

Veterans Upward Bound, Central Carolina Community College, Sanford, NC

The Veteran Upward Bound Program (VUP) helps veterans pursue their postsecondary education — a valuable resource for veterans, particularly younger service members, who may need additional guidance as they prepare to leave the military.

Currently VUP serves veterans through their federally funded grant in Harnett, Chatham, Lee, Wake and Johnston counties, and the program is housed at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, North Carolina.

VUP assists veterans needing developmental courses in preparation for a formal two-year degree. Since GI Bill benefits cannot be used for developmental courses and do not offer credits toward a formal degree, VUP offers those veterans requiring a little extra assistance very important benefits. VUP also offers eligible veterans assistance with college admission and financial aid applications, career counseling, assistance with entry into four-year colleges and universities, and several other related services, according to Wilson Lester, VUP Outreach Coordinator. Lester has expanded the program to include exposure to other four-year college programs in the area, along with on-site visits to employer sites for hands-on demonstrations of various occupations.

The program recruits veterans with 181 days or more of active duty service other than training, and disabled veterans receive priority enrollment in the program, according to Mr. Lester. In addition, VUP has a recruiting mandate that two-thirds of enrollees must be first generation students, with a special emphasis on limited income students.

The program uses the Military Occupational Code (MOC) held by veterans during active duty status along with career assessments and personality assessments to assist veterans in determining their optimal curriculum.

For more information on VUP, please visit their website at www.cccc.edu/vub, or call (919) 718-7463 for more information.