

VETERANS RESOURCE GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

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Dean of Students Office



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----|
| Welcome Message..... | 3 |
| VA Educational Benefits | 4 |
| Educational Benefit Support..... | 4 |
| Checklists for New & Returning Students..... | 4 |
| Scholarships..... | 5 |
| Yellow Ribbon Grant Program..... | 5 |
| Other Scholarships..... | 5 |
| Student Resources | 6 |
| Camner Center for Academic Resources..... | 6 |
| Office of Academic Enhancement..... | 7 |
| Counseling Center..... | 8 |
| Toppel Career Center | 8 |
| Parking & Transportation | 8 |
| Additional Resources | 10 |
| Contact Us..... | 11 |
| Veterans Resource Center (VRC)..... | 11 |
| Veteran Students Organization (VSO)..... | 11 |

WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the University of Miami.

We are both excited to extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you. Your service to our country is deeply appreciated, and we take immense pride in the diversity and strength that our veteran community brings to the University. Here, we offer veteran support services which include academic advising, counseling, career help, and a robust network of dedicated mentors and friends to best support you.

The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) provides support and guidance to student veterans by helping facilitate a successful transition from military service to campus life. We connect them and military-connected students to academic and other University resources through collaborative programs and engagement activities with campus partners.

The Veteran Students Organization (VSO) serves as an anchor for our community, providing opportunities for engagement, advocacy, and socialization through organized gatherings, volunteer activities, and informative sessions tailored to your needs and interests. You are encouraged to get involved with the VSO and make the most of your time at the University. Whether you're seeking personal growth, professional development, or connections with like-minded individuals, the VSO is here for you.

Together, we'll help you create lasting memories, forge friendships, and empower each other to reach new heights. On behalf of the VRC staff, the entire VSO membership, and the University of Miami community, we wish you all success in your academic pursuits. Thank you for choosing the University of Miami—we are honored to have you here!

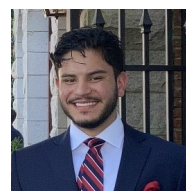
If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please reach out to either of us. We are here to listen, support, and advocate for you.

Sincerely,

Jon Baldessari
Director,
Veterans Resource Center



Alex Benitez
President,
Veteran Students Organization



VA EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Educational Benefit Support

At the University of Miami, students who are entitled to their VA educational benefits can seek support and guidance from our experienced VA Certifying Officials located in the Office of the Registrar.

For last names beginning with A-L, please reach out to:

Osvaldo "Ozzie" Martinez

Phone (305) 284-6418

Email: veterans@miami.edu

For last names beginning with M-Z, please reach out to:

Gregory Bellamy

Phone (305) 284-9432

Email: veterans@miami.edu

For more information and FAQ's, please visit the Office of the Registrar's [website](#) or call the Veterans Affairs Education Hotline (toll free) at 888-442-4551.

Checklists for New & Returning Students

New Students:

- ✓ Fill out your VA application and corresponding forms. Once completed, send them to the University VA office. More info [here](#).
- ✓ Check your UM email regularly to receive important updates.
- ✓ Review and complete your "to do" list in CaneLink.

Returning Students:

- ✓ Respond to the Registrar's VA certifying official's email to confirm the request to utilize your VA benefits for the upcoming semester.
- ✓ Inform the Registrar's VA certifying officials on whether you have changed your academic school/program.
- ✓ Monitor your "to do" list in CaneLink and your UM email.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Yellow Ribbon Grant Program

Students eligible for Chapter 33 benefits are encouraged to apply for the Yellow Ribbon Grant through the University. This grant covers additional charges associated with attending a private or out-of-state university. The Yellow Ribbon Grant applications can be requested through the Registrar's VA certifying officials via email at veterans@miami.edu. Learn more about the [University's program](#) as well as your eligibility [here](#).

Other Scholarships

- [Army Women's Foundation Scholarship](#)
- [Colonel Alice A. Kerr Veterans Scholarship](#)
- [The Scholarship for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans \(CSDDV\)](#)
- [Tillman Scholar Program](#)
- [VFW Help a Hero Scholarship](#)

STUDENT RESOURCES

Camner Center for Academic Resources

Peer Tutoring – Free tutoring for all undergraduate students. Tutoring available for most courses. Students can begin scheduling tutoring appointments the second week of class through their Navigate Portal (umiami.campus.eab.com). Students can also become tutors. Contact tutoring.arc@miami.edu for assistance or more information.

Learning Specialist – Helping students with overall academic skills such as time management, organization, effective studying strategies, and test taking preparation. This service is excellent for students who are transitioning back into education after time in the military, the workforce, or at home. Students can use their Navigate Portal (umiami.campus.eab.com) to schedule appointments. Contact iliprogram@miami.edu for assistance or more information.

Location:

Harold Long Jr. and H.T. Smith Student Services Building
1307 Stanford Drive, 2nd floor

Contact Information:

Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday – Friday

Phone: 305-284-2800

Website: camnercenter.miami.edu

Office of Disability Services (ODS)

ODS assists students who may need academic accommodations. Students may submit a request form through the ODS website along with supporting documentation to begin the process.

Important Dates:

- Deadline to submit accommodation request for Fall: June 1
- Deadline to submit accommodation request for Spring: December 1
- Deadline to submit accommodation request for Summer: 6 weeks before start of term

Information about what documentation is required can be found on our [website](#).

Veterans may submit documentation they currently have from the VA Hospital, along with any disability benefit statements to start the process. If additional information is needed, our team will reach out to discuss options. Please contact disabilityservices@miami.edu for assistance or more information.

Disability Ambassadors

Disability Ambassadors is a student organization on UM's campus which is open to all students. Their mission is to educate & empower our community about disability and accessibility issues through a group of committed student advocates who will seek to make our campus more inclusive.

They hold general body meetings once a month and events throughout the semester. To join or find out more information, check them out on Engage (www.miami.campuslabs.com/engage) or follow on Instagram @disabiltyambassadorsum.

Office of Academic Enhancement

Academic Support – Meet with professional staff and/or peer mentors for one-on-one or group sessions.

Empower Me First Mentorship Program – We connect first-generation students who are sophomores, juniors, or seniors to faculty and staff mentors to engage in development-based mentorship. To learn more, visit our [website](#).

Prestigious Awards and Fellowships – The Prestigious Awards and Fellowships unit provides a range of services to support students in their pursuit of nationally competitive awards, fellowships, and scholarships that are external to the university. The unit promotes awareness of award opportunities and provides individual mentoring to help students prepare their applications. The goal of this unit is to connect UM applicants with resources that will enable each student to submit the strongest, most complete impression of his or her candidacy. Students can explore award opportunities [here](#).

Programming and Involvement – Academic programming geared to the first-generation college student experience, as well as connection to the first-gen community via the student organization, First Gen 'Canes.

Contact Information:

Otto G. Richter Library, Suite 224
1300 Memorial Dr.
Phone: 305-284-3187
Email: emf.oae@miami.edu

Counseling Center

The University of Miami's Counseling Center is dedicated to supporting students' mental health as they progress along their academic journey. Through individual sessions, group therapy, psychiatric services, outreach to student groups, and after-hours support, the resources offered by the Counseling Center reflect its mission and eagerness to serve students from all backgrounds. Services are available in person and over Zoom. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or contact us at 305-284-5511.

Toppel Career Center

Our dedicated staff is here to assist you explore, prepare, and connect. We offer career coaching, recruiting events, and career readiness opportunities. Students can also access a variety of resources including [Handshake](#), our job and internship platform, [Cane2Cane](#), a social network for connecting with professionals in 60+ industries, and [Custom Career Content](#), which provides resources for veteran students.

Contact Information:

Phone: 305-284-5451

[Toppel Website](#)

[Zoom Room for Career Coaching](#) (Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Parking & Transportation

We are committed to making sure your transportation and parking needs are addressed. You will find various veteran-specific transportation resources offered through our department and in coordination with Miami-Dade County Transit.

All students interested in obtaining a parking permit can begin the application process by clicking [here](#). Next, select the green bar titled "Access your parking account to purchase your permit", located centrally on the page. Proceed by choosing the "UM login" button and enter your UM credentials. Afterward, chose "Get Permits" and follow the subsequent instructions to reach the permit application, where you can select from available color zones.

Veteran-Specific Plates

Any UM student with a Disabled Veteran or Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veteran license plate will be granted a University parking permit at no cost. The permit will be granted for a parking zone based on current availability and will be held to all regular parking restrictions. The permit can be purchased at the Office of Parking and Transportation, where plate and vehicle registration will be verified prior to approval of permit.

McKnight Building
5807 Ponce de Leon Blvd
Suite 100,
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Things to Remember

- Parking is head-in only.
- Parking strictly enforced Monday – Sunday 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- Parking is based on color zones. Park in the zone associated with your permit.

Additional Transportation Resources

- Free Metrorail monthly pass is available for eligible veterans. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Special Transportation Service (STS) for disabled veterans. Click [here](#) for more information.

Contact Information:

Email: parking.gables@miami.edu

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Veteran Affairs, State of Florida, Miami-Dade County

- [Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- VA Education student toll-free hotline: 888-442-4551
- [Miami Vet Center](#) – mental health, benefits support, transition assistance
- [U.S. Department of Labor](#) – Veterans' Employment and Training Service
- [FL Department of Veteran Affairs](#)
- [Miami-Dade County Veteran Services Program](#)
- [United Way of Miami-Dade, Mission United](#) – transition assistance

Non-profit Organizations, Strategic Partners

- [Student Veterans of America](#)
- [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#)
- [Wounded Warrior Project](#)

CONTACT US

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

Location: Second floor of the Whitten University Center
1306 Stanford Dr.
Whitten University Center, Suite 2400H
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 248106
Coral Gables, FL 33124

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Phone: 305-284-8727

Fax: 305-284-2455

Email: VetsCenter@miami.edu

Web: <https://www.doso.studentaffairs.miami.edu/veterans-resource-center/index.html>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/university-of-miami-veterans-resource-center>

Veteran Students Organization (VSO)

Location: Second floor of the Whitten University Center
1306 Stanford Dr.
Whitten University Center, Suite 2400G
Coral Gables, FL 33146