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
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
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 20\textsuperscript{th} through the 27\textsuperscript{th}
- 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:

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

SCO Handbook:

SCO Hotline: (855) 225-1159
Resources

PyschArmor: https://psycharmor.org
Direct Deposit for education benefits: (888)442-4551
Veterans Crisis Line: (800) 273-8255
Questions?