

The image shows a low-angle shot of a modern, multi-story building with a concrete facade and large glass windows. A palm tree is visible in the upper left corner against a clear blue sky. The building's name, 'CIAT.EDU', is visible on the left side of the facade. The main title 'CIAT VA RESIDENT SUPPORT PLAN' is centered in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the date 'DECEMBER 2021' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# CIAT VA RESIDENT SUPPORT PLAN

DECEMBER 2021

CIAT.EDU



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# SUMMARY

This summary is provided for all military veteran students to help you understand the changes coming in January 2022 and support options available for you.

- CIAT converted all on-ground classes to a virtual format in March 2020 to support the needs of students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since the Spring of 2020, a series of laws were enacted giving VA certain authorities to continue payment of education benefits and on-ground resident Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) rates to GI Bill students enrolled in on-ground classes converted to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This COVID-19 rules are set to expire on December 21, 2021.
- **\*\* 12/15 UPDATE: [SENATE PASSES REMOTE ACT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING STUDENT VETERANS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC](#)**
  - *There is a currently an active legislative bill that is anticipated to gain approval to extend veteran MHA rates through June 2022. We still want all students to be prepared with options, start working towards their career plan, and take the extra time to build the remainder of their education plans accordingly.*
- Due to ongoing health and safety concerns from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure continuous class availability to all students, CIAT Mission Valley and National City campuses will not be resuming on-ground classes in 2022.
  - November 15<sup>th</sup> | COVID Update: [2022 Student Announcement](#)
  - December 3<sup>rd</sup> | COVID Update: [Military Resident Students Support Plan & Town Hall Session](#)



## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

- **Education benefits:** Your GI Bill education benefits to cover your program tuition are not impacted. Please rely on the personal financial projection plan provided by your Financial Advisor during your enrollment for a review of your educational coverage.
- **Program availability:** Your program and class availability will remain uninterrupted. Please view your schedule in Populi to verify your class schedule for the upcoming January term.
- **Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA):** Your MHA rates will be impacted if the VA does not extend the COVID-19 relief support (set to expire December 21<sup>st</sup>). You will be certified as an online student for the January term (and beyond). [Use the GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) to compare personal estimates on your MHA eligibility.
- **2022 class format:** Students continue to provide positive feedback about the academic experience through our Campus Live virtual class format. We will be transitioning more of our classes to our interactive Campus Live virtual format with live instruction. We listen and react to student feedback. Added flexibility is coming to help you better balance your education commitments with work, family and/or personal schedules.



# WHY WE DECIDED NOT TO RE-OPEN CAMPUSES

Please know that we weighed the pros of cons of reopening our campuses heavily. As concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic continue to provide uncertainty with new variants, travel restrictions, changing county and state regulations, and more, we are not equipped to safely reopen our campuses without risk of disrupting your learning experience.

- Our primary goal is to ensure a 100% continuity of your academic experience to avoid delays in your program, or months where you would have no course available. Many schools who are partially opening campuses, are opening at only a fraction of a capacity level. If we were to partially open our campus, we could not guarantee 100% availability for all classes each term, leaving you subject to terms without any education or financial support.
- We are not comfortable mixing vaccinated and unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff on campus and remain committed to prioritizing the health and safety concerns of our community.
- Most of our employees have made the personal decision not to return to a physical workplace. They are no longer comfortable working in person, do not wish to commute, or have other reasons leading to this decision. This is a common theme, part of which has led to the “great resign” phenomenon that is making headlines today. It would be a challenge to adequately staff to ensure the quality of education our students deserve.

# WHAT CIAT IS DOING TO SUPPORT LOCAL MILITARY VETERANS

We support your rights as veterans and have been strongly communicating your needs for an extension to the COVID relief package that has helped you attend school consistently, without breaks, during the pandemic.

The pandemic is not over, and we are actively communicating with our VA support staff and local congress with requests on your behalf.

We are strong believers that your MHA rate should be based on your residency in San Diego. This benefit is provided to you to help you financially support yourself while pursuing your education. You spend equivalent time and energy attending our live, virtual classes as you do an on-ground class, there should be no difference in your MHA rates. While this radical change may take longer to gain approval, the shortest path to support is to petition for a continuation of COVID relief to allow students to continue receiving on-ground resident MHA rates with converted online classes.

- ✓ **NEW:** Limited on-ground class options designed to satisfy your residency requirements (starting June 2022)
- ✓ **NEW:** CIAT Teach Out plan implemented to support on-ground students through their graduation date (details coming January 2022)
- ✓ One-on-one education planning to help our veterans best navigate upcoming changes
- ✓ [Priority career support](#) to help accelerate career opportunities in the IT field
- ✓ Enrollment support in a [one-year career mentorship program through ACP](#), American Corporate Partners
- ✓ [Concurrent enrollment support with local community colleges](#) to maintain your ongoing residency requirements
- ✓ Ongoing promotion of [student-led petition through change.org](#) through CIAT military partners, staff, faculty, and social media awareness
- ✓ Submitted CIAT petition letters to Congress representatives including United States Senator, Dianne Feinstein, 52<sup>nd</sup> District Scott Peters, and 51<sup>st</sup> District Juan Vargas
- ✓ Submitted CIAT petition letters to CIAT VA representatives



# ACCELERATED CAREER SUPPORT

The best thing we can do to support you as students is focus on what we do best – ensure a high-quality learning experience that helps you build your technical skills, earn industry certifications, learn to code, and successfully start or advance your career.

We respect that your Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) is a well-deserved personal benefit for serving our country. We also understand that earning your full on-ground San Diego housing rate allows you to stay solely focused on your education or complement your earnings to best support yourself and your families.

Our most successful students are those that keep their mindset and energy focused on their career building efforts. Your MHA stipends have an expiration date. Ensure that your focus is spent on building your career to build a sustainable and growing salary that replaces and exceeds your short-term monthly MHA.

- ✓ [Book a career support consultation](#) – priority support provided for local veterans impacted by upcoming campus change
- ✓ [Sign up for one-on-one career mentorship program](#) – join 20,000+ veterans and get connected with mentors at Fortune 500 companies

# SIGN UP TODAY: ACP MILITARY CAREER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

**Step 1: [Watch video presentation about ACP Veteran Mentorship Program](#)** to learn more about the value of build your network of IT professionals and learn what it takes from other trusted veterans succeeding in the technology industry.

**Step 2: [Apply Online](#)** – open to all veterans (*in application, list CIAT as a referral, so that they can best support you through the onboarding process*).



**Plan Your Future**

"ACP helped me leverage my military experience into future opportunities."

Marcelle Penn Mathis, U.S. Army Reserve

[Apply Now](#)

## ACP Helps Veterans and Spouses Find Their Next Careers

**1:1**  
and Customized

ACP hand-selects a Mentor for each Protégé's mentorship experience

Fortune  
**500**

ACP's Mentors come from America's top companies

**98%**  
Satisfaction

Most veteran Protégés would recommend us to a fellow veteran

**20,000+ Veterans Have Completed Their ACP Mentorship**



# EVALUATING WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT OPTION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Definition: Concurrent Enrollment [Source: VA]

- A student may take courses at more than one school that apply to his or her degree. The school that will grant the degree is the student's "primary" school. All other schools are "secondary" schools.
- VA can pay benefits for courses taken at secondary schools. If the student is only enrolled at the secondary school (supplemental enrollment), VA will pay for the credits taken at the secondary school. If the student is enrolled at the primary school and the secondary school at the same time (concurrent enrollment), VA will pay for the combined credit, taking overlapping enrollment dates into account.
- List of San Diego Community Colleges who have confirmed willingness to support CIAT students through the evaluation for a concurrent enrollment for on-ground MHA rates.
  - [San Diego City College](#)
  - [San Diego Mesa College](#)
  - [San Diego Miramar College](#)
  - [Palomar College](#)

# CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT – REQUIREMENTS

## The following is a list of requirements to be eligible for Concurrent Enrollment

- Must be enrolled in a degree program at CIAT
- Must register for a general education course that is transferrable for credit to CIAT degree program
- Must comply with vaccination regulations for on-ground classes at Community Colleges (see respective websites for full details)
- Must receive secondary guidance from VA Advisor at community college on student requirements and anticipated MHA rates. Both colleges must work together in a Parent – Guest school relationship in order to help you execute on this plan.

## Important Notes – Risks To Understand

- **CIAT \*CANNOT\* guarantee MHA housing rates** using this concurrent enrollment option. If you are interested in exploring this option to continue your technical degree, industry certifications, coding support, and job placements support at CIAT, while attempting to maximize your MHA rates for a secondary on-ground class, it's important to plan accordingly. As a backup, be prepared for the potential for VA to categorize your MHA rate as 'online' since CIAT is classified as the Parent school.
- We have received guidance from our community college partners that the VA will calculate your housing rates based on the zip code of your on-ground class when reviewing a concurrent enrollment package. However, as your general education courses will be (3) credits, and your technical course at CIAT will be (4) credits, and CIAT will be your Parent school on file, this process will need to be validated by waiting for receipt of your actual MHA stipend check.
- As the community colleges begin their Spring Semester on January 31<sup>st</sup>, the closest concurrent enrollment schedule with overlapping enrollment terms would be to resume classes on the February 7<sup>th</sup> term.
- To avoid any disruption in your education plan, CIAT recommends students stay enrolled in the January term as an online student and pursue a concurrent enrollment starting the February term so that you evaluate and compare your course workload and education benefits. Students have an alternative option to take a one-term leave of absence in the January term and wait for the concurrent enrollment to start for the February term.

# CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT – INSTRUCTIONS

## Getting started with evaluation

1. [Book Your CIAT Appointment](#) for a personalized education plan review with CIAT Student Services or CIAT Management Team
2. Identify which general education classes are remaining for you to complete in your CIAT degree plan
3. Review general education class schedules and availability at community colleges to find if there is a match for one that fits your schedule
4. Contact Admissions & VA support offices, communicate your plan for concurrent enrollment
5. Request verification of VA certification process

## Referral contacts – (Once you identify the school with the class availability you need, contact respective VA office):

- San Diego City College – VA Office | 619-292-8322 | cityva@sdccd.edu | [Class Schedule Spring 2022](#)
- San Diego Miramar College – VA Office | 619-388-7862 | miramarveterans@sdccd.edu | [Class Schedule Spring 2022](#)
- San Diego Mesa College – VA Office | 619-800-3850 | sdmesavets@sdccd.edu | [Class Schedule Spring 2022](#)
- San Diego Palomar College – VA Office | 760-744-1150 | veterans@palomar.edu | [Class Schedule Spring 2022](#)



## REFERRAL FOR TRANSITION TO CIAT PARTNER COLLEGE

Once you've explored your options to enhance your online learning experience, if you chose to withdraw from CIAT, we will help you transition successfully to another college. CIAT recommends evaluating Devry's on-ground class schedule. Devry has a dedicated team who is knowledgeable about CIAT programs, transfer credits, and degree options.

- To receive a personal referral, please send an email to [management@ciat.edu](mailto:management@ciat.edu) with a subject line "Devry Referral Request" and we will introduce you to the helpful staff at Devry to make your transition from CIAT is smooth as possible.
- Devry classes start January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

1. [Book Your CIAT Management Appointment](#) with CIAT Management Team for a personalized education plan review.
2. [Book Your Career Services Appointment](#) with your Career Services Advisor, Sydney Young, to take advantage of your priority career transition support.
3. [Confirm your VA certification status for the January 2022 term](#)
4. [Sign and share the student-led petition through change.org](#)
  - ✓ *Voice your support to encourage Congress and VA to extend special COVID-19 rules for MHA benefits*