



INSIDE THE UNC SYSTEM'S MILITARY EQUIVALENCY SYSTEM

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September 24th, 2026

The University of North Carolina System

- The UNC System includes 16 public universities in the state of North Carolina.
- Currently, there are apx. 24,000 military-connected students attending UNC System Schools.
- The UNCSO Military Affairs team coordinates with campus faculty and staff, military installations, and military/veteran serving agencies and organizations.



Importance of Military to North Carolina

#4 Military/Veteran State in US¹

120K+ Active Duty, Guard & Reserve Members

7 Military Installations in NC

Army: Ft. Bragg

Marine Corps & Navy: Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point & New River

Air Force: Seymour Johnson

Coast Guard: Elizabeth City

\$80B Military Economic Impact in NC



Military Students: Why It Matters

UNC Strategic Plan

25K Military affiliated **enrollments**

20 Military community **partnerships**

+ supports other goals such as **time-to-degree**

Credit for Prior Learning

This has been a long-standing and difficult issue for military students, and almost every department in the UNC System Office has had a hand in this project.

250K+

Active Duty, Guard &
Reservists, and Veterans

without a bachelor's degree
living in NC



UNC Military Equivalency System (MES)

Legislative Background:

- With the passing of Senate Bill 761, the North Carolina Legislature required the UNC System to *“develop a uniform system of granting course credits (...) based on military training or experience”*.
- UNC System President Peter Hans signed UNC Regulation 700.7.2[R] *Awarding Credit for Military Training or Experience* in May 2022.



Military Equivalency System (MES)

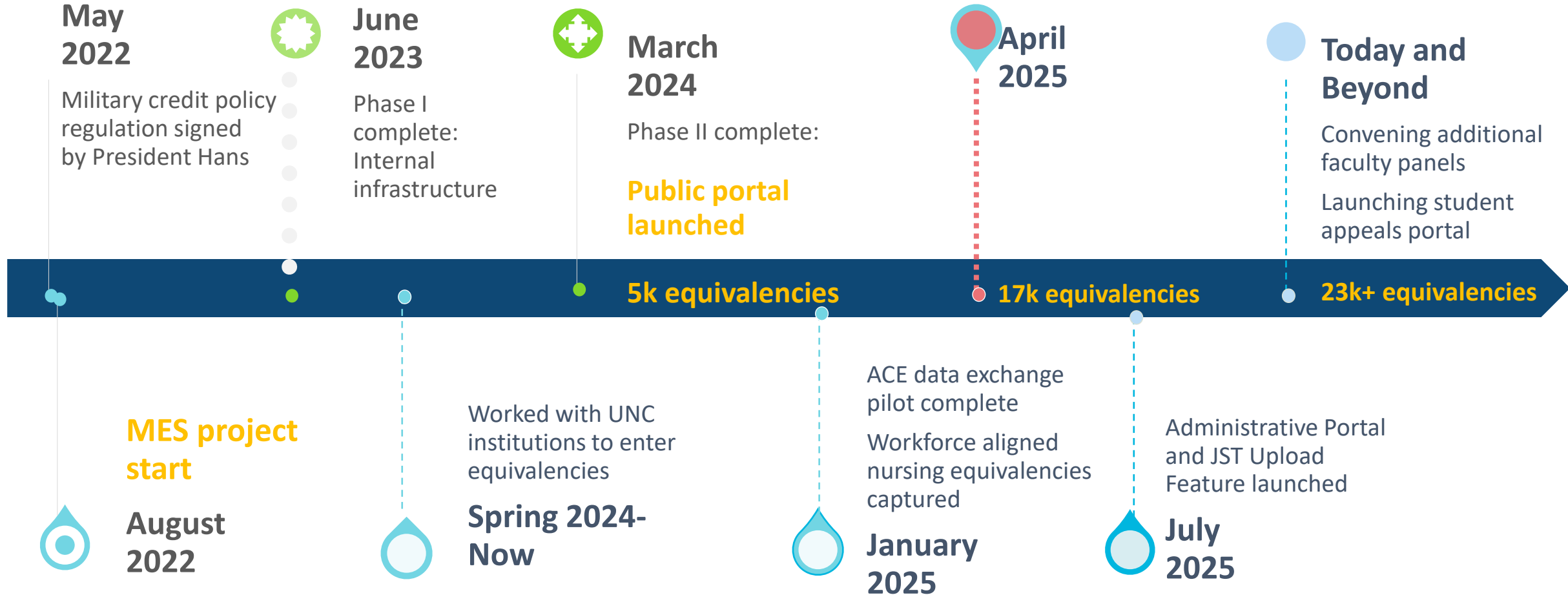
- Partnership between UNC System Office Military Affairs, Academic Affairs, Information Technology, Project Management Offices
- Three phases:

Phase I: Internal facing – database and working guide for staff (establish consistent data capture and coding protocols). **Completed June 2023.**

Phase II: External facing – MES public system for searching military credit equivalencies throughout the UNC System. **Completed February 2024.**

Phase III: Expand equivalencies, operations and maintenance plan. **Ongoing.**

UNC Military Equivalency System (MES) Milestones



Military Equivalency System (MES): How It Works

- The American Council for Education (ACE) enlists faculty from across the country to review learning outcomes of military training courses and occupational experience and offer recommendations for course credit.
- Recommendations are attached to a code called the ACE ID.
- Each ACE ID is aligned by UNC institutions (faculty) with equivalent courses at the institution.
- Registrars enter matches as an “equivalency rule” in their SIS (Banner or PeopleSoft) to be awarded for future students.
- Equivalencies in MES include historical military credit awarded and UNC faculty panel recommendations.

Joint Service Transcript (JST) Example



SUMMARY

Name: SOLDIER, I AM		SSN: XXX-XX-XXXX				
ACE Exhibit Number	Military Course Number	Title / Subject	Date	Credit	Level	
MOS-11B-007	1B40 Secondary	Infantryman	01-NOV-2007			
		Mechanical Maintenance		3	V	
		Credit in surveying on the basis of institutional evaluation		0	L	
		First Aid		1	L	
		Human Relations		3	L	
		Map Reading		2	L	
		Personnel Supervision		3	L	
		Principles Of Instruction		3	L	
		Record Keeping		3	L	
		Field Experience In Management		3	U	
MOS-18D-003	8D40 Primary	Special Forces Medical Sergeant	01-JAN-2009			
		Emergency Medical Technology/Paramedic		24	L	
		Instructor Training Techniques		3	L	
		Leadership		3	L	
		Records And Information Management		3	L	
		Technical Report Writing		3	L	
		Field Experience In Management		6	U	

THE UNC
SYSTEM



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

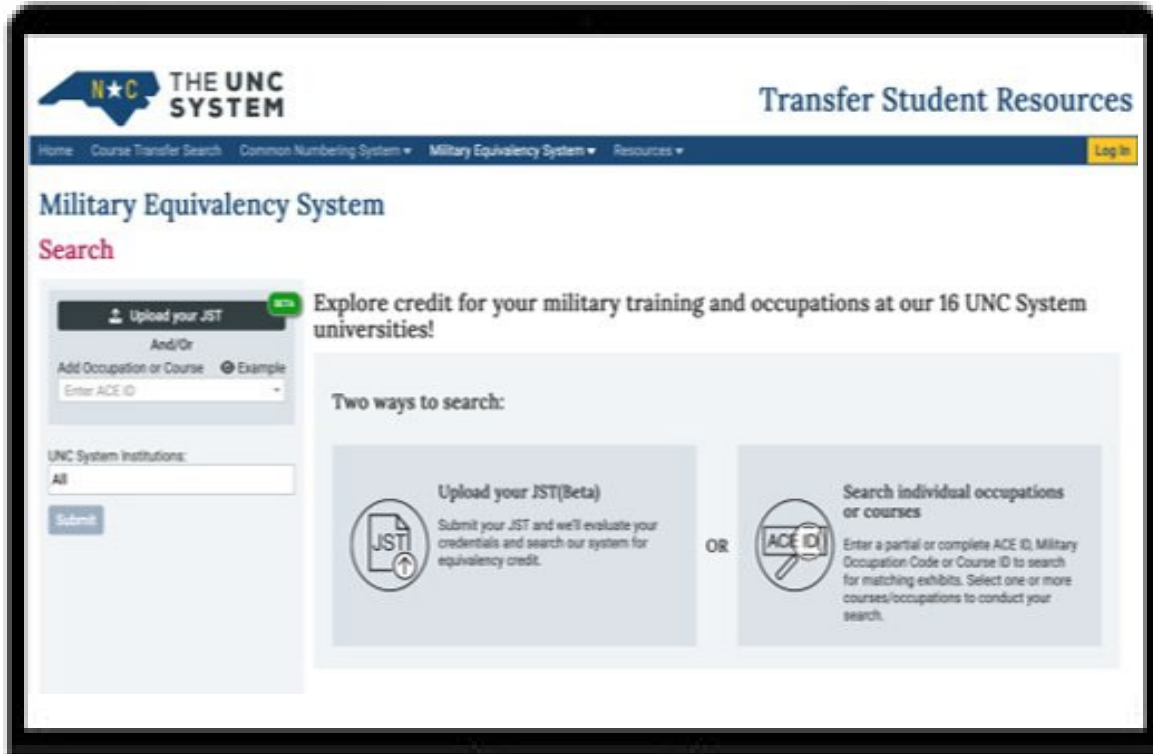
Military Equivalency System (MES): How It Works

- A student logs onto the MES website either through the student portal or directly.
- The student then either uploads their Joint Service Transcript or enters ACE IDs from it.
- MES will then provide them a list of all coursework they can expect to receive.
- If a student believes they should receive credit, but credit is not provided automatically via MES, the student can submit an appeal, and a team of UNC System staff will follow up.



The screenshot shows the 'File an Appeal' form on the UNC System website. The header includes the UNC System logo and navigation links: Home, Frequently Asked Questions, File an Appeal, My Appeals (with a '2' badge), and Manage Tra. The form title is 'File an Appeal'. Below the title is a paragraph: 'Describe the nature of the appeal, including the events or circumstances upon which the appeal is based and the names and titles (if any) of the individuals involved. Fields marked with a (*) must be completed to submit your appeal.' The form fields are: *Name: (text input), *Email: (text input), *Phone Number: (text input with a dropdown arrow and '(201) 555-0123' entered), *UNC Institution: (dropdown menu), List any other institution(s) involved: (text input), *Nature of Concern: (dropdown menu with 'Military Credit (MES)' selected), and *Description of Appeal: (text input).

UNC Military Equivalency System (MES) Features



- Over 23k current equivalencies
- Average award = 16 credit hours

USER EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS



JST Automation: AI-enabled upload of Joint Services Transcript (Added Summer 2025)



Ease of Access: Utilize QR code to increase visibility and access to MES

EXPANDING EQUIVALENCIES



Workforce-Aligned Faculty Panels: Convene faculty panels on high workforce need equivalencies (Computer Sci, Cybersecurity, Nursing)

BACK-END INFRASTRUCTURE



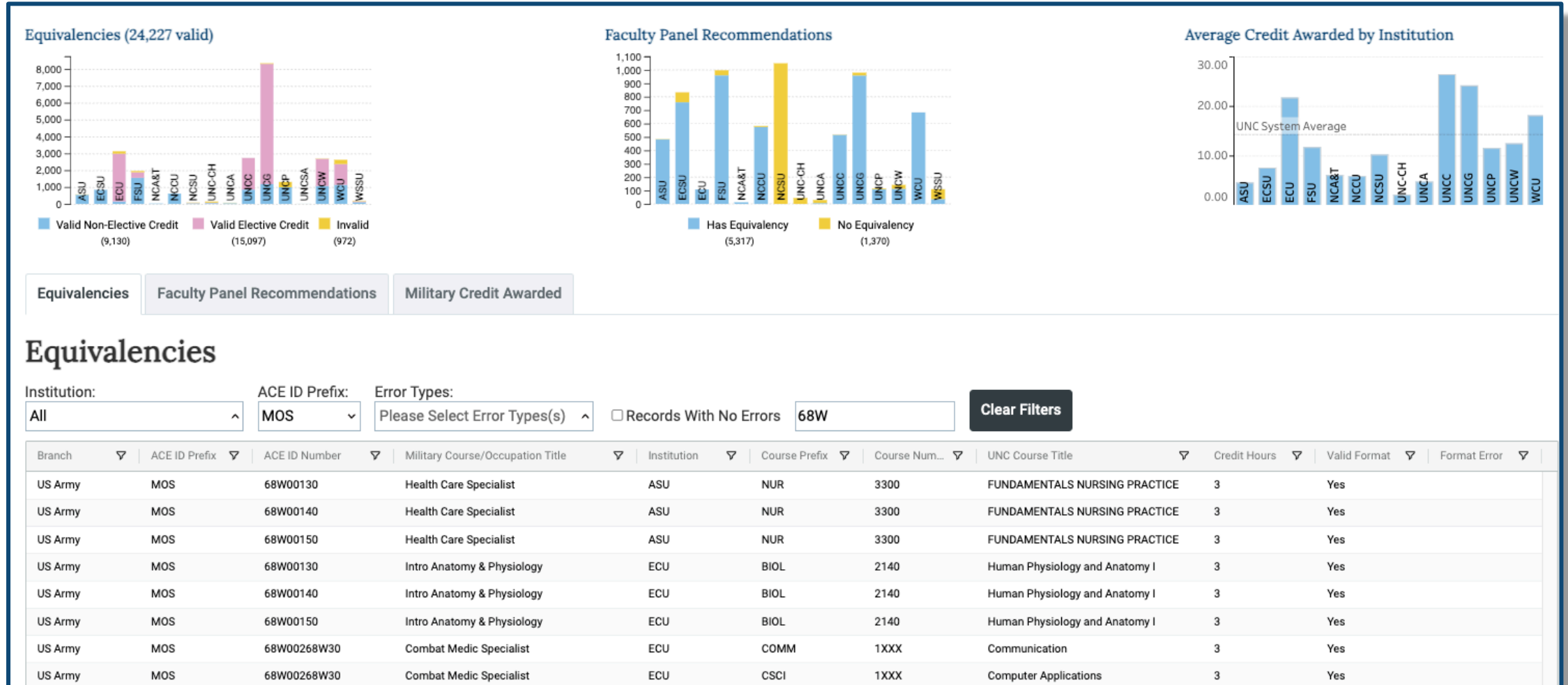
Admin Dashboard: Used by registrars and staff to manage potential new military equivalencies

ACE PARTNERSHIP



API Data Share: We provide ACE with data related to the credits awarded, and they provide us with large-scale data related to JST recommendations

Military Equivalency System (MES) Admin Dashboard



UNC Military Equivalency System (MES) Future Plans



Transfer Student Resources

[Home](#) [Course Transfer Search](#) [Common Numbering System](#) [Military Equivalency System](#) [Resources](#)

[Log In](#)

This site will help you determine what credit you can get at UNC System universities for courses you have already taken or help you decide which classes to take if you are planning to transfer to another UNC System university.

Common Numbering System



The Common Numbering System is a college course numbering system designed to help undergraduate students attending public universities to plan their education and ensure successful transfer of course credits.

[Discover More](#)

Course Transfer Search



A database that shows how courses transfer between UNC System Universities and also how courses transfer from the North Carolina Community Colleges to the UNC System universities.

[Search Courses](#)

NC School of Science and Mathematics



You may go the [NCSSM site](#) to see [a list of courses](#) that transfer from the NCSSM to the UNC System institutions

[Transfer Agreements](#)

Military Equivalencies



The Military Equivalency System (MES) optimizes the transfer of academic credit for military service members from the Joint Services Transcript (JST) into the 16 UNC System universities.

[Search Equivalencies](#)

We want this system for military transfer credit to mirror traditional transfer credit, and facilitate a larger, more comprehensive system for recognizing CPL.

UNC Military Equivalency System (MES) Future Plans

Facilitating Connection with Faculty:

- Every semester, new students bring new JSTs. How do we make sure that credit that is **not** yet in MES is flagged for faculty evaluation?

Additional Faculty Panels:

- Priority areas will be tied to highest NC workforce needs and skills/occupations of transitioning NC servicemembers.

Rank	MOS	MOS Title	Count
1	11B	Infantryman	3,971
2	311	Rifleman	2,145
3	HM	Hospital Corpsman	1,765
4	3531	Motor Vehicle Operator	1,688
5	91B	Wheeled Vehicle Repairer	1,402
6	68W	Health Care Specialist	1,275
7	111	Administrative Specialist	1,065
8	621	Field Radio Operator	1,036
9	92Y	Unit Supply Specialist	984
10	3521	Automotive Maintenance Technician	891
11	37F	Psychological Operations Specialist	889
12	42A	Human Resources Specialist	749
13	25U	Signal Support Systems Specialist	737
14	25H	OTHER - UNKNOWN	695
15	25B	Information Technology Specialist	677
16	3043	Supply Administration and Operations Specialist	654
17	88M	Motor Transport Operator	608
18	92A	Automated Logistical Specialist	606
19	300	Basic Infantryman	604
20	31B	Military Police	602
21	372	Critical Skills Operator	602



Data from NC Department of Commerce / Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)

UNC Military Equivalency System (MES) Demo Links

MES Search Dashboard (Student Facing)

MES Admin Dashboard (Staff Facing)

