

Initial Steps for Veteran Student Enrollment

1. Your very first step would likely be to apply for GI Bill® benefits. Here is a link: <https://www.vets.gov/education/apply/>. If you have used your benefits at another school, you'll want to fill out a VA-22-1995: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1995-are.pdf> to assign the benefits to Mount Wachusett Community college.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

2. Send your military transcripts to us by going to the Joint Services Transcript site: [Home page \(doded.mil\)](http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/). If you are an Air Force veteran, try <http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/>.

3. Apply to the college: [How to Apply - Mount Wachusett Community College \(mwcc.edu\)](http://www.mwcc.edu). This includes steps on sending us any transcripts from high school and any previous colleges as well as activating your iConnect account. When you apply, be must choose a program. GI Bill® benefits can only be used for classes that apply to a specific program/major the student is enrolled in. Previous college transcripts will not be evaluated unless you are enrolled in a program/major.

4. Once you have activated iConnect, you must complete MOUNT 101. Mount 101 is your 'Welcome to MWCC' and a necessary step in order to register for classes. Directions for Mount 101 and iConnect activation can be found in your acceptance letter sent by Admissions.

5. Apply for financial aid. This is highly recommended and completely independent of your VA benefits. <http://mwcc.edu/financial/>. For free personalized help with your FAFSA application contact: North Central Educational Opportunity Center, 978 630 9820, vlaporte@mwcc.mass.edu.

6. Send us a copy of your DD214. You may be able to obtain this from your old unit or the National Archives: [Request Military Service Records | National Archives](#).

7. Sign a Mass Veteran tuition credit, <http://mwcc.edu/admissions/files/2013/01/Categorical-Tuition-Waiver-Approval-Form.pdf>.

8. Sign a health insurance waiver, <https://www.gallagherstudent.com/students/user-login.php?idField=1198>.

9. We have a small lending library of textbooks. When you know the exact title of the textbooks you need, let the Director know. You may borrow anything we have for the term at no charge.

10. Any questions? Contact the Director of Veterans Services: r_mayer@mwcc.mass.edu, 978 630 9408.

[The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020](#) requires educational institutions to make certain disclosures to students using federal military and/or VA educational benefits. You can find this and other financial information at NCES College Navigator site:

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?s=MA&zc=01440&zd=0&of=3&l=91+92&ct=1&id=166957>.

The Top Seven Ways to Throw Away Your Money!

1. **No-Show** – Sign up for a class and then don't participate. The VA will not pay *anything** for any class with a "non-punitive" grade. A "non-punitive" is one that does not affect your GPA calculation. The student is responsible for 50% of the cost of the class. The student is responsible to repay the VA for any payments made in connection with this class.
2. **Withdraw** – The VA will not pay *anything** for any class with a "non-punitive" grade. The student is responsible for 100% of the cost of the class. The student is responsible to repay the VA for any payments (such as BAH or other stipend) made in connection with this class.
3. **Stop attending classes** - This will likely result in a "Stop Out". The VA will not pay for any portion of classes that a veteran student stops attending. So, even though you will receive a grade of "F," you will be responsible for the portion of class you stopped attending from the date of you stopped attending. Moreover, you will not receive any BAH payments made after the "stop out" date.
4. **Don't report Attendance** - New regulations require that students using any form of GI Bill® verify their attendance with the VA every month. After the last day of an active semester month call the Education Call Center at 888 442 4551 to report attendance.
5. **Keep your status a secret** - Your benefit status is *never* shared directly between the VA, the National Guard or any other agency and the college. If you don't tell us what you want to do with your benefits, we won't know and won't be able to help you. The student is responsible for 100% of the cost of the classes.
6. **Sign up for classes that do not apply to your program** - All forms of GI Bill® benefits require that all classes must apply to the degree/certificate program in which you are enrolled.
7. **Don't fill out a Mass Veteran Tuition Waiver if you are a Mass veteran** - We cannot bill the VA (or the Mass Guard) for tuition that should be waived. This tuition will remain on the student's bill and therefore be the student's responsibility.

* Anything means the cost of the course and any BAH or stipend associated with that course or courses.