



Military Resource Center

Academic Accommodations in Higher Education

Module 6





Academic Accommodations in Higher Education

Supporting Military- Connected and Veteran Students

Overview

- What accommodations are
- Why they are important
 - Transitioning from Military to College
 - Common Challenges Veteran Students May Face
- How faculty and staff can help
 - Creating a Veteran-Friendly Campus
 - Importance of Awareness and Training

Who Are Military-Connected Students?

Military-connected students include:

- Veterans
- Active-duty service members
- National Guard and Reservists
- Military spouses and dependents

Many military-connected students have different life experiences than traditional students, which can influence how they approach college.

What Are Academic Accommodations?

Academic accommodations are adjustments that help students succeed in the classroom.

These may include:

- Changes in teaching methods
- Modified testing conditions
- Adjustments to classroom environments
- Flexible Attendance Policies

The goal is to **remove barriers that prevent students from fully participating in learning.**

Why Academic Accommodations Are Important

Military-connected students bring valuable perspectives to campus.

However, without proper support they may experience:

- Difficulty adjusting to college life
- Feelings of isolation
- Lack of awareness about available resources

Accommodations help students **reach their full potential.**



Transitioning from Military to College

Understanding this transition helps us better support students academically and personally.

Common adjustments include:

- Moving from a structured environment to an independent one
- Returning to school after time away from education
- Learning new technology and academic systems
- Balancing school with family or work responsibilities
- Adapting to a different culture
- Managing the psychological impact of service
- Accessing necessary health and wellness resources

Common Challenges Veteran Students May Face

- Some students may experience:
- Physical challenges**
- Injuries or mobility limitations
- Mental health challenges**
- Anxiety or depression
- Post-traumatic stress
- Academic challenges**
- Difficulty focusing or adjusting to classroom learning

•Keep in mind: Not all veteran students experience these challenges, but it is important to be aware that some may need additional support.



How Faculty and Staff Can Help

Faculty and staff can support students by:

- Creating a welcoming classroom environment
- Encouraging open communication
- Referring students to campus resources
- Working collaboratively to meet individual needs
- Faculty should work closely with the disability services office to ensure that accommodations are implemented effectively. This may involve attending training sessions or seeking advice on best practices



Creating a Veteran-Friendly Campus

Since 1944, when the first GI Bill was signed, higher education institutions have considered how best to serve former military service members.

A veteran-friendly campus may include:

- A dedicated Veterans Resource Center
- Veteran recognition events
- Peer mentoring programs
- Partnerships with community veteran organizations

Creating spaces for student veterans to feel recognized and as though they're contributing to the institution can help ease their transition to civilian life and improve retention.



Importance of Awareness and Training

Many faculty and staff may not be familiar with the experiences of military-connected students.

Providing professional development helps campus employees:

- Understand military culture
- Recognize common challenges veterans may face
- Respond appropriately to accommodation requests
- Support student success while maintaining academic integrity

Training ensures that **everyone on campus is prepared to assist military-connected students effectively.**



BSU Commitment to the U.S. Department of Education's 8 Keys to Veteran Success

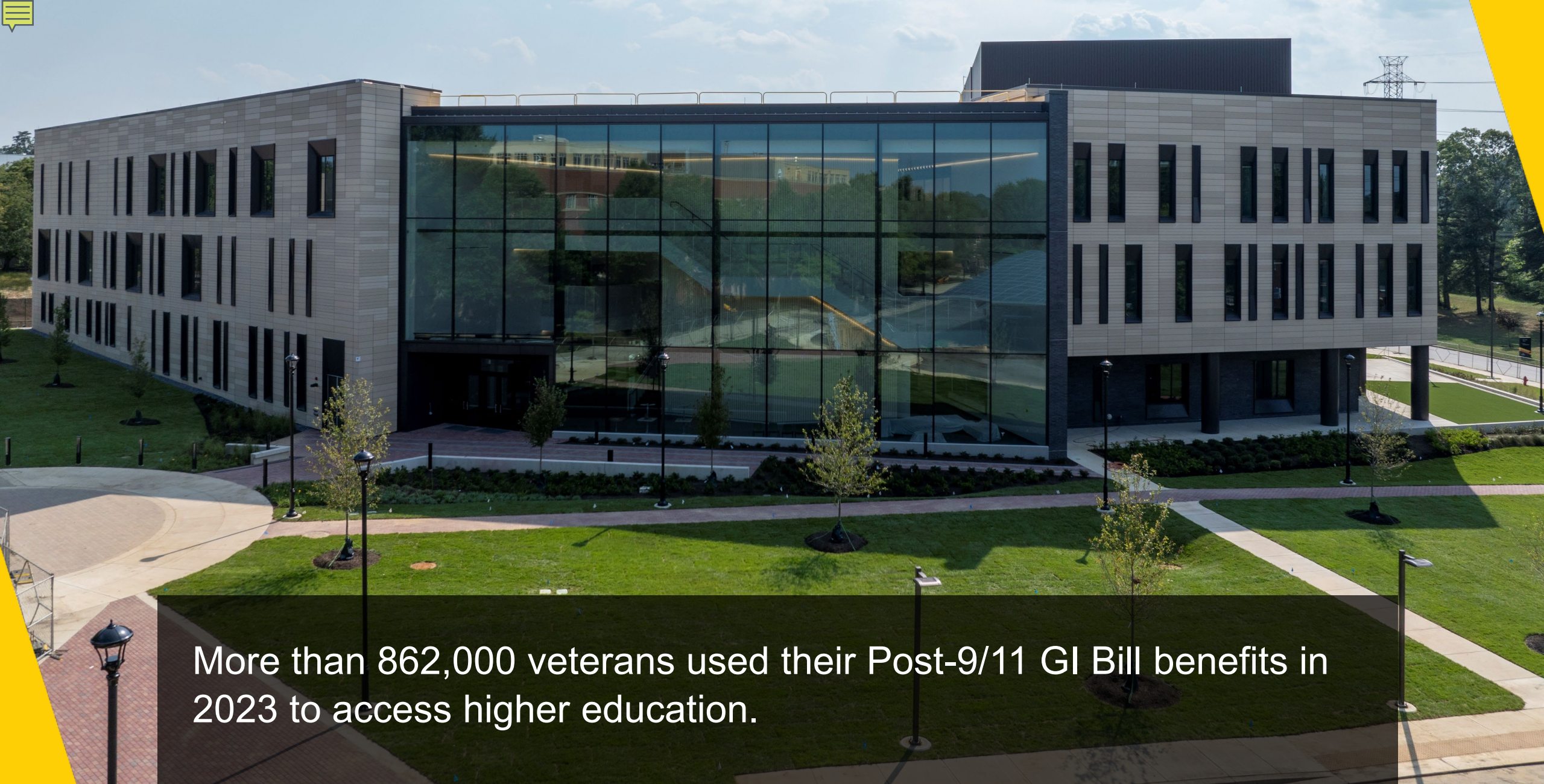
1. Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans.
2. Ensure consistent and sustained support from campus leadership.
3. Implement an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.
4. Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space for them (even if 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.



Supporting Student Success

When institutions provide the right support, military-connected students can:

- Successfully complete their degrees
- Transition into civilian careers
- Contribute leadership and experience to the campus community

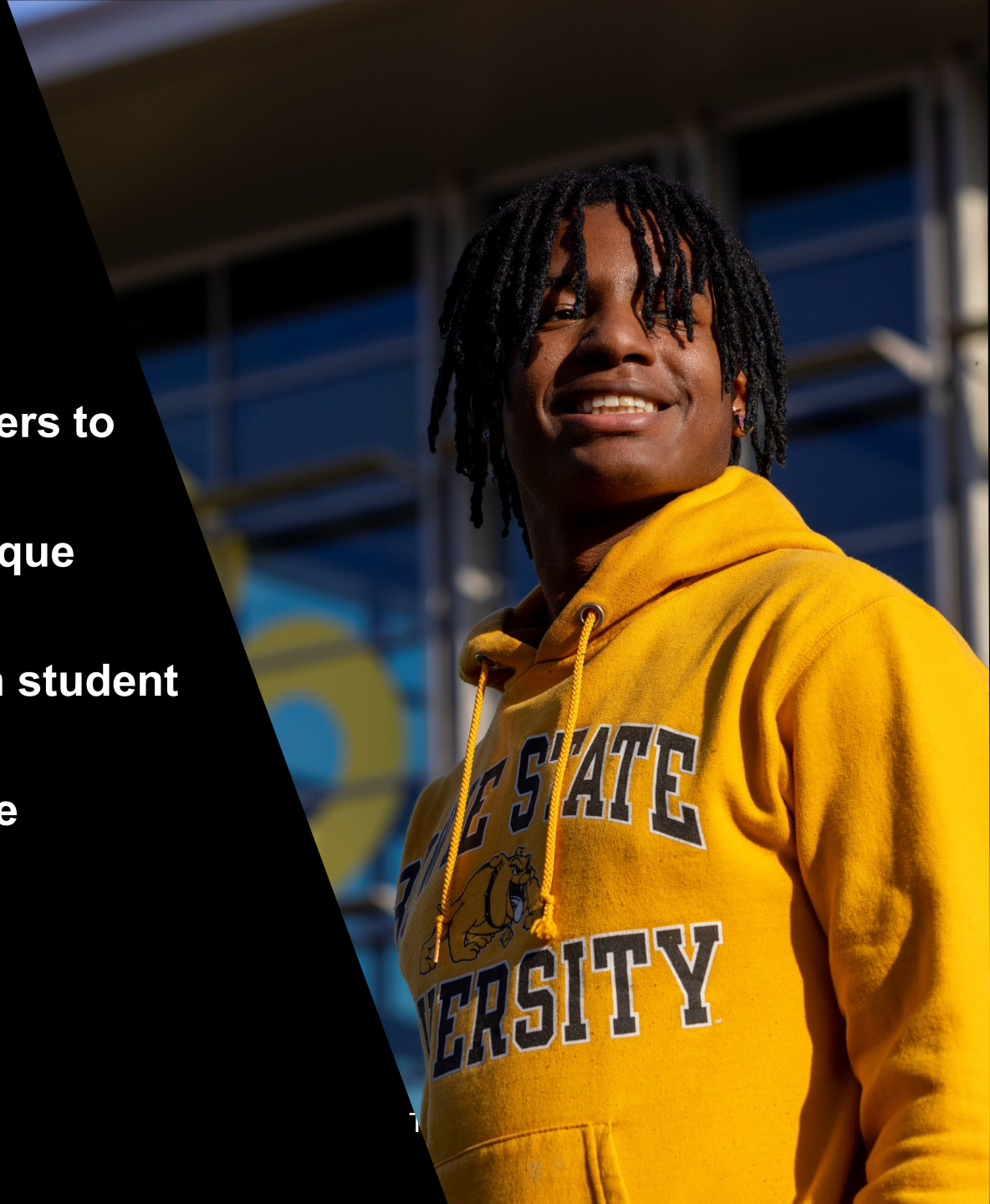


More than 862,000 veterans used their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits in 2023 to access higher education.

Conclusion

Key Takeaways:

- Academic accommodations remove barriers to learning
- Military-connected students may face unique challenges
- Faculty and staff play an important role in student success
- Supportive campuses help veterans thrive academically



QUESTIONS

Military Resource Center & Veteran Services POC

Mr. Andre Clayton: Director, Military Resource Center (MRC)

Mr. Jardea Jenkins: Veteran Benefits Administrator

Mrs. Tiara Usog: Administrative Assistant

Contact Email: militarybenefits@bowiestate.edu

Phone: 301-860-5109



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, multi-story 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