Veterans Transitioning to Graduate School:
What it is like and what you can do to support them

Reference List


Kirchner, M. J. (2015). Supporting student veteran transition to college and academic success. *Adult Learning, 26*(3), 116-123.


The 8 Keys to Veterans’ Success

The 8 Keys to Success program developed by the Obama Administration, the Department of Education (ED), and the VA (with the help of more than 100 education experts) identifies eight steps that colleges and universities can take to help veterans and service members transition into the classroom and thrive there (U.S. Department of Education, 2013).

1. Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans.

2. Ensure consistent and sustained support from campus leadership.

3. Implement an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.

4. Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space (even if the space is limited in size).

5. Collaborate with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans.

6. Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention and degree completion.

7. Provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans.

8. Develop systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans.
Texas State Veterans Quick List

Questions / Help with Funding for College:

- **Texas State Veteran Affairs**
  Web: [http://www.va.txstate.edu](http://www.va.txstate.edu)
  Office: 105 J.C. Kellam, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666
  POC: Anson Davis  Phone: 512.245.2641  Email: amd196@txstate.edu

- **Hays County Veterans Assistance** (VA paperwork assistance)
  Web: [http://www.co.hays.tx.us/veteran-services-1.aspx](http://www.co.hays.tx.us/veteran-services-1.aspx)
  Office: 111 E. San Antonio St., Ste. 200, San Marcos, TX 78666
  POC: Jude Prather  Phone: 512.392.8387  Email: Jude.Prather@co.hays.tx.us

- **Texas Veterans Commission** (VA paperwork assistance)
  Web: [http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/](http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/)
  Office: 202 S. C.M. Allen Pkwy., San Marcos, TX 78666
  Phone: 512.392.1291

Questions / Help with Academics:

- **Tutor Corps: SLAC – Student Learning Assistance Center**: 4th Floor, Alkek library
  Web: [http://www.txstate.edu/slac/tutoring/vets](http://www.txstate.edu/slac/tutoring/vets)
  POC: Dr. Carl Van Aacken  Phone: 512-245-2515  Email: cv1119@txstate.edu

- **Tutor Corps: Writing Center**: Ground Floor ASBN 100
  Web: [http://www.writingcenter.txstate.edu](http://www.writingcenter.txstate.edu)
  POC: Dr. Deb Balzhiser  Phone: 512-245-7660  Email: dbalzhiser@txstate.edu

- **Math Tutoring Lab**: Derrek Hall – 233
  Web: [http://www.math.txstate.edu/resources/lab.html](http://www.math.txstate.edu/resources/lab.html)

Questions / Help with Social Programs & Stress Relief:

- **VATS – Veterans Alliance of Texas State**: Student organization
  VATS Cave: A lounge just for veterans on the 4th Floor of LBJ. Room 4-13:3
  POC: Mike Hart  Email: mkh61@txstate.edu

- **Student Veterans Programs**: Coordinates programs supporting veterans
  POC: Burel Ford  Phone: 512-245-2278  Email: bf20@txstate.edu

- **VGV - Veterans Guiding Veterans**: A student veteran to show you the ropes
  Web: [http://www.txstate.edu/tutorcorps/guiding.html](http://www.txstate.edu/tutorcorps/guiding.html)
  POC: James Lambert  Phone: 512-245-6192  Email: jcl120@txstate.edu

- **Project Healing Waters**: fishing fun taught by certified instructor and former Air Force PJ
  Web: [https://www.projecthealingwaters.org](https://www.projecthealingwaters.org)
  POC: Blake Holbrook  Phone: 512-245-6192  Email: boh6@txstate.edu

- **Project Cohort**: Adventure, camaraderie, nature, and you
  Web: [http://www.projectrebirth.org/project-cohort](http://www.projectrebirth.org/project-cohort)
  POC: Blake Holbrook  Phone: 512-245-6192  Email: boh6@txstate.edu

- **Restoration Ranch**: Veterans working with horses
  Web: [http://joyfulhorseproject.org/veterans-program/](http://joyfulhorseproject.org/veterans-program/)
  POC: Glen Stevenson  Phone: 512-245-6192  Email: gms55@txstate.edu

- **Operation Scuba**: Dive Certification for Veterans
  POC: Rus Miller  Email: operationscuba@txstate.edu