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Veterans Education and Transition Services_COVID-19 Information Webpage

University of Maine Veterans Education and Transition Services

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COVID-19 Information

Will the change to online learning affect my veteran benefits this semester?

As an accredited institution of higher learning, UMaine’s programs are approved for distance learning. Per VA guidance, with the switch from training in-residence to online classes this semester, benefit payments (including the Monthly Housing Allowance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill) will remain unchanged for the remainder of this term. Additionally, there is currently legislation that has passed the Senate and aims to address the shortcomings of the GI Bill® in a time of emergency.

What happens with my GI Bill® benefits if I have to withdraw from classes due to COVID-19 related issues?

Legislation S. 3503 was passed a few days ago providing relief to GI Bill students affected by COVID-19. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3503/all-info> We received the following guidance from our VA ELR: If you are affected by the COVID-19 (CORONA VIRUS), have a VBA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief, please contact DMC at 1-800-827-0648 to request assistance.

I need support for my veteran benefits. Who can I talk to?

Veterans Center staff is actively monitoring and responding to email. Please submit any questions or concerns to um.veterans@maine.edu or go [online to the UMaine Veterans Center website](#).

Where can I find the latest information on how the VA is responding to changes due to coronavirus?

The VA maintains an FAQ on [its website](#). They also are communicating with campus certifying officials regularly with the latest guidance and procedures. As legislation is updated and communicated, information will be shared with the campus community.

I’m really concerned about my benefits and I would really like to speak to someone.

Please send an email to um.veterans@maine.edu and one of our staff members will reach out to you. We may be able to schedule an individual Zoom meeting if possible or a phone call if preferred.

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