



ONBOARDING GUIDE

FOR INCOMING
UNDERGRADUATE MILITARY
AFFILIATED STUDENTS

May 2026, Version 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1	Getting Started	
1.1	About this Guide	<u>3</u>
1.2	What is MIT Student Veteran Success?	<u>4</u>
1.3	Onboarding Checklist	<u>5</u>
2	VA Education Benefits and Financial Aid	
2.1	Overview of VA Education Benefits	<u>6</u>
2.2	Commonly Used VA Education Benefits	<u>7</u>
2.3	Using VA Education Benefits at MIT	<u>8</u>
2.4	VA ED Benefits Processing Timeline	<u>9</u>
2.5	How Ch 31 VR&E Benefits Work	<u>10</u>
2.6	What is Considered Full-Time?	<u>11</u>
2.7	Verifying Your Enrollment with the VA	<u>12</u>
3	Academics and Advising	
3.1	Advising Overview	<u>13</u>
3.2	Working with Your Advisor: Advice from the Office of the First Year	<u>14</u>
3.3	Transfer Credit	<u>15</u>
3.4	Independent Activities Period (IAP)	<u>16</u>
4	Student Life	
4.1	Accommodations	<u>17</u>
4.2	Health Insurance	<u>18</u>
4.3	Housing	<u>19</u>
4.4	Student Support Services (S3)	<u>20</u>
4.5	Requesting a Leave	<u>21</u>
5	Getting Involved	
5.1	Student Veterans Association (SVA)	<u>22</u>
5.2	Student Veterans Association Lounge	<u>23</u>
6	Resources	
6.1	Local Veteran Organizations (external)	<u>24</u>
6.2	Additional Locations and Information	<u>25</u>
6.3	VA Hospital Locations	<u>26</u>
6.2	Discounts for Military and Veterans	<u>27</u>
6.3	Important Contacts	<u>28</u>
6.4	Transportation Information	<u>29</u>
7	Glossary of Terms	<u>30</u>

1. GETTING STARTED

1.1 ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to support undergraduate student veterans as they begin their journey at MIT. Inside, you will find essential resources and contact information for staff dedicated to your success. We encourage you to reach out early with any questions or concerns.

Here are some ways you can make the most of this support:

Communicate: Reach out to your UAC advisor or support offices early if you have any concerns or questions.

Ask: If you're unsure about something, don't hesitate to ask. There's no shame in seeking help.

Connect: Join the Student Veterans Association to connect with peers and build a sense of community and camaraderie.

Get Involved: Participate in groups or organizations that align with your interests, whether they're veteran-focused or not.

Items in a GREEN box are important to emphasize.

Items in an ORANGE box are what you need to do.

1. GETTING STARTED

1.2 WHAT IS MIT STUDENT VETERAN SUCCESS?

Student Veteran Success (SVS) is MIT's dedicated point of contact for service members, veterans, and their dependents. We collaborate with offices across the Institute to ensure a smooth transition through your academic career and help you navigate your VA education benefits. We also serve as liaison between military affiliated students and nonprofits, state and federal agencies, and assist you in achieving your personal and professional goals through advising, network building, and peer support.

We recognize that veterans are non-traditional students who bring invaluable experience to our community. We also understand that you may manage unique responsibilities—such as family commitments, mortgages, or service-connected transitions—that differ from the typical undergraduate experience. As you start this chapter, remember that you are not alone; MIT has a robust network of staff and resources ready to support you every step of the way.



About me: I joined MIT in 2022 as the inaugural Student Veteran Success program administrator. My military background includes eight years of active duty in the Air Force as a C-146A enlisted aviator, followed by a transition to the Reserves at Westover ARB as an Emergency Management Specialist. I used the Post-9/11 GI Bill to earn master's degrees from UMass Lowell (Security Studies) and Simmons University (Social Work). I live in Wells, Maine, with my wife and two children, Shawn and Harper, and look forward to connecting!



Liam Gale, SVS Program Administrator and USAF Veteran

Questions or concerns?

Email: veteransuccess@mit.edu

Phone: 617-715-4114

1. GETTING STARTED

1.3 ONBOARDING CHECKLIST

There are a number of important tasks that you need to take care of as you get started at MIT. Please take your time to read through each area. Questions? Reach out to veteransuccess@mit.edu.

Timing	Category	Details	✓
April and May Contact throughout the year as needed.	Advising	Connect with the Office of the First Year to learn about resources, connect with an advisor, and develop a plan for the current academic year. You may be a transfer student or a new student to the Institute. The office will also be reaching out just after May 1. https://firstyear.mit.edu	
April and May Before Arriving at MIT	Housing	Incoming veteran students will receive communications in early May to participate in the undergraduate housing processes. If students wish to be placed in graduate housing, they should contact housing@mit.edu to notify them of the arrival semester and to discuss options.	
May When You Commit to MIT	Accommodations	If needed, connect with DAS to get started on the accommodations process. das-student@mit.edu If you need help with your VA service-connected disability, email veteransuccess@mit.edu	
May-July Before Arriving	Student Veterans Association	Connect with the SVA to get linked up with the community and stay informed of events, meetings, and opportunities to build a network of peer supports. (pg. 18) Veterans-exec@mit.edu	
May-July ASAP or When You Commit to MIT	VA Education Benefits	Submit your certificate of eligibility (COE) to va@mit.edu before you get started and to coordinate the chapter of benefit you will be using (pg. 9) https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/	
July-August Open Enrollment Period	Health insurance	Make sure you waive the health insurance option if you have insurance already. https://mit.myahpcare.com/	
August Process Begins When You Enroll in Classes	Transfer credits	Connect with the Office of the First Year team to get started on applying for transfer credit. ap@mit.edu	
August	Class Registration Opens	https://registrar.mit.edu/calendar	
December Spring IAP	IAP Pre-registration	https://registrar.mit.edu/registration-academics/registration-information/iap-registration	
Monthly While Enrolled in Classes	Verify enrollment with the VA	Make sure you are verifying your enrollment each month to the VA. Any delay in this process could result in MHA being delayed. You can do this online or via text message. https://www.va.gov/education/verify-school-enrollment/	

2. VA EDUCATION BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL AID

2.1 OVERVIEW OF VA EDUCATION BENEFITS

OFFICE: STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES (SFS)

EMAIL: VA@MIT.EDU

PHONE: 617-258-2860

What you need to know

- VA and Yellow Ribbon funding may not cover your entire program balance, as annual limits and "top-off" amounts vary by program. All VA education benefits are treated like outside scholarships, including any housing and book stipends.
- Housing and book stipends are paid directly to you, not MIT. You are responsible for using these funds to cover your personal and living expenses.
- As a veteran, you are considered financially independent. Your aid eligibility is calculated based solely on your own income and assets, excluding parental financial information.
- You can switch between benefit types to extend your coverage, provided you meet specific eligibility requirements. This process must be coordinated with the School Certifying Official (SCO) of VA Education Benefits in Student Financial Services at va@mit.edu.
- All incoming students using VA education benefits must submit their certificate of eligibility to the School Certifying Official (SCO) of VA Education Benefits in Student Financial Services at va@mit.edu before starting classes.

Yellow Ribbon Funding

MIT participates in the Yellow Ribbon program, and each school has their own level of funding. The Yellow Ribbon program provides eligible students who use their Post 9/11 GI Bill with additional funding to help offset the cost of attendance. Some key takeaways:

- Current undergraduate funding for Yellow Ribbon is UNLIMITED and there are an UNLIMITED amount of slots.
- Students MUST be using their Ch 33 benefit in order to access the Yellow Ribbon funding.
- You must qualify for the 100% benefit rate of the Post-9/11 GI Bill (e.g., 36 months of active duty)
- Funding is paid directly to MIT, not the student.

For updated rates, please visit the link below and be sure to select "undergraduate" in the degree level box.

<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/schools-and-employers/institution/31003321>

2. VA EDUCATION BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL AID

2.2 COMMONLY USED VA EDUCATION BENEFITS

Benefit Type	Amount	Covered Costs/MHA	Eligibility	Applying	Your Responsibilities
Ch 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill	<p>2026 Rate: \$29,920.95 per academic year.</p> <p>Changes annually. https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/post-9-11-gi-bill-rates/</p>	<p>Covered costs: Tuition and mandatory fees (does not include student life fee)</p> <p>Housing: MHA is based off of the 02139 Zip code at the E-5 with dependents rate. https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Basic-Allowance-for-Housing/BAH-Rate-Lookup/</p>	<p>You're eligible for 100% of the full benefit if you meet at least 1 of these requirements: You served on active duty for a total of at least 1,095 days (at least 36 months), or You served on active duty and received a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001, or You served on active duty for at least 30 continuous days (without a break), and we discharged you because of a service-connected disability</p>	<p>Applying for benefits: https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/</p>	<p>Inform SCO of any changes in enrollment status.</p> <p>Verify enrollment with the VA every month.</p>
Ch 31 VR&E	See covered costs.	<p>Covered costs: the full cost of tuition, required fees, books, and essential supplies for approved training programs</p> <p>Housing: Post-9/11 Subsistence Allowance (P9/11 SA): If you have remaining Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement, you can receive a monthly stipend equivalent to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents based on the school's zip code.</p> <p>Chapter 31 Subsistence Allowance (CH31 SA): If you do not have Post-9/11 eligibility, you receive a lower, set stipend</p>	<p>You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, and You have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% from the VA. https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/eligibility</p>	<p>Applying for VR&E: https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/apply-vre-form-28-1900/introduction</p>	<p>If approved, connect your VR&E Counselor with the SCO.</p> <p>Inform your VR&E counselor and the SCO of any changes in enrollment.</p>
Ch 35 Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)	<p>If your school or training started before August 1, 2018, you may be able to get benefits for up to 45 months.</p> <p>If your school or training started on or after August 1, 2018, you may be able to get benefits for up to 36 months.</p> <p>https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/education-and-careers/dependents-education-assistance/</p>	<p>Monthly Stipend: We'll send your monthly payment directly to you. You must verify your school enrollment to get DEA benefits. Rates change October 1 each year. https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/education-and-careers/dependents-education-assistance/rates/</p>	<p>Eligibility: https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/education-and-careers/dependents-education-assistance/</p>	<p>Applying: https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/education-and-careers/dependents-education-assistance/</p>	<p>You must verify your school enrollment to get DEA benefits.</p> <p>Find out how to verify your school enrollment</p>

2. VA EDUCATION BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL AID

2.3 USING VA EDUCATION BENEFITS AT MIT

OFFICE: STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES (SFS)

EMAIL: VA@MIT.EDU

PHONE: 617-258-2860

To Begin (as soon as you confirm your acceptance to MIT)

- Apply for education benefits and request your certificate of eligibility (COE) from the VA. This document lists the months of benefits you are entitled to.
 - <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
- Reach out to va@mit.edu before arriving at MIT and submit your COE to the school certifying official so they can get you into the VA enrollment management portal.
- Ask about your student billing statement to learn about what is covered by VA education benefits and what is not.
- Submit your COE and once you have confirmed that you are 100% qualified, email va@mit.edu to let them know you would like to use the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Before Each Term

- Fill out the VA benefits survey before each academic term so Student Financial Services (SFS) can certify with the VA. This survey is emailed to your MIT email address 1-2 months prior to the start of each term. If you do not receive this by 1 month before the term start, please reach out to va@mit.edu.
- Regularly check your accounts through MITPay.
<https://student.mit.edu/cgi-docs/rspwstop.html>

VR&E Chapter 31 Students

- If you are switching over to Ch 31 benefits, please email va@mit.edu immediately when you change with your VA counselor's information and PO number, if available, to help avoid delays.

2. VA EDUCATION BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL AID

2.4 VA ED Benefits Processing Timeline (not exact dates)

Fall Term					
March-Sept	July - September	August - September	End of September	October - November	1-3 Months after MIT submits tuition
<p>All incoming students entering their first year at MIT must submit their certificate of eligibility (COE) to SFS. The COE is not required for each additional term. <u>This is a one-time submission.</u></p>	<p>All students must confirm use of benefits for upcoming term through the SFS survey. If you do not receive this survey, email va@mit.edu.</p>	<p>SFS will begin to submit enrollment certifications to the VA via the EM portal to help avoid any potential VA delays with housing payments. <u>Placeholder credits of 7 will be added to be amended after the drop date pending actual registration.</u></p>	<p>VA pays out MHA to student at the end of each month, not the beginning. For example, March housing will be paid at the beginning of April. <u>VA timeline is 1-5 days to process</u></p>	<p>After the add/drop period, SFS will amend certifications for their tuition. This occurs after the add/drop in case a student drops below full-time status and to help avoid a student having any debt owed.</p>	<p>VA pays out tuition to MIT.</p>

Spring Term				
January	January-February	End of February	March-April	1-3 Months after MIT submits tuition
<p>All students must confirm use of benefits for upcoming term through the SFS survey. If you do not receive this survey, email va@mit.edu.</p>	<p>SFS will begin to submit enrollment certifications to the VA via the EM portal to help avoid any potential VA delays with housing payments. <u>Placeholder credits of 7 will be added to be amended after the drop date pending actual registration.</u></p>	<p>VA pays out MHA to student at the end of each month, not the beginning. For example, March housing will be paid at the beginning of April. <u>VA timeline is 1-5 days to process</u></p>	<p>After the add/drop period, SFS will amend certifications for their tuition. This occurs after the add/drop in case a student drops below full-time status and to help avoid a student having any debt owed.</p>	<p>VA pays out tuition to MIT.</p>

2. VA EDUCATION BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL AID

2.5 CH 31 VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (VR&E)

OFFICE: STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES (SFS)

EMAIL: VA@MIT.EDU

PHONE: 617-258-2860

Eligible veterans are encouraged to apply for VR&E (Chapter 31) through the VA. Since the GI Bill is limited to 36 months and often runs out before graduation, Chapter 31 can provide a critical extension. If approved, a program counselor that works for the VA will help you develop a specialized track—such as long-term services or reemployment—to reach your goals. Visit the VR&E website to learn more and start your application.

VR&E Website

<https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/eligibility/>

Important

Your VR&E counselor will review your academic program, costs, and career goals before making a decision. If denied, you may request a higher-level review. If approved, email va@mit.edu with your counselor's contact information so MIT can coordinate directly. Additionally, check with your counselor regarding potential eligibility for technology upgrades or office supplies (laptops, printer ink, etc.)

Contact Information

Email: va@mit.edu

Phone: 617-258-2860

Student Financial Services

Attn: MIT School Certifying Official

77 Massachusetts Avenue, Building E17-294

Cambridge, MA 02139

2. VA EDUCATION BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL AID

2.6 WHAT IS CONSIDERED “FULL-TIME”?

OFFICE: STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES (SFS)

EMAIL: VA@MIT.EDU

PHONE: 617-258-2860

Students using VA education benefits should be aware of the full-time requirements in order to receive the maximum benefit payments throughout their enrollment.

To receive the maximum housing allowance, you must maintain full-time registration at MIT. Enrolling in fewer units will result in a prorated reduction of your benefits based on VA guidelines.

- Full-time status for the maximum VA benefit payout during the fall and spring semesters:
 - **Undergraduate 36 MIT units (12 VA credits)**
- Full-time status during Independent Activities Period (IAP)
 - **Undergraduate 12 MIT units (4 VA credits)**

If you are dropping a class, please be aware that your benefits could be impacted depending on registration load. Questions regarding enrollment requirements and VA benefit impact should be directed to va@mit.edu.

Student Enrollment Status Information

<https://registrar.mit.edu/registration-academics/student-status/registration-load-light-load>

Contact Information

Email: va@mit.edu

Phone: 617-258-2860

Student Financial Services

77 Massachusetts Avenue, Building E17-294

Cambridge, MA 02139

2. VA EDUCATION BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL AID

2.7 VERIFYING YOUR ENROLLMENT WITH THE VA

OFFICE: STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES (SFS)

EMAIL: VA@MIT.EDU

PHONE: 617-258-2860

What you need to do

You are required to verify enrollment with the VA at the end of **each month** once courses start to avoid delays in payments. You can sign up for text message verification. Students who receive a monthly housing allowance (MHA) will have their payments withheld if they fail to verify or report that they are no longer enrolled in their courses or training.

https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe/verification_of_enrollment.asp

How to verify your enrollment:

By text

The VA will send you a text when you start your program. They'll ask if you want to verify your enrollment by text. If you respond "yes," they will send you a text every month asking you to verify your enrollment. If you need to update your phone number, or if you don't want to verify your enrollment by text anymore, call [888-442-4551](tel:888-442-4551) Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET.

By email

If you choose not to get text messages or you don't use texting, the VA will email you instead to verify your enrollment each month. They will send a message to the email address we have in our records for you.

Note: If you're using the STEM Scholarship, you can't verify your enrollment by email.

Online through Ask VA

You can verify your enrollment through Ask VA. In your message, be sure to include the dates of your enrollment in school or training.

[Verify your enrollment through Ask VA](#)

By phone

Call [888-442-4551](tel:888-442-4551) (TTY: 711) Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET.

Reach out to va@mit.edu or veteransuccess@mit.edu if you have questions or concerns.

3. ACADEMICS AND ADVISING

3.1 ADVISING OVERVIEW

OFFICE: OFFICE OF THE FIRST YEAR (OFY)

EMAIL: FIRSTYEAR@MIT.EDU

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://FIRSTYEAR.MIT.EDU](https://firstyear.mit.edu)

The Office of the First Year (OFY) is part of the Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC). It provides numerous resources for students to help them navigate the MIT experience through advising, personal development resources, and other academic services. Post May 1, students will begin to receive emails connecting you to specific staff in the OFY. There is a calendar on the website that will guide you throughout the summer.

Important

All students are assigned a UAC advisor after their first year, in addition to their departmental advisor. UAC advisors are holistic resources and support for undergraduate students, regardless of major.

Mission: The UAC empowers MIT undergraduates to navigate the Institute by providing a centralized hub of proactive advising, supporting individuals and communities from orientation through graduation. Augmenting departmental advising, UAC bridges the gap between academics and personal growth, ensuring every student has the tools to pursue their unique goals.

Through the UAC, you can find information on:

- Registration information
- Dedicated advising resources
- Academic and campus resources

You may have already been in contact with one of their staff members, but since this resource is extremely important, we want to make sure that you have all of the information available to you. The UAC and SVS will work together to support you throughout your undergraduate program.

3. ACADEMICS AND ADVISING

3.2 ADVICE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST YEAR

OFFICE: OFFICE OF THE FIRST YEAR

EMAIL: FIRSTYEAR@MIT.EDU

WEBSITE: <HTTPS://FIRSTYEAR.MIT.EDU>

Building and maintaining a relationship with your advisor is an important part of the academic experience at MIT. Transfer students will be assigned a departmental advisor from their designated course, while first-year students participate in advising groups with a traditional advisor or an advising seminar. In either case, students should take initiative to get to know their advisor.

- **Be polite** and address your advisor in person and in emails as “Professor” or with the appropriate title, unless they tell you to do otherwise.
 - **Get to know your advisor** by asking appropriate questions about their background, education, and interests. Here are some sample questions to get you started:
 - Where did you go to college? What was your experience like?
 - What is your research about? What inspired you to pursue that area of research?
 - What sorts of hobbies or other interests do you have? Do you have any tips for balancing academics and outside interests?
 - **If you’re a first-year student, we recommend you get to know your Associate Advisor (AA)** as well – they are a current undergraduate and have valuable advice to share about classes and the MIT student experience.
 - **Go beyond questions about classes.** Your advisor can offer you guidance and support that can go beyond academics: advisors often share life experiences and can help you think through your important decisions.
 - **Advocate for yourself.** Be sure to talk with your advisor about what you might want/need from them as you progress through MIT.
 - **Work with your advisor to be part of any group meetings** and contribute to conversations. If your advisor invites you to attend a dinner or an event, try to make time to participate. These informal social events are a fun way for you and your advisor to get to know each other.
-

3. ACADEMICS AND ADVISING

3.3 TRANSFER CREDIT

OFFICE: OFFICE OF THE FIRST YEAR (HOUSED WITHIN THE UAC)

EMAIL: AP@MIT.EDU

PHONE: 617-253-4164

MIT departments may grant credit for AP courses or study at other colleges and universities if the subjects are substantially equivalent to those taught at MIT and the grade earned meets MIT standards. However, each department sets its own policies and reviews each request individually.

Only the Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry departments review transfer credit requests over the summer. All other departments review requests after you begin classes. Once you have matriculated, transfer credit requests can be reviewed at any point during your time at MIT. These policies are subject to change for subsequent entering classes.

Important

The credit review process begins when you enroll and decision time varies by department. There is no guarantee that classes that were previously taken at another institution will transfer to MIT. Please reach out to ap@mit.edu with any questions or concerns.

What you need to do

- Review information about AP and transfer credit on the Office of the First-Year website.
 - <https://firstyear.mit.edu/academics-exploration/ap-transfer-credit/>
- Consult with the [appropriate transfer credit examiner](#) before registering for a class at another college to ensure it qualifies for transfer credit and to confirm any minimum grade requirements.
- Arrange for an official transcript, showing the coursework and your final grade, to be sent by email to ap@mit.edu
- Email your completed [Transfer Credit Request Form](#) to the appropriate MIT transfer credit examiner for approval. If approved, the transfer credit examiner will send it back to you so that you can forward the approval to ap@mit.edu.

3. ACADEMICS AND ADVISING

3.4 INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES PERIOD (IAP)

OFFICE: REGISTRAR

EMAIL: RECORDS@MIT.EDU

Independent Activities Period (IAP) is a four-week period in January during which faculty and students are freed from the rigors of regularly scheduled classes for flexible teaching and learning and for independent study and research.

The registration process for IAP differs from other terms. You are automatically registered for IAP subjects based on pre-registration and advisor approval is not necessary, although we encourage you to meet with your advisor to discuss your plans.

Sessions offered in previous years have included:

- Cool as a Cucumber: The Food & Climate Nexus at MIT
- Sustainable Fashion through Mending
- Analysis of Cyclic Dynamics: Connecting Math and Experiment
- Making a Solar-Powered IoT Environmental Sensor
- A virtual tour of the MIT high-energy-density physics accelerator lab
- Top Up Your Style: Hatmaking using Vintage Hat Blocks
- BioHab Mycotecture: the coming (r)evolution in regenerative food and materials

What you need to do

For more details on IAP and the registration process, please visit the MIT Registrar's website.

<https://registrar.mit.edu/registration-academics/registration-information/iap-registration>

IAP considerations

For VA education benefit users, the full-time rate during IAP is 12 MIT units (4 VA credits). Registering for anything below 12 units will lower your MHA payment amount. The housing allowance will be prorated based on the VA's calculation.

4. STUDENT LIFE

4.1 ACCOMMODATIONS

OFFICE: DISABILITY AND ACCESS SERVICES (DAS)

EMAIL: DAS-STUDENT@MIT.EDU

PHONE: 617-253-1674

Disability and Access Services (DAS) facilitates an accessible campus experience at MIT by ensuring access for qualified students with disabilities, and consulting on digital accessibility and assistive technology. Students who have a disability are encouraged to connect with DAS to explore support options that may be available to them.

VA Disability Support

While DAS does not have a direct link to the VA to assist with filing a new claim or an increase to an existing rating, there are options available to help you get the support you need. Please reach out to veteransuccess@mit.edu for assistance connecting to an organization that can help you file.

Want to learn more?

Please reach out to DAS or SVS with questions or concerns, or to get started on your accommodations request before the semester begins.

IMPORTANT

VA disability or award letters alone are helpful, but additional documentation (such as full diagnostic/evaluation reports) may be needed to help DAS identify the appropriate accommodations. The reason for this is because the full reports typically provide more relevant information for staff to use when identifying areas of support for you. Required documentation for all students can be found here:

<https://studentlife.mit.edu/policies-and-resources/student-accommodation-policies-and-procedures/>

4. STUDENT LIFE

4.2 HEALTH INSURANCE

OFFICE: MIT HEALTH

EMAIL: STUPLAN@MED.MIT.EDU

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://MIT.MYAHPCARE.COM/CONTACT](https://mit.myahpcare.com/contact)

Full-time undergraduate students (36 units or more) and part-time undergraduate students who are registered for 27 or more units per academic term will be automatically enrolled in the MIT Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) or required to demonstrate comparable coverage from another source in order to waive the MIT Student Health Insurance Plan.

During the annual waiver period, all MIT SHIP members can make changes to their insurance, including adding family members.

Students with pre-existing health insurance coverage:

If you are student who wants to opt out of MIT SHIP coverage, you must submit a waiver during the annual open-enrollment period to avoid being charged for this coverage.

Visit the SHIP website to learn about the policy and the deadline to waive this coverage: <https://mit.myahpcare.com/>

4. STUDENT LIFE

4.3 HOUSING

OFFICE: HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

EMAIL: HOUSING@MIT.EDU

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://HOUSING.MIT.EDU/](https://HOUSING.MIT.EDU/)

All undergraduate students are guaranteed housing in one of the Institute's undergraduate residences for eight consecutive semesters (excluding summer). Veterans and other non-traditional undergraduates have an additional option to request placement in graduate housing (availability and eligibility are reviewed on a case-by-case basis). Incoming upper-level students may also find their own accommodations off-campus.

Link to housing policies:

<https://studentlife.mit.edu/policies-and-resources/housing-policies/>

What you need to do

- Incoming veteran students will receive communications in early May to participate in the undergraduate housing processes. If students wish to be placed in graduate housing, they should contact housing@mit.edu to notify them of the arrival semester and to discuss options.
 - Housing will work with the student to place them in a graduate housing location. Placement is subject to availability and the type of accommodation in each building.
 - Availability and options will depend on details such as the student's anticipated move-in date.

Summer Housing

Summer housing is available to fully-enrolled MIT undergraduate students who will maintain enrollment at the Institute for the upcoming fall (including within graduate degree programs) and who:

- Participate in academic department or summer programs such as the [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program](#) (UROP);
- Have jobs or internships in the Boston-Cambridge area related to their field of study at MIT; or
- Require on-campus housing while transitioning to a summer conference group
 - <https://studentlife.mit.edu/living-communities/housing-for-programs-and-conferences/>

Special Circumstances

Spouses or dependents are not eligible to live in housing designated for single undergraduates. If you are married or have dependents, contact Housing & Residential Services as soon as possible to learn about family housing.

4. STUDENT LIFE

4.4 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (S3)

EMAIL: S3HELP@MIT.EDU

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://STUDENTLIFE.MIT.EDU/WELLBEING-SUPPORT/STUDENT-SUPPORT-SERVICES-S3/](https://STUDENTLIFE.MIT.EDU/WELLBEING-SUPPORT/STUDENT-SUPPORT-SERVICES-S3/)

S3 provides friendly and accessible support for undergraduate students, helping them navigate a wide variety of issues, including both personal and academic concerns.

S3 can help in a number of different areas including:

- Assisting with plans and communication with faculty when extenuating circumstances get in the way of your courseworks — illness or injury, struggles with mental health, relationships/family issues
- Identifying and connecting you with various Institute resources to support your journey
- Supporting your adjustment to MIT and while helping you find your community
- Talking through how to help a friend who is struggling
- Navigating academic difficulties or review by the [Committee on Academic Performance \(CAP\)](#)
- Locating resources for emergency expenses
- Reviewing options should you need to take time away from MIT

Helpful contact information:

- **Dean on Call**
Weekdays 5:00PM–9:00AM | Weekends 24 hours
(617) 253-1212 or 100 from Campus Phones
- **Campus Police**
(617) 253-1212 or 100 from Campus Phones
- **MIT Health**
(617) 253-4481
- **Violence Prevention & Response**
(617) 253-2300

4. STUDENT LIFE

4.5 REQUESTING A LEAVE (MILITARY OR PERSONAL)

OFFICE: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (S3)

EMAIL: S3HELP@MIT.EDU

WEBSITE: <HTTPS://STUDENTLIFE.MIT.EDU/WEELLBEING-SUPPORT/STUDENT-SUPPORT-SERVICES-S3/>

PHONE: (617) 253-4861

There are three types of leave:

1. Leave of Absence (LOA)
2. Personal leave
3. Medical leave

Each type has its own policy and procedures, so you should connect with a dean to understand your responsibility as a student. Requests are handled through Student Support Services (S3) and they have a detailed checklist on their website that outlines what you need to do before you take time away from MIT.

Checklist: <https://studentlife.mit.edu/wellbeing-support/student-support-services-s3/requesting-a-leave/>

Preparing for Leave

If you are considering or currently on a leave of absence, Student Support Services (S3) deans serve as your primary guides. Here is a quick breakdown of how they support you:

- **Mandatory Initial Meeting:** Your first step is to meet with an S3 dean to discuss your situation and create a customized plan.
- **Documentation:** After your meeting, you'll receive a formal letter outlining your plan and the expectations for your return.
- **Ongoing Support:** You are encouraged to stay in touch during your leave; if your goals or circumstances change, your dean can help you adjust your strategy.
- **Peer Connection:** Deans can connect you with students who have previously taken leave to provide first-hand perspective and insight.

Connect with the SCO if you are using VA education benefits to inform them of your leave so they can update their records. va@mit.edu

Returning to campus after a leave can be an emotional transition, but the MIT S3 team provides structured support to help you navigate the process. Here are the key takeaways:

- **You're Not Alone:** You are part of a significant cohort; approximately 45 students successfully return to campus every semester.
- **Institutional Support:** The staff is committed to "having your back," offering guidance through the various requirements and considerations involved in your transition.
- **Direct Assistance:** If you have questions or run into any obstacles during the return process, you can reach out directly to returnrequest@mit.edu.

Connect with the SCO to if you are using VA education benefits to inform them of your RETURN so they can update their records. va@mit.edu

Contact with questions: s3help@mit.edu

Website: <https://studentlife.mit.edu/wellbeing-support/student-support-services-s3/requesting-a-leave/>

5. GETTING INVOLVED

5.1 STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION (SVA)

The MIT Student Veterans Association is a student-led organization dedicated to our veterans and those affiliated with the military. The mission of the SVA has three main components:

- to build community among veterans through holding events;
- to advocate for our members to the MIT administration; and
- to disseminate helpful information to our veterans and supporters.

We welcome you to join the SVA and be part of this community. Please email veterans-exec@mit.edu to get signed up as a member and get access to the SVA lounge.

Please include with your name:

- program and level of study
- branch of service
- ask how you can get involved
- ask about lounge access



5. GETTING INVOLVED

5.2 STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION LOUNGE

Reset, Recharge, and Refuel

There is a dedicated space for students located in building 50-005 (basement of Walker Memorial). The SVA lounge has small offices that you can use for studying or to take a break, a refrigerator and snacks that are free of charge, and plenty of seating to connect with peers or to catch up on some reading. This is a centralized location where community members congregate regularly so feel free to stop in at any time.



6. RESOURCES

6.1 LOCAL VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

While services at MIT do not have a direct link to the VA claims process, SVS can help by connecting you with a legitimate non-profit veteran support organization. These organizations have extensive experience working with veterans, the VA, and the disability claims process. SVS can also provide support by attending meetings with you, communicating your needs, and assisting with administrative tasks that are needed to accomplish your goal. Some of the local organizations that can assist are listed below.

General Support

New England Center and Home for Veterans-Mass Vets Connect

17 Court Street, Boston, MA 02108
617-371-1874

Massachusetts Veteran Connect is one of the New England Center and Home for Veterans' (NECHV) newest programs. This program, funded through the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services, is intended to fill a gap in veteran services in Eastern Massachusetts.

Cambridge Veteran Services Office

51 Inman St., 2nd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4760

The Department of Veterans Services (DVS) serves as an advocate for all Cambridge veterans and their dependents. DVS advises clients as to the availability of benefits, services, and provides financial assistance to those veterans/dependents who are in need. The department assists veterans and their families in processing applications for federal Veterans Affairs claims for pensions, disability and death benefits, burial plots, grave markers, home loans, educational benefits, medical services, and life insurance benefits.

MGH Home Base

617-724-5202

homebaseprogram@partners.org

Home Base is a national nonprofit dedicated to healing the invisible wounds of war for veterans of all eras, Service Members, Military Families and Families of the Fallen through world-class, direct clinical care, wellness, education and research – all at no cost to them – regardless of era of service, discharge status or geographical location. The program was founded by Massachusetts General Hospital and the Boston Red Sox.

Disability Claims Assistance

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Boston DAV National Service Office
JFK Federal Building
Room 1551
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
Telephone: 888-604-0234
617-303-5675

DAV Somerville Chapter

83 Bay State Ave
Somerville MA 02144
Phone: (617) 999-9677

Boston VA Regional Benefit Office

15 Sudbury Street, JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

City of Cambridge Veterans Services Office

51 Inman St., 2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4760

Wounded Warrior Project

Boston Field Team
(contact veteransuccess@mit.edu for POC info)

6. RESOURCES

6.2 ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS AND INFORMATION

On-campus Dining

- Student Center (W20): Concord Market, Dunkins, Tea Do, second floor restaurants
- Dorm dining halls (meal plan): New Vassar, Simmons, Next, Maseeh, Baker
- Forbes Cafe (Stata)
- Bosworth's Café (Building 7 lobby)
- Food trucks (Outfinite/Kendall/Student Center)

Shopping

- The COOP at MIT (W20 Student Center): <https://studentlife.mit.edu/campus-communities/student-center/>
- Concord Market (W20 Student Center)
- CambridgeSide Mall (100 Cambridgeside Pl, Cambridge, MA 02141)
 - ~1.5 miles from campus
- H Mart Cambridge (581 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139)
 - ~1 mile from campus

Health and Hospitals

MIT Health
Building E23
25 Carleton Street
Cambridge, MA 02142
M–F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
617-253-4481

Mass General Hospital
55 Fruit St, Boston, MA 02114
<https://www.massgeneral.org/>

Cambridge Health Alliance
1493 Cambridge St, Cambridge, MA 02139
<https://www.challiance.org/locations/cambridge/cha-cambridge-hospital>

MIT Recreation (Gym)
120 Vassar Street Cambridge, MA 02139
<https://www.mitrecsports.com/>

Safety

MIT Police
565-570 Memorial Drive
Building W91
Cambridge, MA 02139
<https://police.mit.edu/>

Campus Map

<https://whereis.mit.edu/>

6. RESOURCES

6.3 VA HOSPITAL LOCATIONS

VA Boston Healthcare System, Jamaica Plain Campus (4 miles from MIT)

150 South Huntington Avenue Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 | Phone: 617-232-9500

- SUD 24-Hour Care (Residential): Monica Roy, SAR RTP & Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program, 857-364-5969
- Opioid Treatment Program: Nicole Bosse, Drug Dependence Treatment Center, 857-364-6265
- SUD Standard Outpatient: Travis Slesinski, SAR RTP & Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program, 857-364-2150

VA West Roxbury (10 miles away from MIT)

200 Springs Rd. Bedford, MA 01730 | Phone: 781-687-2000

- SUD 24-Hour Care (Residential): Denise Dickinson, DOM-SUD Intake Coordinator, 781-805-0260
- SUD Intensive Outpatient: Gisela Vachier, Veterans MH & Addiction Program, 781-687-2000 x2354
- SUD Standard Outpatient: Gisela Vachier, Veterans MH & Addiction Program, 781-687-2000 x2354

Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital (18 miles from MIT)

200 Springs Rd. Bedford, MA 01730 | Phone: 781-687-2000

- SUD 24-Hour Care (Residential): Denise Dickinson, DOM-SUD Intake Coordinator, 781-805-0260
- SUD Intensive Outpatient: Gisela Vachier, Veterans MH & Addiction Program, 781-687-2000 x2354
- SUD Standard Outpatient: Gisela Vachier, Veterans MH & Addiction Program, 781-687-2000 x2354

VET CENTER LOCATIONS

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional readjustment counseling to eligible veterans, active duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families.

Lowell Vet Center

10 George Street
Lowell, MA 01852-2241
Phone: 978-453-1151

Boston Vet Center

7 Drydock Avenue, Suite 2070
Boston, MA 02210-2303
Phone: 857-203-6461

6. RESOURCES

6.4 DISCOUNTS FOR MILITARY AND VETERANS

Transportation and POV

- Reduced MBTA fare <https://www.mbta.com/fares/reduced>
- Car registration fees
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/disabled-veteran-fee-and-tax-exemptions>

Family and Social

New England Aquarium

- <https://www.neaq.org/visit/offers-and-discounts/>

Museum of Fine Arts

- <https://www.mfa.org/visit/free-and-discounted-admission>

Museum of Science

- <https://www.mos.org/visit/ways-to-save>

The Freedom Trail

- <https://www.thefreedomtrail.org/discounts-savings>

Great Wolf Lodge

- <https://www.greatwolf.com/new-england/deals/howling-heroes>

Red Sox Tickets

- <https://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/specials/military>

Lego Discovery Center

- <https://www.legodiscoverycenter.com/boston/tickets-passes/more-ways-to-visit/military-passes/>

6. RESOURCES

6.5 Important Contacts

Category	Office	Description	Contact information
Academic	Office of Academic Community, Empowerment, and Success (OACES)	The mission of OACES, building on the pioneering legacy of the OME, is to champion the success of students who have faced challenges on their paths to and through MIT. This may include, but is not limited to, students who are first-generation, low-income, transfer, underrepresented, and/or underserved.	oaces@mit.edu
Academic	Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC) Office of the First Year (OFY)	The UAC empowers MIT undergraduates to navigate the Institute by providing a centralized hub of proactive advising, supporting individuals and communities from orientation through graduation. Augmenting departmental advising, we bridge the gap between academics and personal growth, ensuring every student has the tools to pursue their unique goals. The OFY mission is to provide excellent services and programs to catalyze student exploration and access to opportunity, and promote the academic success and personal development of undergraduates. Our programs enrich and support undergraduate education at the Institute.	advising@mit.edu firstyear@mit.edu
Community	Student Veterans Association (SVA)	The MIT Student Veterans Association (SVA) is a student-led organization supporting veterans, service members, and military-affiliated students. It builds community, advocates for members, and provides networking through social events and workshops, with a lounge located at 50-005. The SVA welcomes all branches and dependents.	veterans-exec@mit.edu
Funding	Student Financial Services (SFS) School Certifying Official of VA Education Benefits	MIT Student Financial Services (SFS) helps undergraduate and graduate students manage tuition, billing, financial aid, and loans. SFS is also where the SCO handles VA education benefits.	va@mit.edu
Resource Coordination	MIT Student Veteran Success (SVS)	We can meet with you individually if something is on your mind, connect you with resources at MIT and outside of the institute, and conduct warm handoffs with partners to ensure you get connected.	veteransuccess@mit.edu
Wellness	Disability and Access Services (DAS)	Disability and Access Services (DAS) facilitates an accessible campus experience at MIT by ensuring access for qualified students with disabilities, and consulting on digital accessibility and assistive technology. Students who have a disability are encouraged to connect with DAS to explore support options that may be available to them.	Phone: 617-253-1674 das-student@mit.edu
Wellness	MIT Health	MITHealth provides on-campus services for students who are seeking care ranging from mental health support, primary and urgent care services, routine appointments, LGBTQ+ healthcare, or wellness resources.	Phone: 617-253-4481 https://health.mit.edu/contact
Wellness	Student Support Services (S3)	Whether you have a personal challenge that's affecting your studies or you're considering taking time away from the Institute, we are here to help undergraduate students overcome academic and personal challenges through support, guidance, advocacy, and referrals.	Phone: 617-253-4861 s3help@mit.edu

6. RESOURCES

6.6 TRANSPORTATION

Student transportation and commuter programs

As an MIT graduate or undergraduate student, you have access to a range of transportation benefits, including discounted and subsidized commuter programs that give you the flexibility to choose, day-to-day, how you would like to travel to, from, and around campus. Benefits include:

- Public transit pass (T-pass) at a discount
- Personal Wheels (PWs) at MIT
- Short-term bicycle or vehicle rentals
- Shuttles around campus and local areas for free
- On-campus parking at below-market rates

Please click the transportation website to view specific details:

<https://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/students.html>

Parking & Transportation Office

Atlas Service Center

Building E17-106, 40 Ames Street

Hours: M - F, 8:00AM - 5:00PM

Phone: 617-258-6510

Phone (after hours): 617-253-2997

Fax: 617-258-6357

Email: mitparking@mit.edu

7. Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
Active Duty	Active duty is full-time, 24/7 employment in the United States military, where personnel are stationed at bases worldwide and serve as their primary occupation. Active-duty members live on or near bases, receive full pay and benefits, and are subject to deployment or relocation at any time.
COE	A VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for education is an official document from the Department of Veterans Affairs confirming you are entitled to benefits, such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill. It details your remaining benefits, percentage of entitlement, and expiration date, which schools use to certify enrollment and receive tuition payments
Enrollment Manager	The VA Enrollment Manager is a secure, web-based platform used by School Certifying Officials (SCOs) to submit and manage student veteran enrollment certifications for GI Bill benefits. Replacing the legacy VA-ONCE system, this portal allows officials to submit enrollment changes and view student data more efficiently.
MHA	The Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) is a tax-free stipend from the Veterans Affairs Department provided to Post-9/11 GI Bill recipients while they attend school, typically based on the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents. It is paid directly to the student for active training and is based on school location, not home address.
National Guard	The National Guard is a unique component of the U.S. military composed of part-time "citizen-soldiers" who serve both state and federal governments. They are primarily commanded by state governors to respond to local emergencies like natural disasters or civil unrest, but can be federalized by the President for overseas combat missions.
Reserves	Military reserves are trained, part-time service members who maintain civilian careers but are available to augment, reinforce, or support the active-duty military force during emergencies, deployments, or national crises. Reservists typically train one weekend a month and two weeks per year ("one weekend a month, two weeks a year")
SCO	A School Certifying Official (SCO) is an employee at an educational institution designated to act as a liaison between the school and the VA. They manage VA education benefits by certifying student enrollment, reporting changes (e.g., drops/adds), and ensuring compliance with VA regulations. They are crucial for ensuring GI Bill benefits are processed.
VA disability rating	A VA disability rating is a percentage (0% to 100%) assigned by the Department of Veterans Affairs, representing the severity of a veteran's service-connected medical condition or injury. It measures how much a disability impairs earning capacity and daily functioning, dictating monthly tax-free compensation, healthcare priority, and other benefits
VBA	VBA stands for the Veterans Benefits Administration. It is a branch of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) responsible for providing financial assistance, education, home loans, and other benefits to veterans, their dependents, and survivors.
VHA	The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, providing comprehensive medical services to over 9.1 million enrolled veterans annually. As part of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), it operates 170 medical centers and over 1,100 outpatient sites.
VR&E	Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E), also known as the "Chapter 31" program or formerly Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, is a VA program designed to help veterans with service-connected disabilities (at least 10% rating) prepare for, find, and maintain employment or achieve independence in daily living
Yellow Ribbon	The Yellow Ribbon Program is a provision of the Post-9/11 GI Bill® that helps eligible veterans and their dependents pay for private, out-of-state, or graduate school tuition that exceeds the highest public in-state rate covered by the VA. Participating schools voluntarily match VA contributions to bridge the cost gap.

MIT Acronym Finder:

<https://wikis.mit.edu/confluence/display/ACRONYMS/Acronyms+-+S>