Military Service Policy

Scope: Expands on policies of the Graduate School and University Registrar and is applicable to all MPA students

In accordance with UNC Graduate School policy, if graduate study is interrupted by active military service, or service in the Peace Corps, VISTA, or the equivalent, as much as two years of that time will not count toward the time limit for the degree. In such an event, an official letter from the appropriate agency should be sent to the MPA Program Office to document the interruption.

A student who is called to active duty in the middle of a term may consider either a withdrawal or incomplete grade(s). The decision will depend on how much of the term has been completed, the expected length of deployment, and the student’s progress through the curriculum. Students should consult with the MPA Student Services Director* to determine the best course of action.

In the event a student withdraws from all classes, as an exception to standard policy, the University will grant a refund of all tuition and required fees. In this case, the student will have to re-enroll in the same course(s) upon his or her return to UNC. Please see registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/veteran-affairs/withdrawals for more information.

In the event a student accepts incomplete grades, then coursework must be completed within one year. Students will not receive a refund for tuition, but the student does not lose a semester of coursework. In this case, students have already paid tuition for the course(s) and will not need to re-enroll in the course(s) when they return.

In addition to these University polices, the MPA program extends the same benefits to spouses and domestic partners of such armed services personnel, who have a dependent child and are required to leave school as a result of their spouse or domestic partner’s call to active service.

Students who have been called to active duty should immediately contact the MPA Student Services Director to determine next steps. The student should be prepared to provide a copy of his or her official orders.

*Residential students will contact Sharon Pickard. Online students will contact Karla Townley-Tilson.