



Military Resource Center

Developing a Military Awareness Program on Campus

Module 2



Welcome & Training Objectives

Today's Goals:

- Increase understanding of military culture
- Recognize the unique experiences of military-connected students
- Learn practical ways to support students in academic and administrative settings
- Identify appropriate campus referral resources
- Become a designated Gren Zone Ally (if applicable)

Who Are Our Military-Connected Students?

Military-connected students may include:

- Veterans
- Active-duty service members
- National Guard and Reserve members
- ROTC cadets
- Military spouses and dependents

Why This Training Matters for Faculty & Staff

- Military students are often nontraditional learners.
- Many balance academics with service obligations and family responsibilities.
- Some may transition directly from structured military environments into flexible academic settings.
- Institutional understanding improves retention and student success.

Military Culture 101

Key Characteristics:

- Structured chain of command.
- Mission-focused mindset.
- High value on teamwork, respect, and accountability.
- Use of acronyms and military terminology.

Why this matters: *Classroom culture may feel very different from military culture.*

Transition Challenges

Common transition experiences:

- Adjusting from highly structured environments to independent learning.
- Translating military skills into academic language.
- Navigating VA education benefits.
- Coping with deployment interruptions
- Reintegrating after service-related experiences



Classroom Considerations (Faculty Focus)

Best Practices:

- Include a supportive syllabus statement for military students.
- Provide flexibility when possible for documented military obligations.
- Avoid putting students on the spot about service experiences.
- Recognize leadership and experiential knowledge as strengths.

Frontline Staff Considerations

For admissions, advising, financial aid, and student services staff:

- Understand basic GI Bill processes (referral knowledge).
- Avoid assumptions about age or background.
- Provide clear, step-by-step communication.
- Refer early to campus military support services.

What to Say/What to Avoid

Helpful Approaches:

- “How Can we best support you this semester?”
- “Are there any service-related obligations we should be aware of?”

Avoid

- Asking about combat experiences.
- Political commentary about military service.
- Stereotypes about PTSD or trauma.

Recognizing Strengths

Military-connected students often bring:

- Leadership experience, time management skills.
- Teamwork and discipline
- Global awareness
- Crisis management skills

Shift perspective from “at-risk” to “asset to campus.”

When to Refer

Know when to connect students to:

- Military Resource & Veteran Students Center.
- Certifications/VA Benefits Office.
- Academic Advising.
- Disability Support Services

Green Zone Ally Role: Listen-Validate-Refer

Creating a Military-Inclusive Environment

- Display Green Zone signage (if certified)
- Include military-inclusive language in communications.
- Participate in Veterans Day and military appreciation programming.
- Encourage peer connection (student veteran organizations).



Legal & Policy Awareness

Brief overview:

- Federal protections for service members (deployment accommodations)
- Institutional policies for absences due to military orders.
- FERPA considerations.

(Keep this slide high-level and refer to policy links)

Becoming a Green Zone Ally

Requirements:

- Complete training.
- Commit to supportive practices.
- Display Green Zone designation.
- Serve as a referral point.



Action Steps

After today:

- Add a syllabus statement (faculty).
- Save campus military resource contacts.
- Share training with colleagues.
- Consider hosting a department-level session.



Military-connected students bring resilience, leadership, and unique experiences to our campus. By fostering understanding and intentional support, we can ensure they feel valued, included, and empowered to succeed. Together, we honor their service by supporting their success.

Military Resource Center & Veteran Services POC

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QUESTIONS

A photograph of a university campus during autumn. In the foreground, a paved walkway curves through a green lawn. Several students are walking along the path; one student in a yellow jacket and red hoodie is looking at a phone, while others are walking in various directions. To the left, a student is sitting on a bench, working on a laptop. The background is filled with trees whose leaves are turning bright yellow and orange. Black lampposts are spaced along the path. A large brick building with many windows is visible in the distance. Overlaid in the center of the image is the text "THANK YOU" in a large, bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

THANK YOU