



Veteran Student Life
University of Maryland
0110 Stamp Student Union
College Park, MD 20742
www.veterans.umd.edu
(301) 314-0073
(301) 405-9605

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

The transition from military to college life may be a challenging endeavor. The following are some items to be mindful of when making this change: prepare for transition, be open to a new mindset, seek out other veterans and be interactive with your classmates and practice patience.

For newly admitted or prospective student veterans, please read carefully the following pieces of information. They are designed to help you make a smooth transition into the university.

ACCEPTANCE OF ADMISSIONS OFFER

- If you choose to confirm your enrollment with the University of Maryland, please refer to your admissions decision letter on the [application portal](#) for next steps and to the [Undergraduate Admissions page](#) for additional information on completing your enrollment. Please allow up to 48 business hours for your confirmation to be processed and posted to your record before you can register for Freshman or Transfer Orientation.
- Upon acceptance of your offer of admissions, you will be required to submit a deposit to confirm your enrollment. If you are using the GI Bill, the amount of the deposit will be credited to your account once payment from the VA is applied to your student account.
- **Admission to UMD does not necessarily mean admission to certain majors or colleges.** For example: There are Limited Enrollment Programs (LEPs), which have different and specific requirements to be met before admission. Often, transfers from other institutions do not qualify for certain LEPs because they are entering with too many credits.
- To graduate from UMD, all students must complete approximately 40-46 credits of [General Education requirements](#). Each degree program or academic major requires at least 120 credits.

- Check out the Four-Year Plan website for more information on each college's degree requirements and to plan out your time here at Maryland. Each student is required to complete a [Four-Year Plan](#) to assist in the successful completion of a degree program.
- This semester we are offering a **special section of a course** many of our student veterans have found helpful in the past. **HESI 310 - Transfer2Terp Learning Community: Applying Your Strengths at the University of Maryland and Beyond** is for students to identify their strengths and learn how to apply them both in and outside of the classroom. Student veterans will work side-by-side with the faculty, staff, and other transfer students in the Adele H. Stamp Student Union to learn about their strengths while applying them to leadership positions. This is a great opportunity to build a network of peers and mentors that will help support you throughout your time at the university. It will also plug you into the campus community so you can leverage your leadership experiences while you are here. This section of HESI 310 will be **taught by the Coordinator of the Office of Veteran Student Life and Army veteran, David Reese** and will meet on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am to 12:15pm**. *If you have questions and/or would like to reserve a spot in the course, please email David at dmreese@umd.edu.*

INFORMATION FOR TRANSFER CREDIT EVALUATION (if needed)

- For those student-veterans who need/request evaluation of college credits, please contact the [transfer credit center](#). Note, for those interested in seeing for themselves, there is a [database](#) for determining credit equivalent.
- If your course is not listed, email tccinfo@umd.edu with the institution name, course title, course ID and semester you took the course, along with a detailed description of the course and course syllabus.

CREATE UNIVERSITY EMAIL ACCOUNT AND DIRECTORY ID

- Create your [Directory ID](#) and Set Up your University E-mail account. Once created, please set this account to forward to your most used email address.
- TERPmail is the university e-mail system which is operated through Gmail. Once you've setup your Directory ID and password, you can sign-up for [TERPmail](#). After your TERPmail account is activated, be sure to go to Testudo and update your preferred e-mail address.
- Check this account regularly because UMD faculty, departments and other students will be contacting you at this e-mail address before the beginning of the semester. If you need help setting up your account, visit www.goingterpmail.umd.edu

GETTING ACCESS TO VETERANS CENTER AND TERPLINK

- The Veterans Center is located in Cole Field House, Room 1112 - this is your home away from home on campus. We have a computer lab with free printing, kitchenette with free coffee, conference room, and study space for you to use while you are on campus. You will be able to access the center using your student ID card. Access hours are 7:30 AM - 8:00 PM Monday through Friday and 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM on weekends. To gain access to the Veterans Center, please go to go.umd.edu/vetcenter. Fill out and submit the form along with your supporting documentation. Please do this as soon as you can, as it can take up to 2 weeks for ID card access to be processed.
- Terp Link is an application that will help you stay informed of and sign up for upcoming events and opportunities across campus including applying for the University of Maryland Veterans Scholarships. TerpLink is a gateway where students can find and get connected with student groups matching their interests. You will need your directory ID and password in order to [sign up](#) for TerpLink. Go to our Office page at <https://terplink.umd.edu/organization/veteranstudentlife>, then make sure to click the "Join" button. You can also join the Student Veteran Organization's page here: <https://terplink.umd.edu/organization/terpvets-student-veteran-organization>

REGISTER FOR FRESHMAN/TRANSFER ORIENTATION (NOT STUDENT VETERAN SPECIFIC)

- After you have set up your Directory ID, you are ready to register for Freshman/Transfer Orientation. The Orientation Office holds an orientation specifically for transfer students. All new students to the University of Maryland must complete an orientation regardless of if they completed one at their previous institution. Please read all of the following information before registering via the link at the bottom of this section.
- There is a program fee that covers all costs associated with the program including breakfast, lunch, staffing, materials and logistics. The charge is a per-person fee for all participants. Orientations at the University of Maryland include a program fee because the Orientation Office receives no funding from the university or the state. The fees associated with the program are charged directly to your student account. If you are using GI Bill, this fee will be refunded.

Before You Register

- When registering, you should know any conflicts you have that will prohibit you from attending orientation. When you register online or call the orientation office (listed below), you will be informed of all available orientation dates.
- **These dates are based on space availability for college advising. Programs fill quickly, so be sure to register online or call as soon as possible for the greatest availability.**

When You Register

- You can register for orientation by calling 301-314-8217, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM or you can [register online](#).
- **While you are at orientation, please feel free to stop by the Veterans Center located in Cole Field House, Room 1112 or call us at 301-405-9605.**

REGISTER FOR THE VETERAN & MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT ON-CAMPUS ORIENTATION

- Join us on **Saturday, January 11, 2020** for our Veteran & Military-Connected Student On-Campus Orientation. Your attendance is highly encouraged, as much of this information is not discussed at the Freshmen/Transfer Student Orientation. Please [RSVP](#) for the Student Veteran Orientation by Friday, January 3, 2020. **This is not a substitution for the required Freshman or Transfer Orientation.**
- The orientation will cover topics such as health insurance, veteran benefits, scholarships, academic support services, recreational activities, and professional development. You will also be able to meet representatives from a number of departments around campus. Additionally, this is a great way to meet other incoming student veterans going through the same transition as you and current student veterans who just made this transition recently. Our orientation is planned and led by veterans for veterans. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

REGISTER FOR THE VETERANS ADVENTURE ORIENTATION PROGRAM (VAOP) SKI AND SNOWBOARD TRIP

- Immediately following the orientation, you can opt to join us (and why wouldn't you?) on our [Veterans Adventure Orientation Program \(VAOP\) Ski and Snowboard Trip](#) which is an **all-expenses-paid** experience at Whitetail Ski Resort. This will be a great opportunity to connect with a few veterans that are currently on campus and can give real-life transition experience, while also starting to build relationships with other incoming veterans. Space is limited so [sign up](#) today! We have been told that by past participants that this was the experience that most helped them prepare for and transition to the campus. **No experience is required.** Lessons, equipment, meals, and transportation will be provided **free** of charge. The trip will leave from campus immediately following the on-campus orientation at 1:00pm and return to campus around 10:00pm that evening.

STANDARDIZED PLACEMENT TESTS

There are two placement tests at The University of Maryland: Math and Foreign Language test.

- The Math placement exam can be taken online. We have created an online guided study video designed to help those who are taking the required mathematics placement test but would like to brush up on key concepts. You can access the video by going to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=59&v=AtRPP4TzcTs&feature=emb_logo

- Not everyone has to take these exams, please review the criteria to decide if you have to take [math](#) or [foreign language](#) placement exams. ALL transfer students are encouraged to take the Math Placement Test **before** coming to New Student Orientation (so you can register for appropriate classes & make an accurate academic plan with your advisor).

UPLOAD YOUR IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

- Please note that all students need to complete the required [Immunization Form](#) to attend the University of Maryland. Please make sure your University ID number is on the form.
- The University Health Center offers routine immunizations such as MMR, Meningitis, Tetanus/Diphtheria, and tuberculosis skin testing. Hepatitis B, Chicken Pox, and Flu vaccines are also available. There is a charge for this service based on the vaccine(s) received.
- Military immunizations forms will be accepted as proof of vaccination. Along with the military immunization form (DD Form 2766C), proof of current or previous active duty status (DD214) in the U.S. Military will be accepted by the Health Center and waives the necessity of having a physician signing off on your UMD vaccination record.
- If you need to get a copy of your DD 2766C, you can request it through the VA using form [VHA 10-5345a](#)
- New students may submit their immunization form [online](#) beginning June 1. **For questions**, please call (301) 314-8114 or **for appointments** call (301) 314-8184 or [request online](#).

FRESHMAN/TRANSFER ORIENTATION ATTENDANCE AND LOGISTICS

- Now that you have completed the previous steps you are ready to attend orientation. You should have already registered for your orientation date. **During the orientation program you will meet and get to know your Orientation Advisor (OA), meet with an academic advisor to discuss your course schedule, and register for classes.** In addition, you will learn your way around campus, obtain more information about how you should prepare for living on or commuting to campus, talk with staff and students who can help you get involved with campus organizations, and get your photo ID card.
- Freshman/Transfer Orientation parking - Please park in Lot 1 only. Please [download](#) your map and parking permit prior to orientation. The program check-in is at 7:45 AM in Cole Field House.
- What should I wear and bring? You will be doing some walking during your program. Be sure to check out the weather before heading to campus. You will receive a bag to carry all of your materials in, so a backpack is unnecessary.
- Recommended items to bring to orientation - comfortable clothing and walking shoes; government-issued photo ID; back-up copy of your grades and transcripts; parking

permit; completed immunization form; health insurance card; notebook and pen; [residency information form](#).

- Prepare for Orientation - As you begin your preparation of coming to orientation, remember that you are an active participant and the most important player in your educational success. Come ready to ask questions of our staff and students. Remember to do some research on your major requirements and keep a checklist of the things you still need to complete or offices you need to visit.

IDENTIFICATION CARD

- The identification card for the University of Maryland, College Park can be obtained on the first floor of the [Mitchell Building](#) 8:30 to 4:30 Monday-Friday, (301) 314-8240. The area in which ID are obtained are directly to the left of the main door front entrance. Students can use the photo ID card for admission to most athletic, social, and cultural events, to borrow books from the library, and as a general form of identification on campus.

RESIDENCY CLASSIFICATION

- The offices of undergraduate and graduate admissions determine your state residency classification for tuition purposes. The [residency classification office](#) is the entity that handles requests for change of residency status for in-state tuition purposes. Honorably discharged veterans living in the State of Maryland regardless of length of residency qualify for in state tuition. Active-duty members stationed in Maryland (including those on terminal leave) or members of the Maryland Army National Guard, may also qualify for in-state status.

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- For those interested in initiating their VA educational benefits, please refer to our [website](#) for detailed information on the various educational chapters.
- If you will be using the Post 9/11 GI Bill (i.e., Chapter 33 benefits), you will need a certificate of eligibility. It may take some time to obtain (1-3 months), we strongly advise getting this ASAP - if you run into any problems please come talk with us. The form to request a certificate of eligibility can be completed [online](#). You should complete this form if you are applying to use your GI Bill Benefits for the first time or if you are transferring to a new university or starting a new program.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS – typically open in April – May for next year ---

- **If you are interested in applying for financial aid or scholarships your first step should be to complete the [Free Application For Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).** You can also learn more about financial aid at the [UMD Financial Aid Office website](#). If your current financial situation has recently changed substantially and your financial aid package does not reflect your current situation, you can appeal your financial awards offer due to [special circumstances through the financial aid office](#).

- Scholarships are available for the at-large student population through the [University of Maryland](#) and through the [State of Maryland](#) as well as [scholarships specifically for UMD student veterans](#). These competitive scholarships typically become available in April for funding to be utilized for the next Fall semester.

OFF CAMPUS HOUSING

- If you are looking for places to live, visit the [off-campus housing service](#). They can also be reached at 301-314-3645, or by email at och@umd.edu