

# HEALTH CAREERS CHECKLIST FOR VETERANS

Ready to serve in another way? Don't make the jump alone without considering these key aspects.

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## BEFORE APPLYING: HOW DO I PAY FOR THIS?

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- Know your benefits! Check with the Registrar's Office to review the funding for which you may qualify.
- Evaluate the different benefits available to veterans
  - If you served after 9/11, see if you qualify for the Post 9/11 GI Bill.
  - Check to see if you qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill.
  - If you have a service connected disability, check to see if you qualify for the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program.
  - If you joined the military in Texas, check to see if you qualify for the Hazlewood Exemption, which provides up to 150 hours of free tuition to Texas Veterans.
- Financial Aid & Scholarships: If you need additional help funding your education, be sure to apply for financial aid and/or scholarships. Keep in mind, there are three types of scholarships on campus:
  - University-wide Scholarships (available to ALL students)
  - College-level Scholarships (offered within the college that houses your major)
  - Department-level Scholarships (offered within the department that is your major).

*EXAMPLE: If you are a Biology major, you can apply for scholarships in the College of Science and the Department of Biology.*

- IMPORTANT:** Get in touch with UNT Student Veteran Services. They can help you with funding, resources, and connecting with other veterans as you start your academic journey. Ask for Jim Davenport at (940)-565-3813 or Julie Brown at (940)-565-2750.

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## BEFORE APPLYING: HOW DO I KNOW WHICH PROGRAMS/COURSES ARE RIGHT FOR ME?

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- Determine the Health Career path you want to take. To evaluate the Health Career paths at UNT, please visit [HealthCareers.unt.edu](https://healthcareers.unt.edu). Each link will provide information on how to be a successful student on your chosen path.

Select a major:

- If you are a pre-professional student interested in going to [medical, dental, pharmacy, PA school, etc.], you need to select an undergraduate degree first. Each [pre-professional link](#) on the Health Careers website will contain recommended majors for your chosen path.
  - Here are the health-related [undergraduate degree programs](#) offered at UNT: Audiology and Speech Language Pathology, Behavior Analysis, Biomedical Engineering, Health Informatics, Kinesiology and Health Promotion, Public Health, and Rehabilitation Studies.
- **WILL MY MILITARY CREDIT TRANSFER?** There is only one undergraduate degree program on campus that will count military credit towards degree requirements. If you wish to attend a professional school [medical, dental, pharmacy, PA school, etc.] after graduating from UNT, this degree is an option for you. The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (B.A.A.S) will allow you to utilize some of your military credit as you take remaining courses to complete other degree requirements.
  - Schedule a prospective appointment with an advisor in your chosen Health Career path.
    - Talk to a UNT Pre-Health [Advisor!](#) These advisors will review the courses you need for professional schools and can help build a plan for your needs. They can also help you with other parts of your application, such as shadowing, volunteer work, application essays, mock interviews, when to apply to schools, and the application services you will use. If your pre-health program is not listed on the website, please contact them for more information!
    - At the bottom of each page listed on the Health Careers website, you will find an advisor to contact for more information. You can also see a list of all advising offices by clicking [HERE](#).
  - **Pre-Professional Students:** Determine which pre-requisite courses you may need for your chosen career field. For each pre-professional page listed on the Health Careers website, be sure to click on the ‘Pre-[medical, dental, pharmacy, PA, etc.] Packet’ link.
  - **LOW GPA ON COURSEWORK FROM YEARS AGO?** If your courses are more than 10 years old, you may qualify for Academic Fresh Start, which re-starts your GPA! Reach out to [UNT Admissions](#) to find out if you qualify: (940) 565-2681.

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## ACCEPTED: NOW WHAT?

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- Review the information under '[Incoming Students](#)' on the Health Careers website. There you will find information about New Student Orientations, Academic Advising, Cost of Attendance, Financial Aid, Scholarships, Housing and Meal Plans, and Parking/Transportation Information.
- Register for your first semester of classes at New Student Orientation!
- Consider joining the UNT [Student Veterans Association](#).
- Consider joining one of UNT's many Pre-Health Clubs and Organizations. Contact the Pre-Health Advising Office for more information!
- Connect with a veteran mentor in your field. For possible networking, please contact [UNT Student Veterans Services](#), the [Pre-Health Advising Office](#), or an [advisor](#) within your department.
- Be sure to renew any VA Education Benefits before the beginning of each semester.
- Know when to register for classes! For a list of registration dates, please visit the [Registrar's webpage](#).
- If you are a pre-professional student, get the latest pre-health information by joining the Pre-Health e-mail list. Contact the [Pre-Health Advisors](#) to sign up!

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*A special 'THANK YOU' goes out to Russ Burgin, Robert Dahl, and Alan Thiele who helped make this checklist possible. Below you will find a brief biography on each of these honorable veterans.*

### **Russ Burgin:**

*Russ is an active duty Army Infantry officer with 8 years of service, currently serving as an ROTC instructor at UNT. He is also pursuing admission to medical school in 2019 as a graduate non-degree seeking student through a self-designed post baccalaureate program. He hopes to continue service as an Army physician following medical school. If you're looking for advice on navigating the pre-med world while on active duty or as a veteran, feel free to reach out to Russ at [Robert.Burgin@unt.edu](mailto:Robert.Burgin@unt.edu) Russ' advice is "Don't be afraid of not fitting in the pre-medical mold or of jumping into hard science coursework after a long hiatus or for the first time. There are more resources at UNT than you know and so many people who are ready to help you succeed."*

**Robert Dahl:**

*Robert is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation US Army veteran who served as a combat medic and medical lab technician while on active duty. He is finishing a degree in Biology prior to starting medical school in the fall of 2019. Robert's current interest is in medical toxicology, particularly those exposures resulting from military service. The best advice he has for student veterans is to be proactive in seeking out veteran-friendly resources, beginning with Student Veterans Services and the Health Professions Advising Office. And in his words, "You are never too old to pursue your dream. I didn't even start my prereqs until I was 40!"*

*To contact Robert for more advice, please e-mail him at [RobertDahl@my.unt.edu](mailto:RobertDahl@my.unt.edu)*

**Alan Thiele:**

*Alan is a US Army veteran and is currently pre-medical at UNT. He plans to apply to medical school this upcoming 2019-2020.*