

# VETERANS RESOURCE GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

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Veterans Resource Center  
Dean of Students Office



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## WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the University of Miami.

We are both thrilled 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 our campus. Our dedicated faculty and staff are here to support you throughout your transition. Veteran support services offer academic advising, counseling, career help, and a robust network of mentors and friends.

The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) provides support and guidance to veteran students for 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  
Inaugural Director,  
Veterans Resource Center



Anthony Ustariz  
President,  
Veteran Students Organization



## VA EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

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### 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:

Esther Molina

Phone (305) 284-8682

Email: [veterans@miami.edu](mailto:veterans@miami.edu)

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

Gregory Bellamy

Phone (305) 284-8682

Email: [veterans@miami.edu](mailto: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.
- ✓ Inform the Registrar’s VA certifying officials on whether you will be utilizing UM health insurance.

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 will be utilizing UM health insurance.
- ✓ 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

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### 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](mailto: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

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### Camner Center for Academic Resources

#### Services Offered:

**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](http://umiami.campus.eab.com)). Students can also become tutors. Contact [tutoring.arc@miami.edu](mailto: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](http://umiami.campus.eab.com)) to schedule appointments. Contact [iliprogram@miami.edu](mailto:iliprogram@miami.edu) for assistance or more information.

#### Location:

Harold Long & H.T. Smith Student Services Building  
1307 Stanford Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

#### Contact Information:

Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday – Friday  
Phone: 305-284-2800  
Website: [camnercenter.miami.edu](http://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

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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](mailto: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](http://www.miami.campuslabs.com/engage)) or follow on Instagram @disabilityambassadorsum.

## **Empower Me First in the Office of Academic Enhancement**

### **Services Offered:**

**Academic success advising** – Meet with peers and/or professional staff for group or one-on-one academic or personal support guidance.

**Programming and involvement** – Social and educational programming to support first-generation students, as well as advise the student organization, First Gen 'Canes.

**Empower Me First Academy** – Guide first-generation students in their transition to college and assist with the pursuit of educational and career goals. This cohort-based program aims for students to explore and engage with tools and resources covering the eight dimensions of well-being.

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

### **Contact Information:**

Otto G. Richter Library, Suite 224  
1300 Memorial Dr.  
Phone: 305-284-3187  
Email: [emf.oae@miami.edu](mailto: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 the number below.

### Contact Information:

Phone: 305-284-5511

## Toppel Career Center

Our dedicated staff is here to assist you through career coaching, readiness programs, and recruiting events. We offer a variety of resources, such as [Handshake](#), our job and internship platform, [Cane2Cane](#), a social network for connecting with professional in 60+ industries, and [Custom Career Content](#), which provides resources for veteran students.

## 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 seeking to apply for a parking permit may do so by clicking [here](#). Navigate to the image of the U and click on "Access your parking account." Next, click on "login" at the top right-hand corner. After logging in with your UM credentials, you will be led to the 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



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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](mailto:parking.gables@miami.edu)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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### **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

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### **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](mailto:VetsCenter@miami.edu)

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

### **Veteran Students Organization (VSO)**

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