

Ann's Corner



REMEMBER

YOUR
EDUCATIONAL
BENEFITS
HOTLINE
1-888-442-4551

Happy April, everyone!

Please email me at ann.bougard@MinotStateU.edu if you make any changes to your class schedule — this includes adding or dropping classes or completely withdrawing. It is very important that I get this information to the VA as soon as possible.

Summer and fall registration is open March 30–April 1. Please do not forget to complete the [semester worksheet](#). If you are enrolled in both terms, you will have to complete a worksheet for each term.

I am hoping to see everyone very soon. Take care!

*Ann Haider-Bougard
Veterans School Certifying Official*

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OFFICE HOURS

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



From the Director

We would like to express our appreciation for our active duty, National Guard, Reserve, veteran, spouse, and dependent military service members.

The Military Resource Center continues to serve our military educational benefited students. Please continue to provide suggestions about how we can improve our current practices. We appreciate the feedback, as it allows us to better serve your needs as you work to accomplish your academic goals!

I hope everyone enjoyed Spring Break. I encourage you to read through our newsletter to find out more about summer and fall registration, the POWER Center, and potential tax benefits and assistance.

*Andy Heitkamp
Military Resource Center Director*



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

Activities Attended

March

- 1 Student Affairs meeting
- 1 KMSU interview
- 1 SVA American Warrior workshop
- 2 Restructuring open forum
- 2 ATIXA risk assessment training
- 3 Hug a GI Day
- 3 Inclusive learning tools training
- 3 Veteran club re-organization meeting
- 4 Book group meeting (Born a Crime)
- 4 Minot Area Chamber Military Affairs meeting
- 5 ATIXI – diversity, equity, and inclusion group
- 8 Strength Based Coaching for Mental Health training
- 9 Office 365 One Note train
- 10 ND Military Outreach meeting
- 10 Military Makeover TV interview
- 11 Book group meeting (Born a Crime)
- 11 Office 365 Excel training
- 15 Student Affairs meeting
- 16 Transgender Student Rights training
- 17 University Cabinet
- 17 Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE)
- 18 Book group meeting (Born a Crime)
- 18 Inter-agency meeting
- 18 VP Finance meeting
- 19 Looyenga Leadership Director meeting
- 19 Do more with less training
- 23 BIT meeting
- 23 Global Perspectives training
- 24 Diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop
- 25 Student Affairs meeting
- 25 Service with a smile workshop
- 29 ATIXA investigator training
- 29 Student Affairs meeting
- 29 Welcome Back Vietnam Veterans Day – Grand Hotel
- 30 ATIXA investigator training
- 30 Office 365 Teams training
- 30 VoiceThread training
- 31 ATIXA investigator training
- 31 Diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop

Important Dates

Academic

April

- 1 Summer and fall registration for currently enrolled students
- 1 Coffee with an admissions counselor
- 2 Good Friday — University closed
- 5 Easter Break — no classes
- 6 Faculty chamber concert
- 8 MSU's FAFSA priority deadline
- 9 Last day to drop a 16-week course
- 14 Giving Day
- 15 FAFSA priority deadline
- 23 Last day to drop second eight-week courses
- 30 Spring Honor Dance and Powwow

US Armed Forces Dates

April

- 5 Gold Star Spouses Day
- 14 Air Force Reserve Birthday
- 15 Purple Up! For Military Kids Day
- 19 Patriot's Day
- 23 Army Reserve Birthday

April is...

- Month of Military Child
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
28-Mar	29-Mar	30-Mar	31-Mar	1	2 Good Friday No School	3
4 Easter	5 Easter Break No School	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 MSU Giving Day	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1-May

Stroklund's Section

Now that we are a few weeks into the new semester and living through the COVID-19 restrictions, take a breath and look to the future.

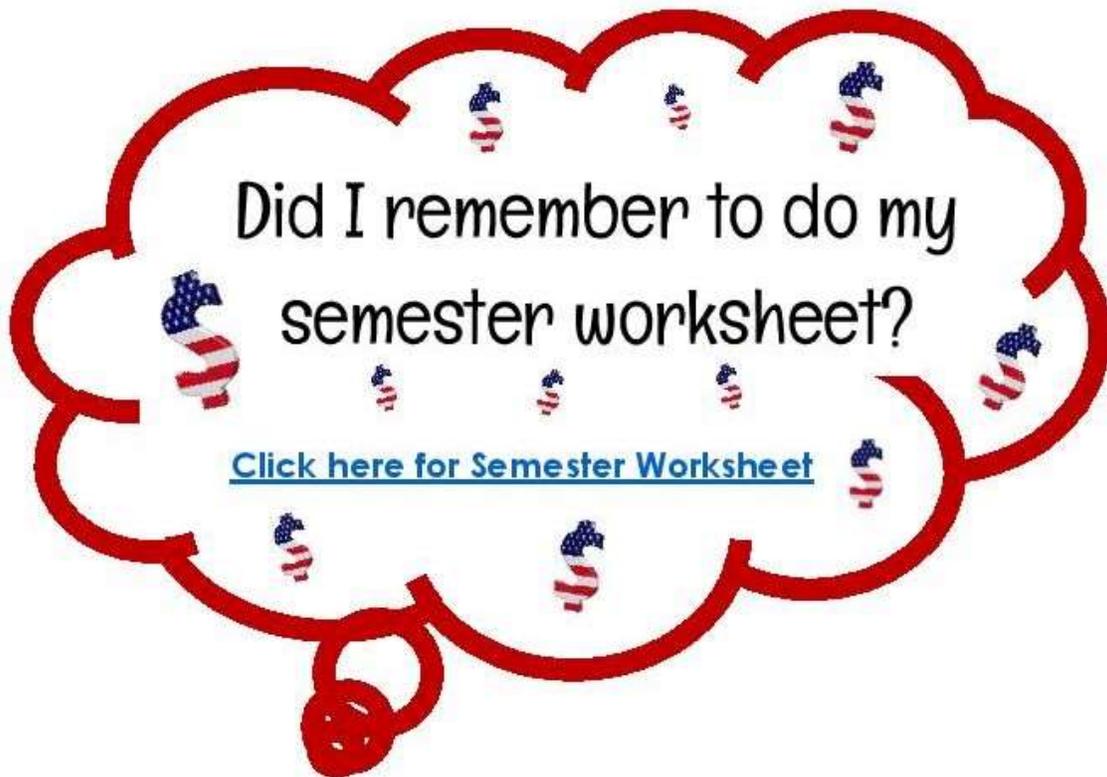
If you are having issues in any of your classes, please contact me. We have many tools that can help. If you are not a current member of POWER, let's sit down and explore the options you have. Now is the time to address any needs; don't wait until it is too late!

"Procrastination is like a credit card: it's a lot of fun, until you get the bill." — Christopher Parker

Have a great month and let us know how we can help you. Scan the QR code on the right to complete a short nine question application to see if you are eligible to become a member of POWER.



*Paul Stroklund
Academic Coach, POWER Center*



2020 Tax Information for Veterans

Veteran education benefit payments

Benefit payments received through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for education and training are tax-free. Learn more [HERE](#).

Tax benefits for education

This [PUBLICATION](#) explains tax benefits that may be available to you if you are saving for or paying education costs for yourself or, in many cases, another student who is a member of your immediate family. Most benefits apply only to higher education.

Survivors benefit plan

You'll owe federal income taxes on military retirement pay. However, if you participate in the [SURVIVORS BENEFIT PROGRAM](#), which supports your beneficiaries after you die, your premiums are excluded from your taxable income. Additionally, your military retirement pay is not considered earned income for Social Security tax calculations, and no Social Security payroll tax should be withheld from that pay.

Disability benefit payments

Disability benefit payments from the VA aren't taxable. This includes disability compensation and pension payments, disability grants for home or vehicle modifications (such as wheelchair ramps), and benefits under dependent-care assistance programs.

AARP

AARP and others are offering free tax prep help to Veterans, military, and families. As we inch closer to the April 15 tax deadline, AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide is among the programs aimed at helping the military community and others file their state and federal tax returns. Read the rest of the article [HERE](#).



Tax-Aide is free and available, by appointment only, to all veterans, military personnel, and their families regardless of age or whether they are AARP members.

"In this new environment of COVID, Tax-Aide has instituted a range of tax preparation assistance models that can help Veterans, those currently in the military and others," said Lynnette Lee-Villanueva, vice president and national director of AARP Foundation Tax-Aide. "From safely delivered in-person service, virtual assistance, and hybrid options — we are here to help."

The nationwide tax help program is geared toward people 50 and older or those who have low to moderate incomes, but Tax-Aide is open to anyone free of charge. AARP membership isn't required to take advantage of Tax-Aide's knowledgeable volunteers, nor will there be any sales pitch for other services.

If you'd like to look for an appointment to receive tax filing assistance from AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide, click [HERE](#) to get started.

Pandemic news

Due to the pandemic, Tax-Aide availability is limited this year. Other programs offering free tax help can be found [HERE](#), including Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), IRS Free File, and MilTax.