PREPARING FOR COLLEGE
The transition from military to college life may be a challenging endeavor. The following are some items to be mindful of when making this change: prepare for transition, be open to a new mindset, seek out other veterans and be interactive with your classmates and practice patience. As well, you may also refer to the vetsuccess.org website for additional tips. One such popular quick read for preparing in your transition can be found at http://www.vetsuccess.gov/assets/Veterans_Five_Steps_to_Prepare_for_College.pdf “Veterans, Five Steps for Preparation”.

For newly admitted students, please read carefully the following pieces of information. They are designed to make a smooth transition into the university.

☐ APPLY FOR ADMISSIONS

- Information for undergraduate admission for interested student-veterans can be found at http://www.admissions.umd.edu/requirements/VeteranAdmission.php/.
- This page details information for freshman students (i.e., those with no college credits) or transfer students (i.e., minimum of 12 semester hours or 18 quarter hours at a regionally accredited college or university).
- If you run into any problems with our admissions application please contact at the Veteran Student Life office at vetstudentlife@umd.edu or 301-405-7285. Also, interested students may contact um-admit@umd.edu or call 301-314-8385.

☐ ACCEPTANCE OFFER

FOR FRESHMEN

- If you choose to confirm your enrollment with The University of Maryland, please refer to your admissions decision letter on the application portal for next steps (https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=umd). Please refer to the Undergraduate Admissions page (http://www.admissions.umd.edu/admitted/AdmittedFallFreshmen.php) for required next steps to complete your enrollment. Please allow up to 48 business hours for your confirmation to be processed and posted to your record before you can register for Orientation.

- Admission to UM does not necessarily mean admission to certain majors or colleges. For example: There are Limited Enrollment Programs (LEPs), which have different and specific requirements to be met before admission. Please refer to your admissions decision letter to review which major/college you were admitted to before selecting the appropriate Orientation date.
FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

- Your Major, depending on your major and, if a transfer student, how many credits transfer, it might take more than four semesters to complete your degree. Admission to UM does not necessarily mean admission to certain majors or colleges. For example: There are Limited Enrollment Programs (LEPs), which have different and specific requirements to be met before admission. Often, transfers from other institutions do not qualify for certain LEPs because they are entering with too many credits. Please visit our website for links to these program websites and for more information.

- All students must complete general education requirements at Maryland. For most transfer students, these will be CORE requirements. While UMD does have articulation agreements with many of the institutions in Maryland and in certain states, you may be required to take some CORE courses to fulfill requirements for a certain major. For more information, please refer to our transfer student information sheet (http://www.gened.umd.edu/documents/GenEdTransferPolicy.pdf).

- To graduate from UMD, all students must complete approximately 43-46 credits of General Education requirements or CORE. Each degree program or academic major requires at least 120 credits.

- Check out the Four-Year Plan website for more information on each college’s degree requirements and to plan out your time here at Maryland. Each student is required to complete a Four-Year Plan to assist in the successful completion of a degree program. Find more information online (http://www.4yearplans.umd.edu/).

- Transfer students may also look into the opportunity to participate into Transfer2Terps program (http://thestamp.umd.edu/student_involvement/t2t) and (http://transfertoterpsweb.wix.com/transfer2terp). Their mission statement is “The Transfer2Terp Student Organization is a supportive transfer community focused on succeeding in and out of the classroom and improving the transfer student experience at the University of Maryland, College Park”.

☐ INFORMATION FOR TRANSFER CREDIT EVALUATION (if needed)

- For those student-veterans who need/request evaluation of college credits, please contact the transfer credit center (http://www.tce.umd.edu/). Note, for those interesting in seeing for themselves, there is a self-help option for credit equivalent that the University of Maryland, College Park recognizes. (https://www.sis.umd.edu/tce/inst-search.html?searchType=master).

- If your course is not listed, email tccinfo@umd.edu with the institution name, course title, course ID and semester you took the course along with a detailed description of the course and course syllabus.

- Students transferring from Maryland four-year and community colleges can also visit this online resource. Please remember to have your final transcript sent to Maryland following your acceptance.

☐ CREATE UNIVERSITY EMAIL ACCOUNT AND DIRECTORY ID

- Create your Directory ID and Set Up your University E-mail account (http://www.it.umd.edu/new/student.html). Once created, please forward this account to
your most used account. TERPmail (http://www.terpmail.umd.edu/) is our new university Gmail e-mail system.  
- Once you’ve set up your Directory ID and password, you can sign-up for TERPmail. After your TERPmail account is activated, be sure to go to Testudo and update your preferred e-mail address.  
- Check this account regularly because UMD faculty, departments and other students will be contacting you at this e-mail address as early as this summer. If you need help setting up your account, visit www.goingterpmail.umd.edu.

☐ GETTING ACCESS TO VETERAN STUDENT LIFE LOUNGE AND ORGSYNC

- The Veteran Student Life lounge is located in Cole Fieldhouse, room 1122. In order to get access to this room you will need to provide two items: PROOF OF SERVICE (I.E., DD 214, MILITARY ID) AND UID NUMBER. You may bring these by the Vet center (301) 405-9605 or email them to our account (vetstudentlife@umd.edu).

- As well, stay in touch with upcoming events, RSVPs with other student-veterans and professional and social event programs that are provided for veterans. OrgSync is a gateway where student can get involved in their interests, student groups and be connected with other students. You will need your directory ID and password in order to sign up (https://orgsync.com/login/university-of-maryland). In order to find our group type “VSL” in the search box (upper-right hand side), click sign up on the right hand side too.

☐ REGISTER FOR ONE DAY ORIENTATION (NOT STUDENT-VETERAN SPECIFIC)

- After you have set up your Directory ID, you are ready to register for an Orientation date. The Orientation Office holds Orientation specifically for transfer students geared towards their needs. All new students to the University of Maryland must complete an Orientation regardless of if they completed one at their previous institution. Please read all of the following information before registering via the link at the bottom of this section. **The program fee is $106.00 for your Orientation.**
  
  o This fee covers all costs associated with the program including breakfast, lunch, staffing, materials and logistics. The charge is a per-person fee for all participants. Orientations at the University of Maryland include a program fee because the Orientation Office receives no funding from the university or the state. The fees associated with our program are charged directly to your student account. Please do not send payment to the Orientation Office.

Before You Register

- When registering, you should know any conflicts you have that will prohibit you from attending Orientation. When you register online or call the orientation office (listed below), you will be shown/informed of all available Orientation dates.  
- **These dates are based on space availability for college advising. Programs fill quickly, so be sure to register online or call as soon as possible for the greatest availability.**

When You Register

- The Orientation Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

- The phone number is 301-314-8217 or you can register online (https://www.sis.umd.edu/orientation/). When you contact us, a program registration staff member will assist you with the entire registration process. Don’t forget to register your
parents and family members for the Parent Orientation program if they are attending Orientation with you.

- **While you are orientation, please feel free to stop by the Veteran Student Life lounge: 1122 Cole Fieldhouse, 301-405-9605.**

**REGISTER FOR ONE DAY ORIENTATION (STUDENT-VETERAN SPECIFIC)**

- Please join us on August ____ 2013 from ______ at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, room _____. We will be hosting our new student-veteran orientation. Your attendance is highly encouraged, as much of this information is not discussed at the traditional orientation.
- It also will allow you to get connected with other student-veterans at the UMD campus. We intend on having a 4-panel member discussion focusing on financial matters, VA educational benefits, learning services, and recreational activities.
- If you intend on attending this event you may RSVP several ways: OrgSync (link); Email to vetstudentlife@umd.edu or respond to Facebook posting (link).

Please see agenda below

**Panel 1. Benefits/Finances, Moderator, Brian Bertges**
Panelists: Michael Vivian (VA Certification Official); Financial Aid Officer (TBD); Wade Swanson (Chapter 33 Benefits); TBD (Chapter 31/other military benefits)

**Panel 2. ‘Mind’, Moderator, Joseph Alemany**
Panelists: Dr. Marcia Marinelli (Learning Assistance Services); Dr. Dominick Scalise (Counseling Center); TerpVets/P.A.V.E. program (TBD); Transfer credit officer (TBD)

**Panel 3. ‘Body’, Moderator, Wade Swanson**
Panelists: Eppley Recreation Center (TBD); Exercise Management (Joe Alemany); Tough Mudder (Wade Swanson) Outdoor recreation (TBD); Team Red, White, Blue (RWB)

**Panel 4. ‘Soul’, Moderator, Brian Bertges**
Panelists: Denis McHugh (Chapel representative); Veterans Writing Project (TBD); Combat Paper (TBD); Stress Management (Health Center Representative); Deborah Slosberg (LCLC)

**STANDARDIZED PLACEMENT TESTS**

There are two placement tests at The University of Maryland: Math and Foreign Language test.
- The Math placement exam can be taken online (http://www.orientation.umd.edu/mathinstruct.html) and foreign language and (http://www.arhu.umd.edu/undergraduate/globalengagement).
- Not everyone has to take these exams, please review the criteria to decide if you have to take such exams ([http://www.orientation.umd.edu/mathinstruct.html](http://www.orientation.umd.edu/mathinstruct.html)) and ([http://www.arhu.umd.edu/undergraduate/flpt](http://www.arhu.umd.edu/undergraduate/flpt)).

**☐ SEND IN IMMUNIZATION RECORDS**

- Please note that all students need to complete the required Immunization Form to attend the University of Maryland. Please make sure your University ID number is on the form.

- The University Health Center offers routine immunizations such as MMR, Meningitis, Tetanus/Diphtheria, and tuberculosis skin testing. Hepatitis B, Chicken Pox, and Flu vaccines are also available. There is a charge for this service based on the vaccine(s) received. Please click here for the 2012-2013 Influenza Vaccine form. [http://www.health.umd.edu/sites/default/files/ImmunizationRecordFormForm.pdf](http://www.health.umd.edu/sites/default/files/ImmunizationRecordFormForm.pdf).

- Military immunizations forms will be accepted as proof of vaccination. Along with this military immunization form (DD Form 2766C), proof of current or previous active duty status (DD214) in the U.S. Military will be accepted by the Health Center and waives the necessity of having a physician signing off on your UMD vaccination record.

- If you need to get a copy of said form (DD 2766C), please download and fill out the following VA form: [http://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-5345a-MHV-fill.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-5345a-MHV-fill.pdf).

**☐ ORIENTATION ATTENDANCE AND LOGISTICS**

- Now that you have completed the previous steps you are ready to attend Orientation. You should have already registered for your Orientation date. If you have completed the previous steps, you should be well on your way to a successful transition. **During the program you will meet and get to know your Orientation Advisor (OA), meet with an academic advisor to discuss your course schedule, and register for classes.** In addition, you will learn your way around campus, obtain more information about how you should prepare for living on or commuting to campus, talk with staff and students who can help you get involved with campus organizations, and get your photo ID card.

- **Orientation parking** - Please park in Lot 1 only. Please download your map and parking permit prior to Orientation ([http://www.orientation.umd.edu/parking.html](http://www.orientation.umd.edu/parking.html)). The program check-in is at 8:00 AM to 8:20 AM in Cole Field House.

- **What should I wear and bring?** You will be doing some walking during your program. Be sure to check out the weather before heading to College Park. You will receive a bag to carry all of your materials in, so a backpack is unnecessary.

- **Recommend items to bring to orientation** - Comfortable clothing and walking shoes; A government-issued photo ID; A back-up copy of your grades and transcripts; Parking permit; Completed immunization form if you want to turn it in early; Notebook and pen; Documents that you need for meeting with campus staff (i.e.: residency forms, if needed [http://www.testudo.umd.edu/rico/downloads.html](http://www.testudo.umd.edu/rico/downloads.html)).

- **Prepare for Orientation** - As you begin your preparation of coming to Orientation, remember that you are an active participant and the most important player in your educational success. Come ready to ask questions of our staff and students. Remember
to do some research on your major requirements and keep a checklist of the things you still need to complete or offices you need to visit.

- **Turtle Camp** - Turtle Camp ([http://thestamp.umd.edu/leadership_community_service_learning/involvement/turtle_camp](http://thestamp.umd.edu/leadership_community_service_learning/involvement/turtle_camp)) is a five-day leadership immersion program for incoming first-year and transfer students run by The Stamp Student Union. Eighty students will have the opportunity to connect with other incoming students who are passionate about leadership. Turtle Camp has multiple tracks to explore leadership in different contexts, including a Washington DC-based experience and multiple outdoor adventure experiences. The outdoor adventure tracks include backpacking, biking, and canoeing. Whether you choose the DC track or one of the adventure tracks, Turtle Camp participants learn more about what it means to practice socially responsible leadership.

☐ **IDENTIFICATION CARD**

The identification card for the University of Maryland, College Park can be obtained on the first floor of the Mitchell Building 8:30 to 4:30 Monday-Friday, (301) 314-8240. The area in which ID are obtained are directly to the left of the main door front entrance. Students for admission to most athletic, social, and cultural events, to withdraw books from the libraries, and as a general form of identification on campus, can use the photo ID card.

For graduate students, be sure when you receive your card it says "Graduate Student" and not just "Student" so you can receive discounts at participating restaurants and stores. The first card is free, but it's $20 to replace a lost, stolen or purposefully defaced cards (e.g., hole punch). Before obtaining an ID card, you must be registered for classes and have proof of identity.

☐ **RESIDENCY CLASSIFICATION**

The offices of undergraduate and graduate admissions determine your in-/out-of state situation. The residency classification office is the entity that can be petitioned for in-state status. For those active-duty members (including even being on terminal leave) or members of the Maryland Army National Guard, you may qualify for in-state status. Below is the information that the residency classification office will need to know if you are eligible.

☐ **MILITARY EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

- For those interested in initiating their VA educational benefits, please refer to our website for detailed information on the various educational chapters. [http://thestamp.umd.edu/engagement/veteran_student_life/va_education_benefits](http://thestamp.umd.edu/engagement/veteran_student_life/va_education_benefits).

- Note: If you will be using the Post 9/11 GI Bill (i.e., Chapter 33 benefits), you will need a certificate of eligibility. It may take some time to obtain (1-3 months), we strongly advise getting this ASAP. The form can be done on line via the veterans’ on-line application (VONAPP) [http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/default.asp](http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/default.asp). The form in particular to fill out is VA form 22-1990. Also, if you are transferring your benefits from another university, complete VA Form 22-1995 (the “Change of Program or Place of Training” form). If you are a transfer student or your COE does not state your degree ([http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/vba-22-1995-are.pdf](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/vba-22-1995-are.pdf)).

☐ **APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS – TYPICALLY OPEN IN APRIL – MAY FOR NEXT YEAR**

Scholarships are also available at select times of the year for both the at-large student
population (http://www.financialaid.umd.edu/scholarships/). Additionally, yearly student-veterans
dedicated scholarships are also available. These competitive scholarships typically become
available in April for funding to be utilized for the next Fall semester. Please visit the following
website for types of scholarships and general application process

You can mail or fax your Immunization form to: University Health Center, University of Maryland,
College Park, MD 20742; FAX: (301) 314-5234. For questions, please call (301) 314-8114 or
for appointments, Click on MyUHC or call (301) 314-8184.

** For those that need additional financial aid,** Complete the Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA) http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/. Also, learn more about financial aid at the UMD Financial Aid Office website (http://www.financialaid.umd.edu/). The UMD priority deadline is February 15, so do your best to submit your FAFSA by that time. Also, the UMD Scholarship Office is an excellent resource in finding ways to pay for college expenses (http://www.financialaid.umd.edu/scholarships/).

☐ OFF CAMPUS HOUSING
If you are looking for places to live, please also visit the off-campus housing service:
http://www.och.umd.edu/OCH/Default.aspx. They can also be reached at 301-314-3645, or
email och@umd.edu.