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The Office of Veteran Affairs at the University of Florida would like to welcome you to the January edition of our Monthly Veterans Newsletter.

-UF VA TEAM



Certification for Spring

Not sure if you've requested certification for the Spring 2009 semester? You can check your certification status using your WAVE account or by contacting the Office Veteran Affairs. The sooner that you request benefits, the less likely it is that you will experience a break in GI Bill payments.

Financial Aid

Did the Office for Student Financial Affairs select you for VA Benefit financial aid verification? If so, please print the verification form from your ISIS account. You need to fill out that form, attach documentation of your VA benefits, and submit both directly to Student Financial Affairs. For documentation of your VA Education Benefits award amount, you can use the paper print out that you received from the VA, or print and sign the information from WAVE (<https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave>), or come by the VA office at 222 Criser Hall.

Disability Resource Center

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) at the University of Florida is a support service for students with disabilities. Our office works to ensure that educational programming and services are accessible to students with disabilities. If you have documented PTSD, TBI or a learning, medical, physical, psychological or sensory disability that hinders learning, the DRC can help facilitate accommodations that include reduced distraction test conditions, extended test time, access to class notes, and much more. The services are free, and your registration with the office will not appear on your transcript. If you have documentation from VA Disability, please be aware that in some instances additional documentation may be required. Please refer to the website at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/getstarted.php>.

2008 Edition of Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents

The 2008 Edition of VA's Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents booklet is available at www.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp. This booklet provides the rates for certain federal payments and outlines many programs and services provided by VA and other federal agencies. It also includes toll-free phone numbers, Internet addresses and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country.

Prison-Trained Dogs Help Veterans

The Dog Tags program matches physically and emotionally disabled veterans with specially trained Labradors and Golden Retrievers that help wounded veterans live fuller lives. The dogs can be trained to offer specific relief for PTSD symptoms by providing a protective presence to the servicemen and women who adopt them. Dogs like "Pax" are trained by incarcerated individuals through the Puppies Behind Bars program. More information can be found at <http://www.puppiesbehindbars.com/documents/Dog%20Tags%20brochure.pdf>



Work Study

This program provides part-time employment to students receiving VA education benefits who attend school three-quarter time or more and are receiving GI Bill Benefits. The student may work at the Veteran Affairs office, VA Medical Facilities, the VA Regional Office, or at approved state employment offices. Work-study students are paid either the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is greater. Active duty military are not eligible for this program. If you have additional questions, please come into the VA office (222 Criser Hall) or call 352-392-1374, ext. 7413.

Student Veteran Organizations

Collegiate Veterans Society

Meeting Time: Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: TBA

Contact: Dan Wojcik, danshadow@ufl.edu

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~veterans>

Omega Delta Sigma – Veterans Fraternity

Meeting Time: Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: ROTC Building, 2nd Floor

Contact: Andrew J Kisz, ufkisz@ufl.edu

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~omegadel>

For archived newsletters, please visit: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/va/news.html>.