

OMVS Updates: COVID-19 and GI Bill Benefits

Effective Monday, March 30th, UNO will conduct all classes in remote learning mode. Instructors will deploy a wide range of digital technology tools (Canvas, Zoom, VidGrid, etc.) to enable students to continue their academic coursework uninterrupted for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester.

GI Bill Impacts

There are a lot of questions about GI Bill benefits as universities across the nation have moved classes to online in the interest of public health and social distancing.

UNO's Office of Military and Veteran Services (OMVS) is working diligently with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Student Veterans of America, and other Veteran service organizations to ensure existing GI Bill benefits and housing allowances are not negatively impacted. Today, the University of Nebraska and 54 organizations signed a [Student Veterans of America letter](#) urging the House of Representatives to pass legislations to ensure students are protected if their schools make emergency course changes due to COVID-19.

UNO's decision to move all courses to remote learning will fall under the following VA impact guidelines:

If the school remains open (virtually, rather than physically), and students are transitioned to pursuit solely through online classes, then benefit payments will be impacted as follows:

- *If the switch from training in-residence to online classes occurs during the term, and the program has been approved by the State Approving Agency for delivery through an online modality, then benefit payments (including the Monthly Housing Allowance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill) will remain unchanged for the remainder of that term.*
- *However, for any subsequent terms pursued solely online, the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) under the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be reduced to one-half of the national average of DoD's Basic Allowance for Housing rates for an E-5 with dependents. The limitations on MHA rates are codified in statute (38 U.S.C. § 3313(c)(1)(B)(iii)).*
- *Lastly, if the program has not been approved by the State Approving Agency for delivery through an online modality, benefit payments will completely stop (including the Monthly Housing Allowance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill) when students begin training online.*

For more information, please review the official VA announcement: [COVID-19 Virus Concerns and How it Affects Your Benefits](#)

Office of Military and Veteran Services Updates

OMVS will continue to provide services to our military-affiliated student population and will be available to answer any questions you may have. OMVS will continue to operate in the Milo Bail Student Center from 8:00am – 5:00pm until further notice. If you need assistance, we can be contacted at 402.554.2349 or via email at unovets@unomaha.edu.

We will continue to provide information and support our military, Veterans, and their families. If these circumstances cause any financial, personal, or emotional hardship, please reach out to OMVS or visit UNO's COVID-19 Updates webpage to see what resources and services are available to you.

Keep up-to-date with UNO's operational plan, visit the [Campus Update on University Operations](#).

We appreciate your patience and flexibility during this time.

Sincerely,

OMVS Staff