

Student Veteran Services Newsletter

August 2020 Edition

HERE WE GO....

The fall semester is finally upon us, and whether this is your first term at Appalachian or your last, this is definitely one for the history books. Our way of life has been altered dramatically over the past 6 months, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will likely remain with us for quite some time. Despite challenges presented by the pandemic, there have also been opportunities for innovation and reflection. I will be the first one to admit that I miss the way things were before early March, but I am proud of the hard work and perseverance I have seen among my colleagues, friends, family, and each of you.

While I know the campus experience will be unlike anything we have seen before, we are all experiencing it together. The University's leadership has worked hard to preserve as much of the Appalachian Way as they can while also respecting the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the State of North Carolina. However, I know we will all need to give ourselves and each other a lot of grace and patience as we navigate this path.

Please know that I am available to support you and your journey at Appalachian. While I might not have all of the answers or resources at my fingertips, I will do everything in my power to connect you with whatever you need. While I will be working remotely for the next few weeks (due to Watauga County Schools being fully virtual for the first nine weeks of the term), I will be available 8 – 5 Monday - Friday via phone, email, google chat, zoom, Facebook, etc.

Also, don't forget to lean on your peers. We have an amazing group of student veterans and military affiliated students on this campus, and the sense of community (family) is amazing.

Best wishes and stay safe!

Jennifer



ACADEMICS

Appalachian State University is proud to offer a wide variety of student support services. Please don't hesitate to utilize any and all that you feel will benefit you and your academic success:

- [Student Learning Center](#)
 - [Tutoring Services](#)
 - [Learning Labs](#)
 - [Study Strategies](#)
 - [Personal Consultations](#)
- [University Writing Center](#)
- [Office of Student Success](#)
 - [Student Resources](#)
- [Belk Library & Information Commons](#)
 - [Research Assistance](#)

Please note: most of these services are being offered virtually for the Fall 2020 semester.

DROP/ADD

The drop/add period runs from August 17 through August 21, and is the period during which you can adjust your schedule (up or down in hours and/or course swaps) before it is locked in. If you are using VA Education Benefits and you change your schedule, please be sure to notify me (and/or Financial Aid) so that we can review your file for the VA. If you are concerned about what impact a change in your schedule might have on your VA Education Benefits, please reach out to me before you make the adjustment(s).

GI Bill ® Benefits

Stephanie and I are (*finally!*) caught up on VA certification requests for the fall semester. If you haven't completed your online enrollment certification request, please do so ASAP. If you need assistance with the process, please let me know.

IMPORTANT INFO:

STUDENT VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER

In accordance with CDC, State, and University guidelines, the Student Veteran Resource Center has implemented the following safety protocols:

- Face coverings must be worn at all times by both staff and visitors
- A sanitizer station is near the door for use upon entry
- Seating has been modified to respect physical distancing guidelines
- Food and/or drink consumption is currently prohibited inside the SVRC
- Enhanced/increased cleaning and sanitization

I appreciate everyone's observance of these protocols – we all have to do our part to ensure continued availability of the space. ~Jennifer

UPCOMING VIRTUAL/REMOTE EVENTS

We are working to schedule some virtual events in the near future. When we do, they will be posted on the [SVRC Events Calendar](#).

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

In light of the many challenges we all face, especially in the wake of COVID-19, App State offers several support programs for members of the Appalachian Community:

- [Mountaineer Meal Share](#)
- [Mountaineer Emergency Grants](#)
- [Appalachian Cares](#)

GRADUATION

If this is your final semester, it never too soon to start planning for graduation and beyond. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- [Update your Resume](#)
- [Apply for Graduation](#)
- [Start your Job/Internship Search](#)

STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Now is a great time to get involved with App State's Student Veteran Association. Our organization is constantly growing and evolving and we are looking for innovative ways to stay connected. We welcome your presence, your feedback, and your suggestions.

Be sure to look up the SVA on Engage, Appalachian's student engagement platform: <https://engage.appstate.edu/organization/student-veterans-association>. Joining the SVA on Engage carries no obligations – it simply provides quick and easy access to information about the organization and its events. We will also be sending out an invitation to join us on Engage in the next few days.

You can also connect with the SVA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ASUstudentveterans/>



FINANCIAL AID

It isn't too late to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2020/2021 Academic Year! The FAFSA does not impact and is not impacted by VA Education Benefits. Consider it a security blanket for educational expenses – you may even qualify for grants that don't have to be repaid! Visit fafsa.gov to complete the FAFSA.

Please note: The 2020/2021 FAFSA will use your 2018 income information in the determination of your eligibility for aid. However, if your 2018 income was at least 25% higher than what you will make in 2020, you can request a recalculation of your 2020/2021 financial aid eligibility, potentially increasing your eligibility for grants. Contact financialaid@appstate.edu for more information.

“Think like a proton – stay positive!” ~ Unknown