The Benefits of Higher Education & How to Seek Assistance at Institutions of Higher Education: Courses for Ill and Injured Student Veterans

**Veteran Higher Education & Accommodation Support**

- **Student Veterans of America (SVA)**
  - Find a SVA Chapter: SVA has thousands of chapters on college and university campuses that are ready to help connect you with other Veterans and with resources that can make going back to school easier.
- **Wounded Warrior Project Resource Center**
- **Implementing a Disability Services Liaison (DSL) Program at Your Campus**
- **Disability Access on Campus Maps**
- **5 Common Accommodations for College Students with Disabilities**
- **GI Bill® Comparison Tool**
- **VA Education and Training Benefits** help Veterans, service members, and their qualified family members with needs like paying college tuition, finding the right school or training program, and getting career counseling.
- **VA Resources for School** is a one-stop-shop for School Certifying Officials (SCOs) and school administrators assisting students who are using their VA benefits to pursue education and training programs.
- **American Council on Education’s Achievement Review (ACE Review)** identifies equivalent college credits for military training and experience that higher education institutions may use to award credit for prior military learning.
- **Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)** provides and supports no-cost education and career-planning programs, including the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams, which award credit in subjects ranging from the STEM fields to the Humanities.
Veteran Employment Support & Assistance

• Paralyzed Veterans of America’s Veterans Career Program provides free employment support and vocational counseling assistance to all Veterans, transitioning service members, spouses, and caregivers.
  - Veterans Career Program Flyer
  - Transformational Toolkit
• Top Tips for Resumes, Cover Letter, Networking, Interviewing and LinkedIn
• Wounded Warrior Project’s Warriors to Work Program has leadership training and provides free employment support to Veterans and transitioning service members.
• Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) offers tele-counseling, which is accessible on any web-enabled device with a webcam and microphone. It allows you to meet with your counselor virtually through VA Video Connect (no downloads or unique usernames needed). Access is obtained through a unique link sent directly to you and is valid for that counseling session only.
• U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS) provides resources for protected Veterans and their spouses, including an online portal designed specifically for military spouses. VETS’ mission is to prepare Veterans, service members, and their spouses for meaningful careers, provide them with employment resources, protect their employment rights, and promote their employment opportunities.

Recommended Courses

**Transitioning Service Members**
• What You Should Know About Transition
• How to Build a Successful Transition Plan
• Understanding and Utilizing Your Educational Benefits
• Choosing a College and Major
• Seeking Support

**Higher Education/Accommodations**
• How to Talk to Someone with a Disability
• Advising Military Students on Higher Education
• Academic Accommodations in Higher Education
Other Resources

• Shaun Castle’s Story
• Common Veteran disabilities:
  - Spinal Cord Injury & Disease
  - Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
  - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
• Higher Education Accommodations for PTSD & TBI
• National Resource Directory: An online partnership for wounded, ill, and injured service members, Veterans, their families, and those who support them.
• Student Veterans of America’s Leadership Institute brings together top chapter leaders through an immersive experience designed to equip tomorrow’s leaders to serve and create a lasting community of impact.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) says that postsecondary institutions are responsible for providing necessary accommodations when a student discloses a disability. Providing accommodations do not compromise the essential elements of a course or curriculum; nor do they weaken the academic standards or integrity of a course. Accommodations simply provide a “level playing field,” not an unfair advantage. If you feel that your rights are being violated, or you are not receiving adequate accessibility and disability services, you can:

1. Start with your local accessibility office,
2. Then your school administration,
3. Then to the city,
4. Then the state,
5. Then the national level.

Reach out to the Office for Civil Rights to help protect your fundamental rights of nondiscrimination, conscience, religious freedom, and health information privacy.