



# Military Resource Center

Volume 11 – Issue 2, February 2024



## From the Director

### WE APPRECIATE YOUR SERVICE!!

My, how time flies. It is hard to believe we are already in the second month of the new year. The Military Resource Center continues to serve our military educational benefited students in-person or virtually as requested.

We are always looking for ways to improve how we serve our student veterans and appreciate any suggestions. Please let us know how we can better serve you in 2023.

*Andy Heitkamp*  
Veteran Services Director

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024



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### REMEMBER

YOUR  
EDUCATIONAL  
BENEFITS  
HOTLINE  
1-888-442-4551

### OFFICE HOURS

Model Hall 208  
8 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Military Resource Center  
Minot State University  
500 University Ave W  
Minot, ND 58707  
701-858-4003 / 1-800-777-0750

[MinotStateU.edu](http://MinotStateU.edu)

Be seen. Be heard. Belong.

The 2024-2025 Minot State General Scholarship

(<https://www.minotstateu.edu/financialaid/scholarships/index.shtml>)

Please review the scholarship terms and conditions by clicking on, Undergraduate scholarship terms and conditions, found under the red “Apply Now!” button. Minot State offers a variety of scholarships funded by gifts to the University. Scholarships are based on academic achievements, financial need, and other criteria defined by the donors. Some Minot State scholarships available for the 2024-2025 academic year require a separate application form from our general scholarship application.

Visit the OTHER MSU SCHOLARSHIP page

(<https://www.minotstateu.edu/financialaid/scholarships/other-scholarships.shtml>) to locate scholarship applications. For more information, contact the Minot State Financial Aid Office at 701-858-3375

## APPLY NOW for MINOT STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

### Deadline: FEB. 15

#### Scholarship information for an affordable education:

- Undergraduate scholarships are funded by gifts made to Minot State.
- Scholarship amounts vary depending on your eligibility and availability of funds.
- Scholarships are based on your academic achievements, financial need, and other criteria defined by the donors.
- Not all colleges and departments use the online scholarship application, check with your college or department.
- Apply for scholarships every year!



Apply: [MinotStateU.edu/financialaid/scholarships/](https://www.minotstateu.edu/financialaid/scholarships/)



#### QUESTIONS? Contact the Financial Aid Office:

Administration Building, 2nd floor | 701-858-3375/800-777-0750

[MinotStateU.edu/financialaid](https://www.minotstateu.edu/financialaid) | Email: [financialaid@MinotStateU.edu](mailto:financialaid@MinotStateU.edu)

[Minot State University Financial Aid Office](#)

Minot State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlc.commission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.



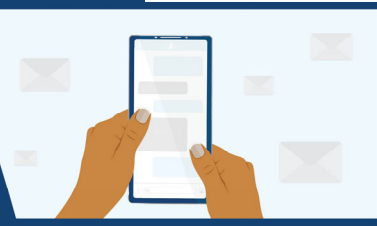
Be seen. Be heard. Be empowered.

*Award programs are subject to change without notice and subject to the availability of funds. \*Late applications will be considered as funds are available.*



I need to verify my enrollment.

## What should I do?



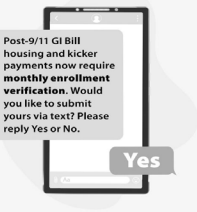
[https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe/verification\\_of\\_enrollment.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe/verification_of_enrollment.asp)

# Enrollment Verification



## A Guide for Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) Students


Post-9/11 GI Bill® students attending **IHL facilities** who receive Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments are required to verify enrollment at the end of each month. This applies to IHL students with terms starting **on or after December 17, 2021**.



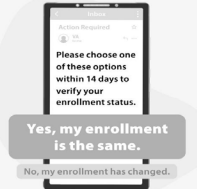
**Step 1 Opt-In**

For a quick and easy experience, **VA highly recommends using text message verification.** When your enrollment is processed by VA, you will receive a text message from VA to opt into text message verification.<sup>1</sup>

- ▶ **Reply "YES" to opt-in.** You will receive a text confirming you have opted in.
  - The text message link will expire in **14 days**. After that, you will be automatically enrolled in email verification.
- ▶ If you **reply "NO"** or cannot receive texts, you will be automatically enrolled in email verification.



OR



**Step 2 Verify**

**Text:** **On the last day of each month**, you will receive a text message requesting enrollment verification for that month.

- ▶ **Reply "YES"** to verify your enrollment.
  - If you don't reply within **6 days**, the conversation will close and you will need to call the **Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)** to verify your enrollment.
- ▶ If your enrollment status has changed, **reply "NO."** Please contact your School Certifying Official (SCO) to ensure your enrollment record with VA has been adjusted.<sup>2</sup>

**Email:** If you opted out of text messages and/or have enrolled in email verification, **on the last day of each month**, you will receive an email requesting enrollment verification for that month.

- ▶ **Select "Yes, my enrollment is the same"** to verify your enrollment.
  - If you don't select a response within **14 days**, the conversation will close and you will need to call the ECC to verify your enrollment.
- ▶ If your enrollment status has changed, **select "No, my enrollment has changed."** Please contact your SCO to ensure your enrollment record with VA has been adjusted.

How to video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKq-reD01ZA>



## James's Corner

Students,

I wanted to take this opportunity to address some of the questions from this spring 2024 term.

### **Enrollment questions** -

"why haven't I been paid yet?" and "why isn't my student account paid off yet?" Stipends that are paid to the student are paid after the month is completed, so if you began your term in the beginning of January, your first stipend payment won't be paid until the end of January/beginning of February. The VA does not start disbursing tuition and fees payment until after the last day to drop a course with a 100% refund which was on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January for the spring 2024 term.

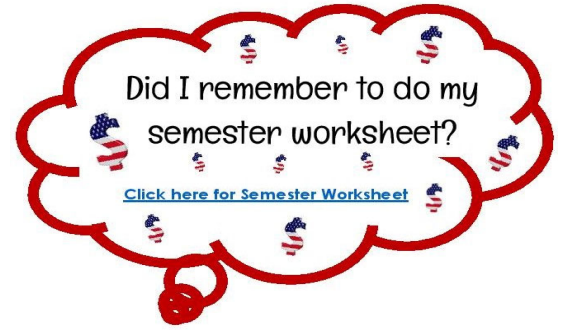
**If you are a Ch. 33**, Your information is submitted to the business office allowing them to flag your account so they know that your balance will eventually be paid by the VA.

**Other problems this spring 2024 term include**: students enrolling in courses they have already taken/passed, taking courses that aren't required, and/or not notifying the Military Resource Center office when changes are made to your enrollment. The VA has strict guidelines on what can be submitted for payment, those guidelines are discussed with each student during the student agreement meeting we have with you when you first begin. Please refer to your student agreement you signed or call us if you have any doubts about if a course is eligible for payment or not.

Finally, **it is your responsibility** to inform us if you make changes to your enrollment after you complete the semester worksheet - as outlined in the student agreement. The office is responsible to report all changes you make to your schedule after we can review and report the info you provided on the semester worksheet to the VA. Consequences of not keeping the office up to date may include financial penalties, if you are dropping courses and still getting paid as if you were still in them, or, receiving less money than you are entitled to if you add classes and don't share that information. We are here to answer any questions you may have about your enrollment while utilizing the GI Bill, please let us know if you have questions! It is easier to answer a question than try to fix a problem created by not asking!

Respectfully,

*James Tucci*  
*Veterans School Certifying Official*



## Important Dates

### Academic

#### February

- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Last day to drop 1<sup>st</sup> 8 wk class
- 15 General scholarship application deadline
- 19 Presidents Day – University Closed
- 20 Spring Assessment Day
- 28-29 1<sup>st</sup> 8 wk finals

#### February is...

Black History Month

### US Armed Forces Dates

- 23 Iwo Jima Flag Raising (1945)
- 28 Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day

#### February

- 1 National Freedom Day
- 2 Groundhog Day
- Army Nurse Corp Established (1901)
- 3 Four Chaplains Day
- 3 USO Birthday
- 13 Marine Corps Women's Reserve (1943)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 19 Presidents Day





Defense Department Expands ID Card Renewals by Mail to US-Based Retirees, Dependents  
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/01/16/defense-department-expands-id-card-renewals-mail-us-based-retirees-dependents.html>

Military retirees and their dependents based in the U.S. may now renew their military ID cards online and receive them by mail, relieving them of a trip to the on-base ID card office.

**New cards also now work at TSA Airport Checkpoints.**

The DOD recommends that military retirees and military family members who have identification cards with indefinite expiration dates get the new next generation of the USID card when convenient within the next three years. The older, paper-based, green hued ID cards will be phased out and replaced with the next-generation IDs, which are more durable and have enhanced security features, by December 31, 2025.

The new IDs and the active duty's Common Access Cards now work at Transportation Security Administration security checkpoints at all U.S. airports. A software upgrade resolved a two-year issue with reading the new DOD ID cards.

For updated information on the card visit [CAC.Mil](https://CAC.Mil)

To locate and make an appointment at a RAPIDS location near you go to: [IDCO.DMDC.OSD.MIL](https://IDCO.DMDC.OSD.MIL)

## Activities Attended

### January

- 3 DCB SCO office visit
- 4 Staff Senate Potluck
- 8 New student orientation resource fair
- 9 Gwl 3Ljs3Htsstwat Minot Area Chamber Military Affairs meeting
- 10 VA ACRON Webinar
- 10 Behavior Intervention Team meeting
- 11 Bomb Wing on campus
- 11 John Hoven Junior Achievement
- 15 Martin Luther King Day observed
- 16 NDUS AI Forum – EDUCAUSE
- 17 VA office hours webinar
- 18 John Hoven Junior Achievement
- 18 VA Expanding Faith based partnerships webinar
- 18 VA Creating financial wellness programs
- 19 Gen Z presentation - Staff Senate
- 22 VA Student finances webinar
- 24 VA Career Readiness workshop
- 24 BIT Meeting
- 25 Military One Source webinar
- 25 Student Affairs meeting
- 26 Wellington Veteran breakfast
- 29 Student Affairs meeting
- 30 Add to your cup Student Health
- 31 DAV coffee



Check out the Minot State Veterans Service Center Facebook page and give it a thumbs up to stay current with events.

[www.facebook.com/MinotStateVeterans](https://www.facebook.com/MinotStateVeterans)



Do I have to pay taxes on my VA education benefit payments?

No. Payments from all GI Bill programs are tax-free. This is true for you, your dependents, and your survivors.

How VA education benefit payments affect your taxes

<https://www.va.gov/resources/how-va-education-benefit-payments-affect-your-taxes/#:~:text=Do%20I%20have%20to%20pay,your%20dependents%2C%20and%20your%20survivors.>

## VA Resources

Find local Veteran Resources

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/find-resources/local-resources/>

Use this tool to find VA locations (including community care providers, emergency care, pharmacies, and more).



National Resource Directory (<https://nrd.gov/>)

The National Resource Directory (NRD) connects wounded warriors, service members, Veterans, their families, and caregivers to national, state, and local services and resources.



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Behavioral Health Treatment Services (<https://findtreatment.gov/>)

This tool, which is confidential and anonymous, allows people to search by ZIP code for local treatment facilities that focus on substance use/addiction and/or mental health issues.

# Food Pantry at Minot State University

## Student Food Pantry List

### Protein

Cans of Tuna\*  
Cans of Chicken\*  
Canned Stew  
Canned Chili  
Hash  
Pork and Beans  
Soups  
Spaghetti Sauce\*  
Kidney Beans  
Peanut Butter\*

### Canned Vegetables

Beans  
Carrots  
Peas  
Tomatoes  
Corn  
Instant Potatoes  
Spaghetti Sauce

### Fruits

Canned Fruits  
Fruit Cups  
Dried Fruits  
Jelly  
Raisins  
Juice Boxes

### Starches

Rice\*  
Pasta\*  
Macaroni and Cheese\*  
Crackers  
Cans of Ravioli/Spaghetti O's\*  
Hamburger Helper  
Boxed Meals\*

### Breakfast

Boxes of Cereal\*  
Instant Oatmeal (individual packets)\*  
Cereal Bars  
Pancake Mix  
Syrup  
Pop Tarts  
Muffin Mix

### On the Go/Snacks

Tortilla Chips  
Salsa  
Pringles  
Cookies  
Granola Bars\*  
Microwave Popcorn  
Easy Mac\*  
Microwaveable Non-Frozen Meals\*

\*Indicates high demand items

If you would like to make a financial donation so that we can replenish the food pantry with necessary items, checks may be made to:

Lutheran Campus Ministry,  
memo: Food Pantry



**Telehealth counseling services** - The Minot State Student Health Clinic and Counseling Services (MSU SHC) is pleased to announce additional counseling services offered via telehealth from the University of North Dakota Counseling Center. UND CC will provide coverage on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. These services are free and confidential. Students can schedule appointments via the student portal (<https://minotsu.medicatconnect.com/>). For more information, see the flier below.

## NEW COUNSELORS AVAILABLE Through Telehealth

Student Health & Counseling is happy to announce the addition of two UND counselors to our staff.



Jacoba De Boer,  
MA, LPC



Nathan Ellenson,  
MA, LPCC-S (ND)

They will provide coverage on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Students can create appointments via their student portal:



Student Health Clinic & Counseling Services

Contact the MSU SHC at 701-858-3371 for questions.



## MSU Writing Center Spring 2024 semester term update!

This spring, the Minot State Writing Center is offering both in-person and online (asynchronous and synchronous) tutoring. Please check the tutor's availability when you make an appointment. To make an appointment, students MUST log in or register for an account (<https://minot.mywconline.com/>).

If students choose tutoring (asynchronous), remember to attach your paper using the links at the bottom of the appointment form. The tutor will comment on your paper and email it back to you. If students choose online tutoring (synchronous), you will need to be at your computer, logged into WC Online, at the appointment time and day. Students and the tutor will communicate live via audio, video, and text. The Writing Center is now offering 15-minute mini-sessions. Need help with a grammar issue? Have a question about citation format? Book a mini-session. For paper drafts, please schedule at least 30 minutes. For questions, contact Patti Kurtz, Writing Center director, by EMAIL ([Patti.kurtz@ndus.edu](mailto:Patti.kurtz@ndus.edu)) or by phone at 701-858-3073

-- Patti Kurtz, associate professor, English / director, MSU Writing Center



**– seeks Veterans with disabilities for its 2024 Warriors Program**

The 2024 program season features four Basecamp trips in Red Feather Lakes, Colorado (June 28-July 2, July 12-16, July 26-30, and Aug. 1-5) and five backcountry trips: June 5-9 in Asheville, N.C., Aug. 13-19 in Wyoming, Aug. 22-28 in Colorado, Sept. 5-11 in Colorado, and Sept. 15-21 in Wyoming. Applications are currently available on the No Barriers USA website (<https://nobarriersusa.org/programs/warriors/>).

Apply today! Please contact No Barriers Warriors with any questions at [warriors@nobarriersusa.org](mailto:warriors@nobarriersusa.org) or 970-484-3633, ext. 305.

More information link below

[https://news.va.gov/127888/no-barriers-usa-seeks-veterans-2024-programs/?utm\\_source=feature&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources&utm\\_id=24JAN2024](https://news.va.gov/127888/no-barriers-usa-seeks-veterans-2024-programs/?utm_source=feature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=24JAN2024)





## SRT SCHOLARSHIPS

SRT.COM  
SRT CARES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & DONATIONS - SRT  
SRT is dedicated to supporting community activities, offering scholarship opportunities,  
<https://www.srt.com/srtcares/?fbclid=IwAR0KHQOoxVtexLjOxWrJ-BPqLTHF7It6XdTcl2N8-Nb7BVuhTQsQwe0WCYw>

### How Scholarships Are Awarded

- Scholarships will be awarded on a one-time basis and will not be renewable.
- The scholarship funds will be split evenly over two semesters, with checks issued in August 2024 and January 2025. The checks will be sent directly to the Financial Aid Office at the institution you plan to attend. Should your enrollment change, you must notify SRT immediately to prevent jeopardizing the scholarship.
- Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. This institution is an equal-opportunity employer and provider.

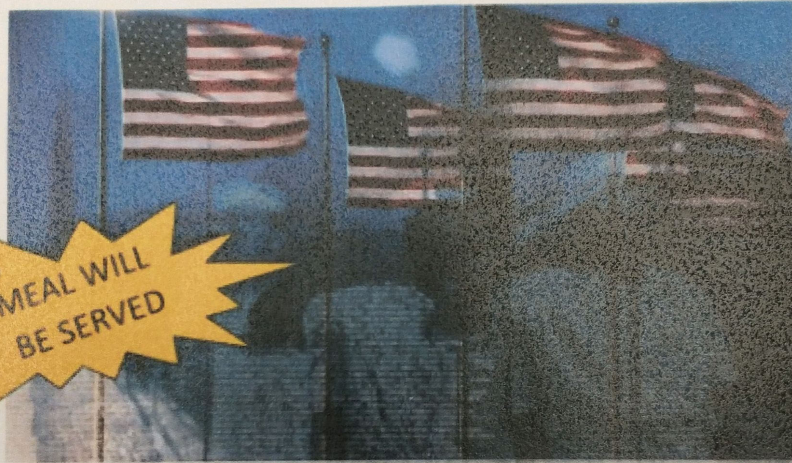
### Eligibility

- Customers receiving any service from SRT and their graduating high school seniors may apply for the scholarship.
- Applicants must have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher (C Average).
- Applicant must enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study no later than the fall term of the 2024-2025 school year at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school in the U.S.
- Immediate family members of SRT directors and employees are not eligible.

Application for SRT scholarships

<https://www.srt.com/2024collegescholarship/>

VIETNAM VETERANS  
**Welcome Home**  
CELEBRATION



**MARCH 29, 2024**

**2-4 PM** Doors open at 1 PM

ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER, MINOT

**All Veterans Welcome**

*Sponsored by Disabled American Veterans Chapter 4, Minot, North Dakota  
and Minot Post 753, Veterans of Foreign Wars*

**VA REFUND of unused VEAP benefits**

Approximately 96,000 Post-Vietnam Era Veterans or their dependents may be entitled to a refund of contributions they made to the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP).

If you are unsure whether you are eligible for a refund or whether you participated in VEAP, you can call the Education Call Center at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442 4551) domestically or 001-918-781-5678 overseas, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. CT.