



**Meeting of the Full Board
September 11, 2025
8:30 am
Oakley Family Reception Room, Alumni House**

Discussion Item

BOT – 3 Meeting the Needs of UNCG’s Military-Affiliated Students

Background Information

UNC Greensboro has a proud and longstanding tradition of serving veterans, active-duty service members, reservists, and military-affiliated students, providing a robust array of programs and services that support their success and ensure positive academic journeys and university experiences. Cathy Akens, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, will give a brief overview of UNCG’s [Office of Military-Affiliated Services](#), which supports more than 1,600 military-affiliated students enrolled at UNCG.

UNCG also offers degree-specific support through the School of Nursing’s [Veterans Access Program](#) (VAP). Launched in 2015, the innovative program provides specialized support tailored to military and veteran students pursuing careers as Registered Nurses, a profession with an acute and growing shortage.

Dr. Susan Letvak, Coordinator of the VAP, will present an overview of the program. Now in her 26th year with the School of Nursing, Letvak has over 40 years of nursing experience, including 13 as a Navy nurse. She is the Daphne Doster Mastroianni Distinguished Professor in Nursing and also directs the PhD Program in Nursing program. A native New Yorker, Letvak earned a PhD in nursing from Adelphi University, following MSN and BSN degrees from Russell Sage College in Troy, New York.



UNC
GREENSBORO

Division of Student Affairs
Military-Affiliated Services

Meeting the Needs of UNC Greensboro's Military-Affiliated Students

Cathy Akens, Ed.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Office of Military-Affiliated Services


- Opened in 2014 as the Veterans Resource Center.
- Serves at the primary point of campus contact for military-affiliated students.
- Support and connection for military students.
- GI Bill certification and compliance.





What Makes Someone a Military-Affiliated Student?

- Collectively, active-duty servicemembers, reservists, National Guard members, and veterans are referred to as military students.
- Military-affiliated students also included dependents (spouses and children).

A photograph of three people standing on a balcony with a metal railing. On the left, a man in a dark blue t-shirt is partially visible, looking towards the center. In the middle, a man with a beard wearing a light grey polo shirt looks off to the side. On the right, a woman in a blue t-shirt with 'UNCG' printed on it looks towards the right. The background is a red brick building with green leaves hanging from above. A semi-transparent blue banner with the UNC logo is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Military-Affiliated Students at UNC Greensboro

- 1600+ Military-Affiliated Students
- 875 Students Using Military Educational Benefits
- 500+ Veteran, National Guard, Reservists and Active-Duty Students
- 27% of Veteran Students are Pursuing Graduate Education

Military-Affiliated Students at UNC Greensboro

	MA Students	Benefit-Users
25-26	*1701	*941
24-25	1609	870
23-24	1488	793
22-23	1355	683

Three Year Increase

↑26% in Military-Affiliated Students

↑38% in Benefit-Users

**Projected numbers for current year*

UNC Greensboro is a Leader in Serving Military-Affiliated Students





Find your way here

School of Nursing's Veterans Access Program

*Susan Letvak PhD, RN
Professor and US Navy Veteran*





What is the School of Nursing Veterans Access Program?

- Initially funded 2014-18 by Federal Health Resources & Services Administration in recognition of the nursing shortage and military personnel's skills/experience making them ideal nurses. **UNCG received the grant over Duke, UNC-CH, and ECU.**
- Purpose: To provide **individualized plans of study/specialized support** for veterans, reservists, & active-duty commissioning students pursuing a BSN. Those with medical training can complete our 5-semester program *in as little as 3 semesters!*
- The **VAP has a separate admission process and is a separate program** - these students do not take away seats from other students.



Why Choose UNCG's VAP?

- Private study room(with coffee, snacks, computers, printers)
- Receive military branch stoles for graduation
- Faculty/staff have expertise in military credit transfer approval.
- Faculty are “Green Zone” trained – they understand military culture.
- Military veterans serve as students’ academic advisors.
- **COMRADERY**



VAP Benefits to UNCG/Community

- We have graduated over 225 new nurses from the VAP in 10 years – outcomes equal to or higher than traditional students.
- VAP students come from all over the country - the vast majority stay in North Carolina to work as nurses.
- Donor support – over 500k has been dedicated to the VAP – fundraising is ongoing!

When the Army Brig. Gen. Visits UNCG...

“Every School of Nursing in North Carolina and the US needs to have a program modeled exactly like Greensboro’s VAP” Brig General Jamie Burk (2024)



Dan



- Told “not college material” in HS
- Special forces combat medic/wounded warrior
- Accelerated in 3 semesters- awarded 64 credits off his JST
- Won “nurse of the year” from his trauma ICU in his first year
- Moved back from CA for UNCG’s CRNA program

Felicia



- Active Duty – Army Combat Medic
- Coordinated a “Stand Down” – health fair for veterans for the Greensboro community
- Coordinated a wheelchair ramp and painting of Servant Center
- Won two leadership awards at the SON graduation!
- Went from Sgt Dahl to LT. Dahl (and is now CPT Dahl)



Find your way here

Questions for us?