



What Veterans Need from Financial Aid Professionals

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Today's Topics



- ❖ The Basics
- ❖ 15 Things Veterans Want You to Know
- ❖ What You Can Do For Your Veterans
- ❖ Advice From The Trenches
- ❖ Resources



The Basics

The Basics



Characteristics of Student Veterans

- ❖ 73%-80% of Student Veterans are male; 21-27% are female.
- ❖ Only 15% of Student Veterans are traditionally aged college students. Most Student Veterans are between the ages of 24 and 40.
- ❖ 47% of Student Veterans have children.
- ❖ 47.3% of Student Veterans are married.
- ❖ 62% of Student Veterans are first-generation students.

SOURCE: VA Campus Toolkit

The Basics



The Numbers

- ❖ The number of Student Veterans on campus is growing.
- ❖ 96% of all post-secondary institutions enroll Student Veterans.
- ❖ 82% have a designated point of contact.

SOURCE: VA Campus Toolkit

The Basics



VA Benefits and Financial Aid

- ❖ Veterans non-education benefits must be reported on the FAFSA.
- ❖ The FAFSA has a different definition of a veteran.
- ❖ Federal veterans education benefits are not considered when packaging financial aid.
- ❖ PA Veterans who meet residency requirements and meet the FAFSA deadline receive a full PHEAA grant regardless of financial need.

The Basics



- ❖ Veterans are different from traditional college students: older, more mature, more practical
- ❖ They have real world experience
- ❖ Many think that typical college students are naïve, opinionated and have no life experience.
- ❖ Hard to re-adjust to real world when you perceive those around you as immature and disrespectful.



15 Things Veterans Want You to Know



Educating a Nation

Our Mission: Educating a Nation

PsychArmor® Institute provides critical resources to Americans so they can effectively engage with and better support military service members, Veterans and their families across our nation.

15 Things Veterans Want You to Know



Heidi Squier Kraft, PhD

Navy Veteran and Clinical Psychologist

15 Things
Veterans Want
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Comments?



What You Can Do For Your Veterans

What You Can Do For Your Veterans

- ❖ **Let veterans know that you are on their side.**
- ❖ **Show your appreciation for their service by helping them access all benefits for which they are eligible**
- ❖ **Help navigate through financial aid world and translate “financial aid-ese”**
- ❖ **Offer help –they may not ask**

What You Can Do For Your Veterans

- ❖ **Know the benefits that may be available**
- ❖ **Encourage responsible borrowing if a student needs or chooses to take out a student loan**
- ❖ **Refer student veterans to available resources (on-campus and off)**

What You Can Do For Your Veterans

- ❖ **Know the current BAH for your area**
- ❖ **Make sure Vets realize BAH is paid in arrears**
- ❖ **Celebrate Veteran's Day**



Advice From the Trenches

Advice from the Trenches

- ❖ **No amendments to certifications on the 20th through the 27th**
- ❖ **Print out certs the follow day**
- ❖ **Attend the VA workshops**
- ❖ **Use the SCO hotline and Ask a Question.**
- ❖ **Email or ELR**

Advice from the Trenches

- ❖ **Get veterans to meet the PHEAA deadlines!!!**
- ❖ **Calculate the payoff for paperwork effort**
- ❖ **When needed, use your authoritative voice**



Resources

Resources



Electronic Announcements about Veterans Education Benefits and FA:

- <https://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/081309GuidFedVeteransEdBenefits.html>
- <https://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/070209FederalVeteransEducationBenefits.html>

Ask a Question: <https://gibill.custhelp.va.gov/>

SCO Handbook:

https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/job_aids/SCO_Handbook.pdf

SCO Hotline: (855) 225-1159

Resources



PsychArmor: <https://psycharmor.org>

Direct Deposit for education benefits: (888)442-4551

Vet Centers:

<https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp?from=explore.va.gov>

Veterans Crisis Line: (800) 273-8255



Questions?
