) may be less if you are taking online courses only.

### *Can I change my MGI Bill to the Post-9/11 GI Bill?*

**A:** Under most circumstances, yes. Your request can be filed electronically by visiting [benefits.va.gov/gibill](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill) or through your VONAPP account.

### *Are my benefits transferrable to my dependents?*

**A:** Only the Post-9/11 GI Bill can be transferred to dependents if the service member is still active duty with at least 10 years and willing to enlist for another extension. It is only six years for spouses. This can be completed electronically through VONAPP by visiting [benefits.va.gov/gibill](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill) and clicking the “Apply for Benefits” tab. Then click the “Apply for Benefits” link. If this is your first time, you must create a new VONAPP account.

### *Can I receive financial aid while using my VA education benefits?*

Yes — we recommend you apply. You can fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) starting October 1 each year at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Most scholarships and financial aid will not affect your benefits. Of course, check with the Registrar and Financial Aid to be sure.

### *How long after separation do I have to use my VA Education Benefits?*

**A:** The MGI Bill benefits generally expire 10 years after separation from the military. This increases to 15 years for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. There are some exceptions. If the servicemember separated after January 1, 2013, their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits do not expire. To find out if you're still eligible, call the VA Education Benefits line at 1-888-442-4551.

### *What's the difference between Tuition Assistance and the GI Bills?*

**A:** The Tuition Assistance (TA) program is available for students currently serving in the military and is controlled by the Department of Defense. The GI Bills are programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. In certain circumstances, both programs may be used toward your degree.

“The program stood out as exceptional. Also, coming from Arizona State University, I felt like I was just a number in a sea of bodies. Here at UNC, I feel like an individual. There is without a doubt a top-notch support system. If I have any questions I always go to Veterans Services first because of the comfortable setting. It's very welcoming there.”

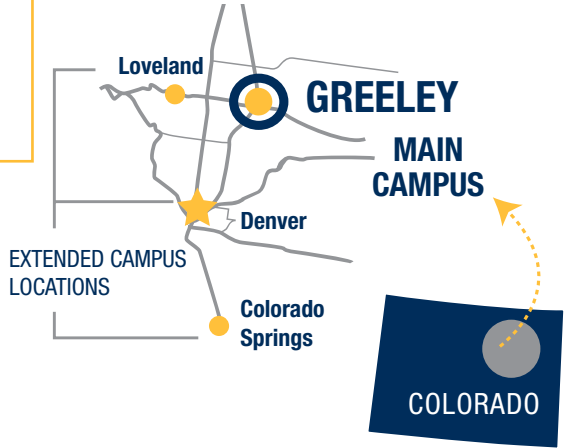
*Alex Pirila*  
*Veteran, U.S. Marine Corps*



# VISIT CAMPUS

Whether you plan to take classes at the Greeley campus or are considering online options, a visit to Greeley or to our extended campus locations provides a face-to-face connection with faculty, advisors and students. Campus tours in Greeley are offered Monday through Friday and select Saturdays.

To explore all of our visit options and to schedule your trip to UNC today, go to [unco.edu/visit](https://unco.edu/visit) or call 970-351-2881.



## VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE

Roudebush Cottage

501 20th Street

Campus Box 65

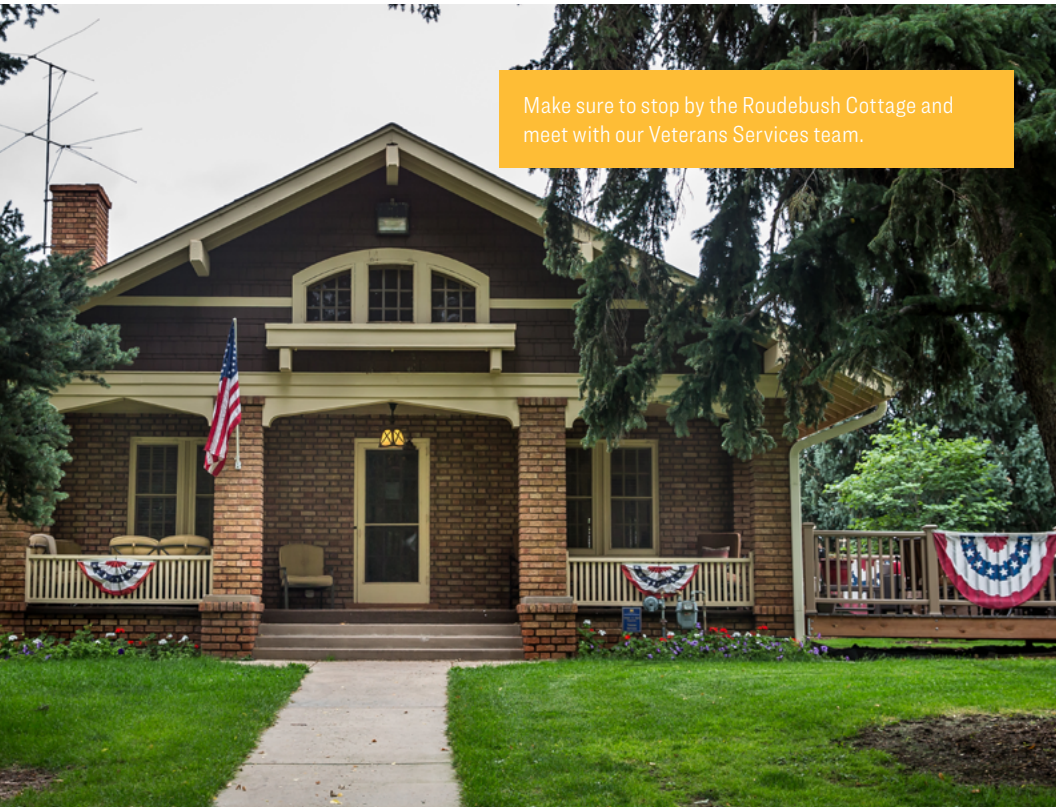
Greeley, CO 80639

970-351-1403

[veterans.services@unco.edu](mailto:veterans.services@unco.edu)

[unco.edu/veterans-services](https://unco.edu/veterans-services)

[facebook.com/UncVeteranServices](https://facebook.com/UncVeteranServices)



Make sure to stop by the Roudebush Cottage and meet with our Veterans Services team.