

Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX)

What is UCX?

- UCX is an unemployment insurance (UI) program that provides benefits to former members of the U.S. military who are transitioning to the civilian labor market. Former members of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are also eligible for UCX.

Who Qualifies?

- Formers members of the U.S. military, including members of the following:
 - Department of Defense military branches include the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.
 - The National Guard and Reserve components within the various branches of the U.S. Military.
- Former members of the Commissioned Corps of NOAA are also covered.

Am I Eligible?

To be eligible, an applicant must:

- have been on active duty (or in active reserve status) in the U.S. military during the base period of the claim.
- have completed the first full term of service for which the individual enlisted. If the applicant served in the Reserves, the individual must have completed 180 days of continuous active duty.
- have been honorably discharged.
- meet all other state UI eligibility requirements. For information about Maryland's UI requirements, see the Eligibility Requirements FAQs (labor.maryland.gov/employment/claimfaq.shtml).

Where do I file my claim?

- UCX applicants must file their claim in the state in which they are physically located. If you are currently staying in Maryland, you should file your UCX claim in Maryland.
- UCX operates differently than Regular UI claims, in which applicants generally file their claim in the state in which they performed work

How do I file a UCX claim?

- In Maryland, applicants may file a claim for UCX:
 - online in **BEACON 2.0**
(beacon.labor.maryland.gov/beacon/claimant-page.html)
 - by phone at **667-207-6520**
- Applicants will need their DD214 form.

How much will I receive?

- The weekly benefit amount (WBA), or the amount of benefits a claimant may be entitled to each week, is calculated the same way as a Regular UI claimant's WBA. This calculation is based on the applicant's earnings during a standard or alternate base period.
 - To learn more about UI base periods, see the Claims Filing - Initial Claims FAQs. (labor.maryland.gov/employment/claimfaq.shtml).
- The base period wages from military service are based on an applicant's pay grade before filing for UCX. The wages are calculated using a Schedule of Remuneration that outlines pay rates for various pay grades.
- The Schedule of Remuneration is published each year by the U.S. Department of Labor (wdr.doleta.gov/directives/).
- In Maryland, the minimum WBA is \$50 and the maximum is \$430.

Are UCX benefits taxable?

- UCX benefits are subject to federal income tax. However, applicants may choose to have federal taxes withheld from UCX benefits.

What should I do after I qualify for benefits?

- To continue to be eligible for UCX benefits in Maryland, claimants must meet Maryland's eligibility requirements.
- Generally, claimants must remain able to work, available for work, and must actively seek work to collect UI benefits.
 - For detailed information, see the Eligibility Requirements FAQs (labor.maryland.gov/employment/claimfaq.shtml) and the Maryland Work Search Requirements (labor.maryland.gov/employment/uirex.shtml)
- To learn more about UI, see mdunemployment.com or call **667-207-6520**.