

Veterans in the CSU

A presentation to Counselors in the California Community College system

Patrick C. O'Rourke, Ed.D.
Director, Active Duty and Veterans Affairs
Office of the Chancellor, California State University



Agenda

- Veterans Admission Codes and Regulations
- Guidance for Veterans
- Personal Advice for Veterans
- Suggested Best Practices for the CCC
- CSU Veterans Services
- Questions and Contact Information

CA Veterans Admissions Education Code

California Education Code, Section 66202(a) provides guidance on admissions “for the purpose of enrollment planning and admission priority practice”

- (1) Continuing undergraduate students in good standing.
- (2) California Community College transfer students who have successfully concluded a course of study in an approved transfer agreement program.
 - Underrepresented groups or economically disadvantaged families shall be given preference, to the fullest extent possible under state and federal law
- (3) Other California Community College students who have met all of the requirements for transfer.

CA Veterans Admissions Education Code

California Education Code, Section 66202(b) states that the following groups of applicants receive priority consideration in admissions practice in the following order...

(1) Residents of California who are recently released veterans of the armed forces of the United States.

(2) Transfers from California public community colleges.

(3) Applicants who have been previously enrolled at the campus to which they are applying, provided they left this institution in good standing.

...

CSU Veterans Admission Regulations

- Updated California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 5, sections 40805.1 (lower/upper division) and 40756.1 (first-time freshmen)

- **General details**
 - Does not direct campuses, rather allows campuses
 - Includes veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserve applicants; all times of service
 - Not considered exceptional admission
 - Approved by Board of Trustees on 31 January, 2017
 - Update will be found at <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/>

CSU Veterans Admission Regulations

- California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 5, Section 40756.1, permits otherwise ineligible student veterans to be admitted as a **first-time freshmen**

- **Allows campuses to disregard**
 - **Minimum eligibility index**
 - **GPA threshold**
 - **Standardized test scores**

CSU Veterans Admission Regulations

- California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 5, Section 40805.1, permits otherwise ineligible student veterans to be admitted as a **lower and upper division students**

- **Allows campuses to disregard**
 - Prescribed number of units,
 - GE breadth requirements, and,
 - GPA requirements (section 40803).
 - Requirements for college preparatory courses in a major (section 40805).

Guidance to Veterans on Benefits

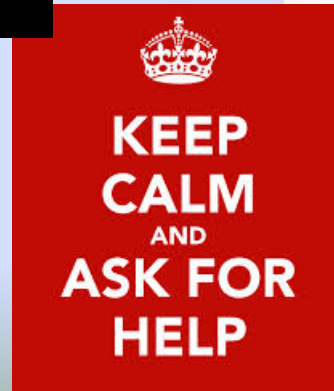
- Track your GI Bill benefits; know when you will run out
- Conserve use of GI Bill benefits at the CCC; save for more expensive four-year and graduate programs
- Understand State and Federal financial aid programs
 - Know when to use what; do you need your housing allowance right now? If you don't, federal, state, and institutional money may assist you as you save for a graduate degree.
 - What is Cal Grant, what is a State University Grant?

Guidance to Veterans on Transferring

- Attain an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) and the guarantee of admissions
- Apply to three CSU/UC campuses: two rural, one urban or *visa versa*. ***Pick at least one non-impacted CSU campus!***
- Be in charge of your education and contact CSU Veterans Services offices – visit the campus – ask questions...
 - What support do they provide veterans? VRC? Social space?
 - Special admissions policy for veterans?

General Guidance for Veterans

- Submit your Joint Service Transcripts (JST's) to the Registrar's office
 - Do you have a STEM background
 - Does your military occupation align with your college education?
- Avoid impacted majors and campuses if possible!
- Double check all guidance you receive



For CCC Counselors...

- Attend CSU/UC/CCC Veterans Regional Consortium meetings
- Award credit for military training using the ACE Online Military Guide; align with the CSU/UC in your region
- Student veterans must track their benefits; if possible, delay using GI Bill until the CSU/UC
- Host a mandatory New Student Veteran Orientation to inform and connect veterans

CSU Veterans Support

- Benefit certification and advisement (all)
- Priority registration for classes (all)
- New Student Veterans orientation (87%)
- Student Veterans Organization (all)
- Veterans social space/VRC (87% [20 campuses])
- Special admissions policies for veterans (all)

Questions?

Calstate Campus Veterans POCs

<http://www.calstate.edu/veterans/contacts/>

Patrick C. O'Rourke, Ed.D.

porourke@calstate.edu