

# Counseling Student Veterans

## Quick Facts to Know

- Not all veterans are combat veterans. Only about 25-30% have been in a war zone
- Not all veterans are eligible for the GI Bill or education benefits
- Not all veterans have full benefits
- Benefits/GI Bill is determined by the number of years of active duty
- In many colleges only around 50% of student veterans are using benefits to attend college.
- If veterans are using VA educational benefits, they can only take the classes approved on their Ed Plans.

## The Veteran Success Center will help them:

- Contact instructors if there is a conflict
- Build community
- Connect with community resources
- Get information about the campus and campus services

## DO NOT ASK:

Did you ever kill someone? Was it hot over there? Were you scared? What was it like over there? Did you see dead people? Do you have PTSD? Do you agree/disagree with (politics)?

## When scheduling/reviewing classes things to keep in mind:

- Many new veterans have difficulty with time management
- Military Reserve and National Guard members usually get their duty calendar for the year. You will need to consider class schedule conflicts, and coach on how to communicate with instructors.
- Veterans that have VA medical appointments may not be able to change those appointments. Review class dates in order to accommodate the appointment, and/or communicate with the instructor.
- Veterans need to let their instructors know at the beginning of the term if there are any conflicts for attendance. Consider using a templated letter that they can email to each instructor.
- Veterans should always be referred to the VSC for information

## Educational Plan:

Student's receiving Education Benefits through the VA are required to get an Educational Plan. If certain information is not included, the Veteran Student's payment will be delayed. Please include the following:

1. Student's name
2. Student's major
  - a. The Ed Plan and the VA application must match. Ex: Business-CSULA or AS-Registered Nursing
  - b. If the major does not display completely on the application, print Ed plan and write in the major
  - c. An articulation agreement is required for a specific major at a private school. Ex: if the community college does not have an articulation agreement with Stanford, the ed plan Electrical Engineering-Stanford would not meet VA requirements
3. All courses should be listed on the Ed Plan, however, only required courses are payable by the VA. Please specify if a course is for personal interest. (If there are several personal interest courses, you may put an asterisk next to each, and a message at the bottom).
4. The VA will only pay for one program at a time. EX: A student cannot major in Chemistry and Accounting. If the student has chosen to put Chemistry as his major on the application, any Accounting classes the student wishes to take must be indicated as personal interest(\*) on the Ed Plan and will not be payable by the VA.
5. The VA requires that all prior coursework be reported a given credit. If the student has completed a requirement at a previous school, he/she cannot be given credit for the same requirement again, even if it is met with a different class.
6. At AHC , veterans can use their military training to waive the Health and Wellness requirement but only with official military transcripts.

**Veteran Success Center**  
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**Certifying Official**  
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