



HAPPY NEW
YEAR

2023

From the Director

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SERVICE!!

Congratulations to our December 2022 graduates, as well as to all our students on Minot State's academic honor rolls.

I hope everyone is enjoying time with family and friends during the semester break. Please keep in mind all of those unable to be with family during the holiday season, as they continue to serve to keep Americans free.

As this new year begins, please stop in the Military Resource Center, located in Model Hall, and let the resource center staff know how we can better serve our student veterans. We are looking forward to a new and exciting 2023!

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

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Activities Attended

December			
		13	WWSB University of Poland Visit
1	Minot Area Chamber Military Affairs Meeting	13	Cookie Drive Drop Off
1	Nursing Department Open House	13	President's Holiday Gathering
1	BIT Meeting	14	Ms. North Dakota Meet and Greet
2	Harnett Hall Tour	15	Dr. Van Brunt Dark Fox Training
5	Student Affairs Meeting	15	BIT Meeting
5	VA Vet Center on Campus	19	Staff Christmas Potluck
7	Safe Communities Meeting	20	Market Place for Kids Presentations
7	Student Affairs Meeting	22	Student Affairs Meeting
7	Fall Graduation Celebration	25	Christmas Day
		30	Wellington Veteran Breakfast

2023-2024 Minot State General Scholarship Application Now Open!

DEADLINE: Feb 15, 2023
Minot State University Scholarship Application

The 2023-2024 Minot State General Scholarship Application is now available [HERE](#). The deadline to apply for MSU scholarships is Feb. 15.

Please review the scholarship terms and conditions found under the "Apply Now!" red 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. The scholarship amounts vary depending on student eligibility and the availability of funds. Some Minot State scholarships available for the 2023-2024 academic year require a separate application form from our general scholarship application. Visit the [Other MSU Scholarship and Awards](#) page to locate applications for these scholarships. For more information, contact the financial aid office at 858-3375 or by [EMAIL](#).

VA Life Insurance Changes

Important changes are coming to VA life insurance programs. [Veterans Affairs Life Insurance \(VALife\)](#) is launching on Jan. 1, 2023, as a new guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance programs for service-connected veterans. VA's current offering for service-connected veterans — Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (S-DVI) — closes to new enrollment after Dec. 31, 2022. Veterans currently enrolled in S-DVI may keep their coverage or switch to VALife.

While both VALife and S-DVI cover veterans with any level of service-connected disability (0-100%), there are key program differences to consider before deciding what program is right for you.

Learn more about VALife and S-DVI by visiting the websites below:

- VALife: benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife
- S-DVI: va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/s-dvi/

Have a VA Question? Use the New Virtual Chatbot 24/7



Have a question about your VA benefits, healthcare, or eligibility? You may want to check out VA's website, va.gov/, where you can now access a new [interactive chatbot](#) to ask questions 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Find out how you can receive year-round discounts [HERE](#).

Follow VA News to learn what veteran and military discounts are good all year round, the website is updated as more is learned. Discounts are shared so veterans, military members, and their families, caregivers, and survivors are aware of all resources available to them.

The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on part of VA. Verify information with the organization offering.

Discount areas include automotive, car rentals, clothing/shoes, computer/electronics/gaming, education, entertainment, eyewear, financial and insurance, fitness, flowers/gifts, food, health and beauty, home and garden, jewelry, miscellaneous, restaurants, retail, service, shipping and storage, sporting goods and equipment, travel and lodging, and wireless and internet.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023



James's Corner

Happy New Year!

As always, let me stress that you need to COMPLETE your semester worksheet.

If you are expecting payments from the VA for the Spring 2023 semester, PLEASE complete your semester worksheet after you enroll in courses for the upcoming semester. That allows me to submit your information for payment to the VA, and for you to receive your payments!

Below, you will find a couple issues to be aware of — common misunderstandings I keep hearing and seeing:

Courses not required for your degree plan/academic program

Please review your academic requirements as advisors may or may not know the rules set for the by the VA. Only courses that work toward your degree/are part of your academic record can be certified.

16-week and 8-week terms

When selecting courses for the term, you may not realize what time-length you are selecting. You may pick an 8-week term when you want to be full-time with a 16-week term. For example, if you are taking 12 credits that includes three credits from a first 8-week course, after the first 8-week course is finished, you drop down to nine credits and are no longer considered full time for VA benefits.

Please call 701-858-4002, email james.tucci@MinotStateU.edu, or stop in with any questions you may have. We are all here to help!

Respectfully,

James Tucci - Veterans School Certifying Official

Important Dates

Academic Dates

January

Dec. 27-Jan. 19 – Financial aid book charging

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 2 - University closed, New Year's Day observed
- 9 - Classes begin after 4 p.m
- 10 - First full day of Spring 2023 classes
- 12 - Last day to add or drop first 8-week classes or withdraw from 8-week classes and receive a 100% refund
- 16 - University closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 19 – Last day to add or drop first 16-week classes or withdraw from 16-week classes and receive a 100% refund
- 25 – Financial aid disbursement and spring tuition due

US Armed Forces Dates

January

- 1 – New Year's Day
- 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

OFFICE HOURS

8 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Military Resource Center

Minot State University

Dakota Hall

500 University Ave W

Minot, ND 58707

701-858-4003 / 1-800-777-0750

MinotStateU.edu



Simplifying the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Application Process **Applicants to receive immediate decision after submitting application.**

For the first time in 78 years, [G.I. Bill®](#) applicants can receive an immediate, real-time education benefits decision, thanks to the simplified Post-9/11 G.I. Bill application experience.

Since 1944, over 25 million beneficiaries have taken advantage of G.I. Bill benefits. Many of these individuals waited up to a month to receive an eligibility decision — a month of waiting to plan their future, a month of waiting to take the next step toward their educational goals. But not anymore, thanks to VA's most recent modernization updates, through the Digital G.I. Bill (DGIB) initiative. Learn more on [YouTube](#).

Seven confidence boosters for Veterans transitioning to a civilian career

1. Check in with your friends.

During your military career, you built a support system of contacts, and some of them may have already transitioned to a civilian career. Get talking! Opening up about your experiences solicits stories from other service members who made the move. Gain confidence knowing that you are not alone and learn strategies and tactics from others. Let friends know you're building a job-search network and help them make valuable connections on your behalf.

2. Keep an exercise routine.

In general, physical activity is great for our health. But in times of transition, it's even more important to care for your physical and mental health. Exercise boosts your mood and gets you out of the house. Consider trying out a new sport or fitness class. Need to join a gym? Check out your local [YMCA](#), which may partner with the

area VA facility to offer special services and rates for veterans. You never know who you might meet on the other end of the weight bench.

3. Attend military transition classes.

The U.S. Department of Defense's [Transition Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) offers military transition classes at every military installation, online, and at other locations, such as VA offices. TAP classes begin during your last year of service — after you have an identified separation plan. The program includes group classes particular to each service branch, briefings from VA and other agencies with veteran programs, and job and transition counselors who can work with transitioning service members individually.

4. Find a mentor.

We all benefit from hearing stories from folks who have paved the way ahead of us. A mentor is a great resource in any job search, and especially for service members transitioning to civilian careers. Find someone who shares your values and have a clear idea of what you want to get out of the relationship. If you don't have an ideal candidate in your network, search online for veteran mentor matching programs like [Veterati](#).

5. Seek out VA services.

VA has you covered! We know the value of hiring veterans and have many programs available to transitioning military service members. VA works with DoD to create TAP classes and briefings. [VA for Vets](#) aids transitioning members seeking post-service jobs. And through [VA Careers](#), veterans can identify themselves in the application process and get support from VA throughout the [hiring process](#).

6. Leverage online resources.

There's a multitude of online resources available to transitioning service members. You can find trainings, job boards, employers who specialize in hiring veterans, mentoring resources, and online chat help. VA Careers' [Transitioning Military Personnel page](#) and [TAP](#) are good places to start.

7. Volunteer your time.

If job offers don't come right away, giving back is a great way to make new connections and establish yourself in the community. Volunteer in a field that's similar to your chosen career path to get experience and build your resume. Many volunteer organizations like [Habitat for Humanity](#), which builds homes for homeless families, have programs for veterans that serve veteran families. Your [local VA](#) facility may also have volunteer opportunities.



Fuentes's Section

Happy New Year, 2023!

We are so glad that you have continued your academic journey with us! As we enter the new academic semester, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to get involved and participate in all aspects of your educational and personal development, not only at the POWER Center but also within the Minot State University community.

Reach out to the POWER Center staff, the campus community (faculty, staff, organizations, and departments), and your peers for support as you transform your dream of achieving a college degree into reality.

The POWER Center staff looks forward to working with you and exploring the various ways to make your time at Minot State University an exciting and worthwhile experience!

*Mirta Fuentes
Academic Coach, POWER Center*

Mindset

[miynd-sett] *noun*.

the driving force in the quest for success and achievement. a mindset that combines discipline, strength, confidence and ambition is a powerful mindset. this can achieve anything it sets its sights on.
a powerful mind can achieve anything.

Campus Visit from [WWSB University Poland](#) Officials



Monthly Housing Allowance

Monthly Housing Allowance - What is Prorated?

- Have you ever been in this scenario?
 - Tim looks at a deposit in his bank account for his VA GI Bill housing allowance. His letter says he gets \$1,350 per month, but his deposit is only \$675!!! Where is the rest of his money??
- Let's break it down
 - Tim's housing for full-time is \$1,350. However, last month, he started classes on August 16. He's only been in class for 15 days.
 - $\$1,350 / 30 \text{ days} = \45 per day
 - $\$45 \times 15 \text{ days} = \675

REMEMBER!! The Post-9/11 GI Bill can only pay you housing during the time you attend. If your classes start on a day after the 1st (or end before the last day of the month), your rate will be reduced.



Are you confused about how to calculate your Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA)? Check out this Facebook [POST](#) which helps break it down for you!

2022 [Marketplace for Kids](#)

Thanks again to Minot DAV Chapter 4 for their help presenting U.S. flag etiquette and folding instructions to six groups attending this year's event on the campus of Minot State University.



The flag folding ceremony is a symbolic passing of the 13 truths, one for each fold of the flag.

The Canton of blue is the portion of the flag denoting honor. It contains the stars representing each state of our veterans who have served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and only inverted in time of distress. It is also draped as a country mourns those in uniform who have fallen in honorable service.

First fold: The symbol of life.

Second fold: The symbol of belief in eternal life.

Third fold: In honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks. We pay tribute to veterans who gave a portion of their life for the defense of their country, in the hope of attaining peace throughout the world. Symbolizing their sacrifice has not been in vain, nor never forgotten.

Fourth fold: Represents our true faith; for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn for His divine guidance in times of peace, as well as in times of war.

Fifth fold: A tribute to our country; for in the words of the immortal Steven Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but right or wrong she is still our country."

Sixth fold: Where our hearts lie, because it is with our hearts that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, on nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Seventh fold: To our armed forces; for through these same armed forces we protect our country and our flag against all enemies, foreign or domestic.

Eighth fold: Tribute to those who have entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that they may see the light of day.

Ninth fold: Tribute to womanhood; for through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion, characters of the men and women that have made this country great have been molded. This fold is made in honor of our mothers, for whom the flag flies on Mother's Day.

10th fold: Tribute to the fathers, for they too have given sons and daughters in the defense of our country, ever since the first struggle for independence.

11th fold: In the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

12th fold: In the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents and emblem of eternity, and glorifies in their eyes God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

13th fold: Symbolizes the original colonies. We fold from the stripes toward the stars; for the stripes represent the thirteen original colonies that founded our republic, they are now embodied in the fifty sovereign states represented by the star.



4 Good Things Retirees Can Look Forward to in 2023

https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/4-good-things-retirees-can-look-forward-2023.html?ESRC=mr_221226.nl

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



Link to North Dakota Veteran laws,
<http://www.nd.gov/veterans/laws/>