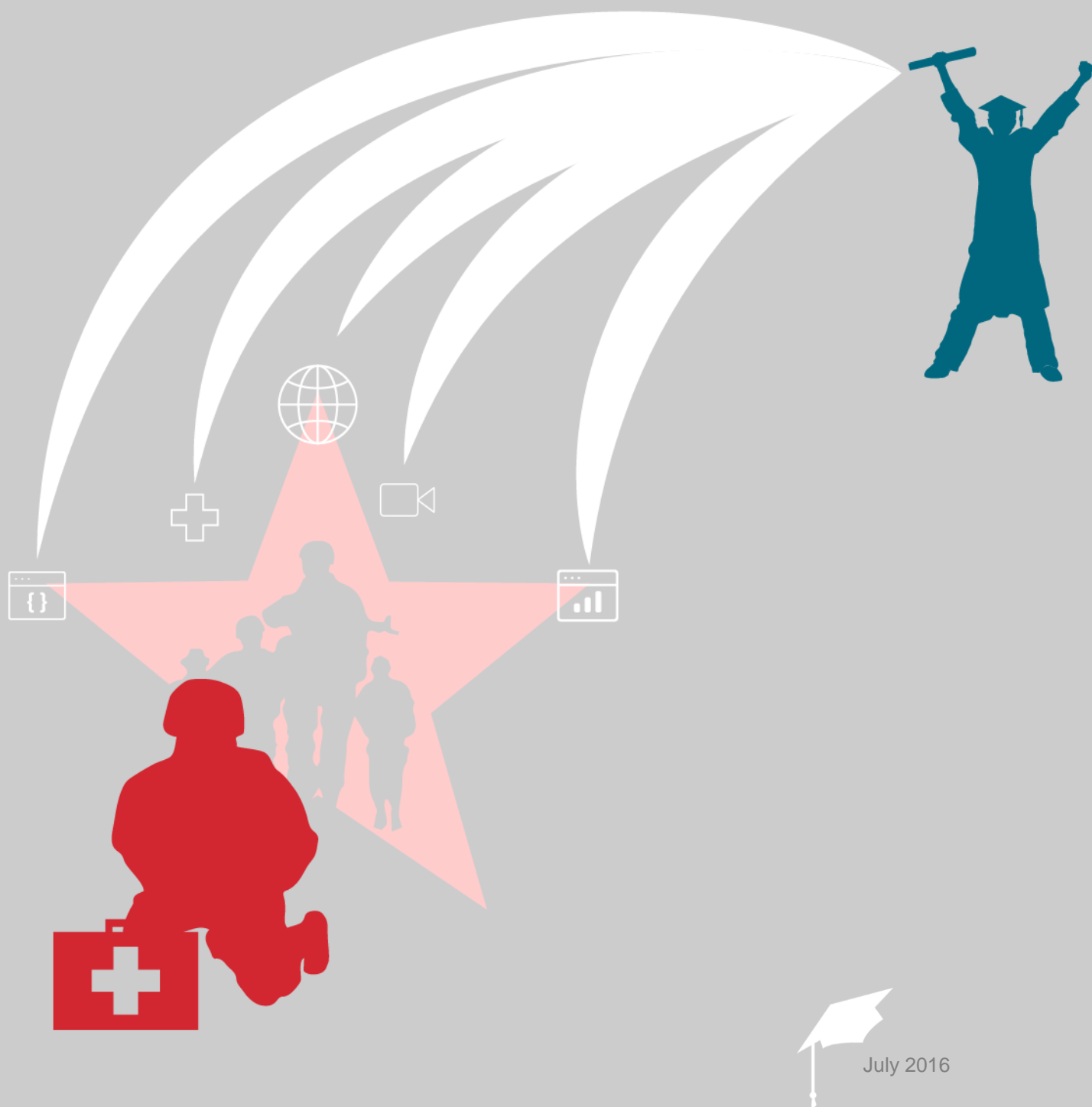


VALUING MILITARY LEARNING

A Guide to Military Prior Learning Assessment and More



July 2016

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Prepared for the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit—

an initiative of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact—

by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning.



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ONLINE VERSION

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INTRODUCTION

The healthcare and social assistance sector of the U.S. economy is projected to add 3.8 million jobs between 2014 and 2024, leading it to become the single largest employment sector during this period. Many high-growth healthcare occupations are middle- and high-skill positions requiring at least some postsecondary education. While they do require an investment in learning, these occupations also offer good wages and prospects for career advancement.

The rapidly growing healthcare field presents an array of opportunities that can be particularly appealing to those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. A career in healthcare is an opportunity to continue to serve your country in a variety of civilian roles ranging from paramedicine to nursing to healthcare information technology and beyond. Tuition assistance and GI Bill® benefits can reduce or eliminate the costs of obtaining necessary credentials. Furthermore, if you received healthcare-related military training, you may be able to leverage your learning and experience through a process called prior learning assessment (PLA) to earn college credit and accelerate your path to a civilian healthcare credential.

In order to assist you in your path towards a rewarding healthcare career, the [Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit \(MCMC\)](#), a 13-state initiative of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, has worked with the [Council for Adult and Experiential Learning \(CAEL\)](#) to provide you with a comprehensive guide to obtaining healthcare education. In this resource, you will find instructional guides, stories from fellow servicemembers pursuing healthcare careers, information on accelerated educational programs for veterans, and a comprehensive index of resources for veterans in each of the 13 MCMC member states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. We hope that this resource will serve as a launching pad to a successful and rewarding career in healthcare!



GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDES

College Applications & Enrollment

We want your college experience to be an exciting one, full of possibilities and new opportunities! The application and enrollment process is the crucial first step of this journey. It involves understanding requirements, meeting deadlines, and discerning which options are best — all skills you have likely already developed in your military career. To make things a little easier, we've broken this document down into the major areas you need to tackle.


We'll cover:

- ★ Career Choice
- ★ Admissions Requirements
- ★ Applications
- ★ Accreditation and Degrees
- ★ Environment

At the end of each section, you'll find a checklist. Throughout the document, we've also highlighted website links that you may find valuable as you make your way through the process of researching and applying to schools.

CAREER CHOICE

Career choice should play an important role in your selection of a college or university program. If you are not sure of your career choice, you may find it helpful to visit the U.S. Department of Labor's CareerOneStop website, which offers a variety of useful resources for career exploration, including [self-assessments](#), [a skills profiler](#), and [occupation information](#). As you refine your career goals, investigate the local labor market outlook for your desired field. Data such as the anticipated number of job openings and median salary can be very helpful. You will also need to determine what credentials ([possibly including licenses](#)) are necessary to advance in your chosen field in order to [identify schools that offer the relevant certificate or degree programs](#).



Check out CareerOneStop's [Veterans ReEmployment](#) website, which offers education and employment tools specifically crafted for veterans. [O-Net OnLine](#) is another useful resource for career exploration and labor market data.

Finally, find out what national tests are required to be employed in your field. It might be helpful to know things like the average pass rate (both nationally and at the schools you are considering) and how often the test is offered. You may also ask if the school offers specific preparations for the test. Just as the Department of Veterans Affairs GI Bill® provides for reimbursement of many national applications exams, it also covers the costs for many licensing certification exams.

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Career Choice Checklist


- ✓ [Explore career options](#) to find the best fit for your interests, skills, and goals.
- ✓ [Determine what the local labor market is like for your particular field.](#)
- ✓ Identify what credentials you need to succeed in your chosen field.
- ✓ Find out what national tests are required for your field.
- ✓ [Check to see if you can get reimbursed by the VA for any required tests.](#)

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Every institution of higher learning has its own set of admissions requirements – which include the applications you need to fill out, the tests you may need to take, and the deadlines you need to meet. Depending on whether you are a first-time student, an adult with prior college experience, or an adult without prior experience, the requirements may be different. Some schools may also have different requirements for active duty military and/or veterans.

A great place to start is the college or university's website – specifically, its admissions page. You can always contact the admissions office directly, or if one exists, the school's veterans' services office.

Some colleges, such as trade and technical colleges, as well as community colleges and some four-year universities, accept students wherever they are on their academic journey. Others require that you show your readiness for college-level work by submitting official high school transcripts, military transcripts (e.g., the Joint Services Transcript), and/or taking placement exams like Accuplacer or entrance exams like the SAT or ACT. In addition, you may want to consider [College Level Examination Program \(CLEP\)](#) tests, which give you college credit for what you already know and place you in higher level courses where appropriate.



If you served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard, your transcript is provided through the Joint Services Transcript and may be obtained at bit.ly/official-jst. If you served in the Air Force you may order your transcript at bit.ly/ccaf2.

The tests you need to take are specific both to the program, and to your prior experience – either as a student, a servicemember, or as a professional working in the field.

A few things to keep in mind about tests:

- ★ Although most schools that require standardized test scores will accept either the ACT or SAT, a few will only accept one or the other. They may also have an overall score needed to gain acceptance as well as minimum subject score requirements. If it has been a while since you took the test, ask about rules on dates.
- ★ The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) GI Bill® provides for reimbursement of fees for many national application tests.

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- ★ Taking practice assessments can help you build confidence and identify areas you may need to brush up on before the test.

Admissions Checklist:

- ✓ Determine if you need to take the ACT, SAT, or other admissions tests.
- ✓ Consider whether you have enough knowledge in certain subject areas to pass a CLEP placement test.
- ✓ Check the [VA website](#) to see which tests are reimbursed.
- ✓ Search the website or ask the school about other items you need to submit to demonstrate college readiness.

APPLICATIONS

While some institutions have an application that is specific to them (many of which can be accessed online), others may require that you submit a standardized application known as the Common Application. The **Common Application** is an online standardized application that you can submit to multiple institutions. Simply complete it once, and send to several schools.

Some other things to keep in mind about applications:

- ★ If schools require supplemental information or essays, you will be prompted for that information before you can submit the application.
- ★ Most institutions charge an application fee, but these fees may be waived for veterans, so make sure to check to see if that might be an option for you.

If you don't meet the admissions requirements of your preferred school now, that doesn't have to be the end of the story! Consider reapplying at a later date. For example, you may not have high enough ACT scores today to be accepted at a major university, but after taking some courses at a community college, you may be able to score higher on the test and become a better candidate. If that is your goal, be sure to find out about the school's **transfer policies**.

Some four-year schools allow certain community college courses to transfer back for credit; some may guarantee that your entire program will transfer for credit into their institution; and others may even guarantee admissions into their school once certain hurdles are cleared in specific ways or if you earn a specific degree/credential from a partner institution.



Find out if the fees for your test are approved for reimbursement by going to [the VA's National Testing Program page](#). Fees may be required for placement testing, and if the test is through a national service, such as CLEP, the VA may reimburse your costs. Once you learn which placement exam you are required to take, visit [this page](#) for a full listing of exams that are applicable for reimbursement.

[CompassTestOnline.com](#) is a useful site for practice materials to help you prepare for your entrance and placement exams. You can find more study materials as well as exams at [Accuplacer](#).

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Always ask your advisor if you have questions about courses that did not transfer that you think should have. It may be necessary to reach out to advisors at both the institution you transferred *from* **and** the institution you transferred *to* in order to get the answers that you need. Often, courses may transfer as general electives, but if you work with your advisor, the courses may be applied to your degree program requirements. Prior learning assessment may also be a good option if your courses don't transfer directly ([see below for more information on prior learning assessment](#)).

Application Checklist:

- ✓ Check if the schools you are interested in accept the Common Application.
- ✓ Determine if the application requires you to complete supplemental information.
- ✓ Find out if there is an application fee and if it is waived for military/veteran applicants.
- ✓ Identify the appropriate point of contact in admissions and reach out to them with questions.
- ✓ Ask about the school's transfer policies.

ACCREDITATION AND DEGREES

Accreditation means that a third party has certified that a school or program is meeting standards for academic quality. There are two types of accrediting bodies (regional and national), both of which grant two types of accreditation (institutional and programmatic/specialized). It is common for regional accrediting bodies to accredit an entire institution and national accrediting bodies to provide more specialized programmatic accreditation for a single program, department, or professional school. National accreditation is particularly common in vocational settings such as law, education, and healthcare.

It's important to make sure your school and program of study have the right accreditations from a regional or national accrediting body because you may have trouble transferring to another school



Regional accrediting bodies recognize institutions that meet specific educational quality standards. You can find a list of accredited institutions for each region by visiting the following links:

- ★ [Middle States Commission on Higher Education](#)
- ★ [New England Association of Schools and Colleges](#)
- ★ [Higher Learning Commission \(North Central Region\)](#)
- ★ [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#)
- ★ [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#)
- ★ [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools](#)

You can access a list of U.S. Department of Education-recognized agencies issuing institutional accreditation at bit.ly/accred7 and a list of those issuing programmatic or specialized accreditation at bit.ly/accred9.

If you want to use your veterans benefits to help fund your education, see if your program is approved by searching for the school of choice on the VA's [WEAMS Institution Search tool](#) and then clicking programs on the school page. If you do not see your program listed, please contact your school of choice to understand more.



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otherwise. For example, schools that have been institutionally accredited by a regional accrediting body may not accept transfer credits from schools with programmatic or institutional accreditation from a national accrediting body. Plus, future employers may not consider hiring candidates with degrees earned from institutions or programs that lack appropriate accreditation. This criterion is especially important for healthcare careers.

Also, if you want to use your veterans' benefits to fund your education, make sure to find out whether the federal government has approved your particular program. It's also a good idea to ask if the school has signed the [Principles of Excellence](#). This 2012 Executive Order, signed by President Barack Obama, is designed to ensure servicemembers, veterans, and their dependents have the information needed to make informed decisions concerning their military and veterans' educational benefits.

The **type of degree or credential** that you're able to earn at that particular school (or in that particular program) may influence the kinds of jobs available to you after graduation. Here is a list of types of degrees and the typical time it takes to earn (attending full-time):

- ★ Certification: 6 months to 2 years
- ★ Associate degree: 2 years, typically at a community college
- ★ Bachelor's degree: 4 years at a university without earning an associate degree or 2 years after earning an associate degree, if the degree transfers into the bachelor's program you select
- ★ Master's degree: 2–3 years after earning a bachelor's degree, depending on the degree sought
- ★ Doctorate: 3–8 years after earning a master's degree, depending on the degree sought

Finally, review the **educational plan** for the program. It will break down the courses you need to take, estimate how long it will take you to earn the degree, and may also show the order in which you have to take those courses. The order is important, because some courses are only offered one time per calendar year, and you'll want to know the required sequencing upfront.

Accreditation and Degree Checklist:

- ✓ Make sure the school and/or program are appropriately accredited to meet your transfer needs.
- ✓ Investigate whether you can use your veterans' benefits to fund your education at this particular school/program.
- ✓ Check the [GI Bill® Comparison Tool](#) to see if the school has signed [the Principles of Excellence](#).
- ✓ Determine how long it will take to earn the degree/certification by talking to your advisor.



PURSUING A HEALTHCARE CAREER?

[ExploreHealthCareers.org](#) and [CAAHEP Accredited Program Search](#) are great resources to help you understand accreditation requirements and accredited programs.

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ENVIRONMENT

When researching schools and programs, don't forget to explore the school's environment and services to students – such as faculty-to-student ratios, advising and tutoring services, disability services, and job placement services. All are important for your academic life and future job success.

Faculty-to-student ratios

Faculty-to-student ratios can vary greatly from class to class within a single institution. However, these numbers – especially in core program classes – may help you understand what your academic life will be like. With smaller ratios, you may be better able to access your program instructors and get more personalized attention. If a clinical rotation is part of your program, you may also want to understand who supervises the clinical.

Advising and tutoring

You may need assistance when deciding which courses to take. Learn what kind of academic advising the school or program offers. If you need help with coursework, find out what kind of assistance the school offers, such as one-on-one tutoring, group tutoring sessions, and/or computerized services.

Student veteran support resources

In some states, public universities and colleges are required by law to have a designated central point of contact for all veterans, servicemembers, and dependents. Additionally, all institutions participating in the [Principles of Excellence](#) program must “designate a point of contact to provide academic and financial advice.” Be sure to seek out your school's central point of contact to learn about eligibility for education benefits, benefit application processes, academic counseling, financial aid counseling, and student support services.

Academic accommodations for disabilities

If you have a service-connected disability or any other need for an accommodation, meet with the designated office for students with disabilities. You may qualify for academic accommodations, such as additional time for testing and/or use of adaptive equipment. Make sure you know what documentation is required and how long it can take to get that information. Explore accommodation options for a disability – they are intended to even the playing field, not to give you an unfair advantage.

Job placement services

How does the school connect students with employment opportunities? Do they offer assistance with military skills translation and resume writing, internship/job placement services, and/or interviewing skills workshops? What are their statistics around job placement and average salary after graduation? Either call or visit the school's career services office as well as the veterans' services office.

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Environment Checklist:

- ✓ See if the student-to-faculty ratio fits your needs.
- ✓ Find out what tutoring and advising services are offered.
- ✓ Determine what documentation is needed to get accommodations for a disability.
- ✓ Look at the specific ways the school helps with job placement.
- ✓ Visit the designated office for student veterans.

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Getting College Credit for Military Learning

The military provided you with top-notch training and unequalled learning experiences, and now, through something called prior learning assessment, or PLA, that knowledge can translate into college credit. Prior learning is a term educators use to describe the learning you gain outside of school – such as the learning you’ve gained through formalized military training and other life experiences (including employment, travel, hobbies, civic activities, self-study, and volunteer service). PLA takes that knowledge and determines whether it can be converted into college credit so you can earn your degree faster and at a lower cost. For example: [a research study](#) showed earning 15 credits from PLA can save \$1,605 to \$6,000 on tuition costs! If you’re working toward a bachelor’s degree, those PLA credits could save you a semester or two of time – maybe even more!

PLA isn’t just one method or tool. To help familiarize you with how PLA works, we’ll walk through the following types of PLA:

- ★ Transfer Guides for Military Training and Transcripts
- ★ Portfolio Assessments
- ★ Program Evaluations
- ★ Customized Exams and Standardized Testing

TRANSFER GUIDES FOR MILITARY TRAINING AND TRANSCRIPTS

Many schools have transfer guides that detail how your military training will transfer to their institutions. To determine transfer eligibility, the first thing you’ll need to do is provide the school with an official transcript of your formal military training, called the Joint Services Transcript (JST) for the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard or – for Air Force members – the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) transcript.

Because CCAF is an accredited institution, CCAF transcripts are generally treated just like academic transcripts from other institutions. For training in other military branches, many schools rely on recommendations developed by the American Council of Education (ACE) to determine which military training/occupations have learning outcomes equivalent to college-level courses and can transfer to their institution for credit. The ACE Military Guide is a terrific resource for finding out (1) which military occupations and training courses should equate to postsecondary credit and



Jeffrey “Chip” Dodson served as a law enforcement specialist and a professional military education instructor in the Air Force. When he decided to pursue his bachelor’s degree, Azusa Pacific University accepted credit for his military training and Community College of the Air Force credits, which saved him one year of college. His advisors then suggested that he look into portfolio assessment. After taking a PLA portfolio course and submitting his portfolio, Chip was ultimately able to earn six credits, three for English composition and three for a social science course. Chip recommends that other veterans utilize portfolio assessment because “It saves you time and money. Simple as that.”

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(2) how many credits should be awarded for each. You can find ACE recommendations on your JST, or you can manually search the recommendations on the [ACE website](#).

Important: When your institution transcribes your JST, it is important that they only award credits that will count toward your program requirements. Due to the financial aid eligibility requirement called **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**, the transcription of too many unused credits can lead to financial aid ineligibility for the student in question. Many – but not all – schools have policies in place to prevent this outcome; if you have an extensive military training history, you are advised to confirm with your school that excess credits will not be automatically posted to your transcript.

Action Steps:

- ★ Order your military transcripts. If you served in the Army, Navy, Marines or Coast Guard, your transcript is provided through the Joint Services Transcript and may be obtained at: bit.ly/official-jst. If you served in the Air Force you may order your transcript through the following link: bit.ly/ccaf2.
- ★ If you have a JST, read your transcript or search the ACE Military Guide at bit.ly/milguide to see ACE's credit recommendations for your military occupation and training courses.
- ★ Identify and reach out to the school's point of contact for credit articulation and transfer.



Michelle Mondia has worked as a medic in the Air Force National Guard for the past 18 years. Although she received advanced level medic training in the military, it didn't equate to a civilian degree. Michelle found a new program at Joliet Junior College. The first of a larger statewide initiative, JJC's program allows veterans who have completed the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program within the last five years to earn certificates as licensed practical nurses (LPNs)—and to do so in as little as eight weeks. Upon successful completion of the certificate, Michelle and the other veterans in her classes will be prepared to sit for the NCLEXPN examination to become an LPN.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS AND ACCELERATED/BRIDGE PROGRAMS

If you already have licenses or certifications, or if you have completed non-collegiate instructional programs that are occupation specific, you can request an evaluation of the associated coursework and career activities for academic credit. Even if you are pursuing education in a different field, those experiences and credentials could possibly count toward your education and be very important to your future career.

Veterans who received specialized training in the military are often frustrated to discover that in order to perform the same job in the civilian sector, they must obtain additional licensure or certification, or even a college degree. This disconnect is why program evaluations are so important for veterans. Many states have realized that their occupational requirements are out of sync with military training. Several have begun reviewing occupations that require licensure or certification in the civilian world with an eye toward how those requirements correspond to military training and experience. Ask if your school has an accelerated or bridge program based on these evaluations. Such programs reduce the amount of time necessary to obtain a credential by recognizing and

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providing credit for military training and experience. You can also use the index of accelerated/bridge programs at the end of this guide to see what programs are available in each of the MCMC member states.

Action steps:

- ★ To find more information about certification review and possible outcomes for your military specialty, check the online resources available in your state by [clicking here](#).
- ★ You can also contact colleges and universities directly to inquire about the existence of bridge or accelerated programs for students with military training.
- ★ To verify your military certifications, look at the top section of your JST. Alternatively, you can look at the Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) DD2586 which was provided to you at the time of your separation (bit.ly/verify39).

CUSTOMIZED EXAMS AND STANDARDIZED TESTING

Some schools offer customized exams to verify college-level learning achievement. These may be final exams of current courses or “challenge exams.” Challenge exams are designed by school faculty to assess whether an incoming student with prior learning can meet the learning objectives of a specific course.

Standardized testing is also available. Many of these tests are approved “national tests” under the GI Bill® and certain testing fees can be reimbursed. You will need to check with your school to find out which tests they accept. Some examples of the more widely accepted standardized exams are:

- ★ College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Exams bit.ly/collegebd
- ★ UExcel – Excelsior College Exams bit.ly/UExcel41
- ★ The DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST Exams) bit.ly/Taketest

If you receive benefits from the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, you may want to consider the impact of the test on your overall entitlements. For lower-cost tests, it may not be worth using your benefits, as the cost is rounded up to one month’s worth of entitlement.

Action step:

- ★ After you find out which tests your school accepts, see if you can get reimbursed through the GI Bill®. The following link provides more information on the eligible tests: bit.ly/vatest7.



Transferology.com is a useful tool that may help you determine how your military learning experiences will be treated at a specific institution if that institution has joined the Transferology system. Simply create an account and search for the type of training you received in the “Military Credits” section of the “Will My Courses Transfer” page of the website. You can then “Search for Matches” to see which colleges and universities offer credit for your training, as well as the specific courses for which credit is granted.



Jason Wolfe joined the U.S. Navy right out of high school at age 18. He worked as an Aviation Boatswain Mate (ABE), launching aircraft on ship flight decks. After his military discharge, Jason began working on his college degree. He learned from his advisor at Indiana Tech that he could use CAEL's prior learning assessment service, LearningCounts.org, to get credit towards both an A.A. and a B.A. in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. Jason earned 24 credits, the equivalent of eight college-level courses, through portfolio assessment. For each class for which he earned credit, he wrote a five- to ten-page paper and attached additional evidence such as supporting documentation, certificates he had earned, and reference letters from peers. Each paper demonstrated his command of the subject matter, its theoretical principles, and how he applied those principles to resolving real-life engineering issues. As soon as the credits were awarded, he received his associate degree, and two months later, he earned his bachelor's.

PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENTS

A portfolio is a written document you prepare that describes the knowledge and experiences you want assessed for college credit. Portfolios can be particularly useful to veterans and servicemembers when there are no credit recommendations or standardized tests available. Some schools offer portfolio assessment themselves, while others outsource this service. CAEL's portfolio service is [LearningCounts.org](https://www.learningcounts.org), an easy-to-use online service that helps you develop your PLA portfolio. The GI Bill® will reimburse you for portfolio assessments done through LearningCounts.org, although it is important to note that the cost will be rounded up to one month's worth of entitlement.

Action steps:

- ★ To start figuring out the areas of your knowledge and expertise that may align with college courses and could be evaluated for college credit, visit [LearningCounts.org](https://www.learningcounts.org) and check to see if your school offers the LearningCounts portfolio assessment service.
- ★ If your school does not offer LearningCounts, ask your advisor if other portfolio assessment options are available.

A note about PLA credits:

All schools do not determine PLA credits using the same methods or standards. Even if your top choices in schools offer the same types of PLA, their policies and procedures for awarding college credit for prior learning may be vastly different. Each school also has its own regulations and restrictions. For example, they may limit the amount of institutional credit you can get from PLA, PLA options may be limited to specific degree programs, or credit may be restricted for use toward program electives only. Some schools will only review transcripts for credit after you have enrolled, or even after you have successfully completed one full term of study.

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You should take time to understand the policies in place at your school of choice and how they affect your educational path. The more you know and understand about PLA and your school's policies on PLA, the better equipped you will be to maximize your military training and skills.

A Note about GI Bill® Eligibility:

In order to certify college courses for the GI Bill® funding, schools must ensure that a student veteran does not already have that course on their official transcripts. Additionally, the VA will only pay for courses that are required to complete your degree so that you maintain GI Bill® entitlement and eligibility.

Here is a quick PLA Checklist to help you become a better-informed consumer.

- ✓ Ask at your school's registrar's office or assessment and testing office what types of PLA methods are available and obtain a list of the school's required action steps to receive credit and their policies on PLA.
- ✓ Order your records to be delivered to your new school.
- ✓ Schedule an appointment and meet with your academic advisor. Bring copies of all of your prior learning records, including your Joint Services Transcript or CCAF transcript, so your advisor can help you determine the degree or program of study and course schedule that corresponds with your intended career path.
- ✓ **Take ownership of your academic path.** Remember to review the school's degree plan and course descriptions as well as your previous learning records. Request that the institution help you get academic credit for your previous learning.

Funding Your Education

If you are a recently discharged veteran, there are several ways to help fund your education. Before you start applying, it's a good idea to get the 10,000-foot view of available benefits. We've created this step-by-step guide to help you better determine your eligibility, and figure out which benefits best meet your educational needs right now. In addition to helping you make informed choices about using your earned military educational benefits to fund your education, this guide also highlights other funding sources.

STEP 1: UNDERSTAND YOUR ELIGIBILITY

Your eligibility for military educational benefits may depend on the following things: the character of your discharge or service, whether you were active duty or reserve, when you began service, and if you made contributions to an education plan.

Commonly used educational benefits include:

- ★ **Post 9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33)** - According to the VA, this benefit is for military members who have at least 90 days of aggregate active duty service after September 10, 2001. It provides up to 36 months of educational benefits. Benefits for tuition are paid directly to the school, while living expenses are paid directly to the veteran. Most veterans in recent years have taken advantage of their eligibility for this program. For more information, see bit.ly/post911gibill.
- ★ **Montgomery GI Bill® Active Duty (Chapter 30)**- According to the VA, this benefit is for servicemembers who have at least two years of active duty. It provides up to 36 months of educational benefits to eligible veterans. Monthly benefits are paid directly to the veteran. This program is the predecessor to the Post-9/11 GI Bill®. For more information, go to bit.ly/ActiveGI.
- ★ **Montgomery GI Bill® Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)** - This is a benefit for those who have served in the selected reserve. For more information, visit bit.ly/GIreserve.
- ★ **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31)** - If you have a service-connected disability, consider applying for Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Services. This VA program creates an individualized plan to help you prepare for, find, and maintain suitable jobs. This includes educational training, tutorial assistance, and resume preparation. To print a guidebook, visit bit.ly/vocrehab. To apply, click on the "How to Apply" tab at bit.ly/vocrehab2.



Note: This is only a general guide. If you have an inquiry on your specific eligibility and entitlement, call a Veterans Affairs representative directly at (888) 442-4551 or find more information through the VA GI Bill® web site at benefits.va.gov/gibill

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Special Note:

- ★ Chapter 1607 - Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) - This is a benefit for reservists who have been called to active duty in response to a war or national emergency. This program is no longer active, having largely been replaced by the Post-9/11 GI Bill®. REAP beneficiaries who were attending an educational institution on November 24, 2015, or during the last semester, quarter, or term ending prior to that date, are eligible to continue to receive REAP benefits until November 25, 2019. For more information, go to bit.ly/REAPpro.

STEP 2: COMPARE BENEFITS

Once you know which benefits you're eligible for, it's time to explore how each benefit fits in with your needs. A good resource is the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Comparison Tool, found at bit.ly/comparetool. The tool lets you compare how various benefit programs will cover educational costs and related living expenses at a specific institution. Enter your military status, the specific GI Bill® benefit you want to use, your months of service, the names of all of the colleges you are considering, and whether or not you will be taking all of your courses online. You will be able to access detailed information about your total expected GI Bill® benefits, including housing allowance.

Another useful non-official source of information on different veterans benefits is Earnup.org/veterans-benefits.

STEP 3: KNOW THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDING SCHOOL

The VA Comparison Tool is a terrific place to start. But it doesn't necessarily compare *all* costs of education. You can estimate additional costs by using a school's net price calculator. The net price calculator includes the estimated cost of attendance – including tuition, fees, books and supplies, room and board (meals), and other related expenses. You can find net price calculators on the websites of many colleges and universities, or you can search for your school's calculator at the U.S. Department of Education's Net Price Calculator Center.

STEP 4: KNOW WHAT BENEFITS YOUR SCHOOL ACCEPTS

Contact your school's designated veterans and military personnel office to learn what types of military educational benefits the school is approved for by the VA. Private and public institutions must follow specific financial regulations. Each school should be able to explain what type of military educational benefits they process and can accept on your behalf.

STEP 5: APPLY FOR VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Once you have determined which benefits best meet your needs, it's time to apply! You can submit a paper application (available for download at the VA's eBenefits website) to your local VA Regional Processing Office, or apply online using the Veterans On-line Application (VONAPP) System. To learn more, visit the eBenefits VONAPP webpage.

Most applications require confirmation of your service. You will need to provide your DD214 (servicemember's copy #4) and, if applicable, your kicker contract and/or proof of any buy-up. Although filling out the application does not obligate you to use the benefit, you will still need your

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bank routing information to complete the application. The VA website states that this process generally takes one month for first-time claims and about one week for re-enrollment. Although wait times are longer in the fall when the volume of claims is higher. In case there is an unexpected delay, please allow 8-12 weeks for the process to be completed.

STEP 6: CONFIRM APPROVAL

You will confirm the approval of benefits by taking your certificate of eligibility to your school's certifying official (the Department of Veterans Affairs will provide you with this certificate). Create and log into your e-benefits account to verify your benefits status at [the VA's eBenefits webpage](#).

STEP 7: EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The GI Bill® may not be your only option to pay for college. There are scores of other educational benefits and types of aid you may be able to use in addition to or instead of your earned military educational benefits. It pays (quite literally!) to do a little investigation.

Additional Federal Veterans Education Benefits

- ★ The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014: This new law enables recently released veterans using Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill®—Active Duty benefits to pay in-state tuition at public universities and community colleges. This means that you no longer have to wait to establish residency in order to pay lower tuition in your new home state. This in-state status will also be granted to veterans' spouses and children. See [the VA's GI Bill® resident rate requirements webpage](#).
- ★ The Yellow Ribbon Education Program is another financial support source for student veterans attending college. Schools that participate provide additional funding support towards tuition costs. Verify your eligibility and check if your school is a participant by visiting [the VA's Yellow Ribbon Program webpage](#).
 - Note: Funds for the Yellow Ribbon Program are limited by the participating school and thus may not be available for all eligible veterans.

Additional Non-Military Federal Student Aid

There are many types of non-military federal student aid available also (e.g., Pell Grants and federal student loans). To determine eligibility, you must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll need proof of service to complete the application as well as information from your most recent tax return.

Some federal financial aid does not need to be repaid after graduation, whereas other aid comes in the form of loans that *do* need to be repaid. If you qualify, you can use this aid in combination with your earned military educational benefits. You won't negatively affect your earned military educational benefits by applying for or using other federal funds. Visit fafsa.ed.gov for more information.

You can also use the FAFSA to help determine eligibility for certain state aid programs, so be sure to take the time to complete it.

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Additional State Aid

- ★ Several states have additional sources of support that may cover your tuition costs and can sometimes be used in combination with some federal military educational benefits. You can inquire about the existence of such programs with your state VA representative. Some information may also be available online; [click here](#) for a list of online resources in your state.

Additional Private Aid

Other organizations offer educational assistance to military personnel, veterans, and their dependents.

The following is a sample listing of such organizations:

- ★ Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) - www.moaa.org
- ★ Army Emergency Relief - www.aerhq.org
- ★ Air Force Aid Society - www.afas.org
- ★ Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation - www.mcsf.org
- ★ Navy Marine Corps Relief Society - www.nmcrs.org
- ★ Coast Guard Mutual Assistance - www.cgmahq.org
- ★ National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) - www.naus.org

When you are exploring other funding options, keep in mind that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! Guard your private information while online and only use trusted sources – if they charge you a fee to process your application, it may not be a viable organization. If your school has a veterans resource center or veterans' services office, the staff there can direct you to a veterans financial aid specialist who can help you navigate your options.

Employer Tuition Options

If you are currently employed: Some employers offer tuition assistance to employees who are seeking to improve their skills in areas related to their jobs. It's always worth discussing the options with your employer's human resources office.

ACCELERATED/BRIDGE PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

Veterans and servicemembers who have served in specialized military healthcare roles are often frustrated to discover that in order to perform the same job in the civilian sector, they must obtain additional licensure or certification, or even a college degree. Fortunately, many colleges and universities have begun to review occupations that require licensure or certification in the civilian world with an eye toward how those requirements correspond to military training and experience. As a result, there are exciting new opportunities for students who have served in military healthcare occupations to complete accelerated or bridge programs in a variety of civilian healthcare fields.

Accelerated and bridge programs can save veterans and servicemembers time and money by recognizing and providing credit for the training and experience that they have already received. A few of these programs are highlighted below to demonstrate the kinds of opportunities available in such fields as physical therapy, paramedicine, and nursing. Complementing these program profiles are testimonials from military students who have taken advantage of bridge and accelerated opportunities to expedite their educational attainment and career advancement.

If you are interested in learning about other accelerated and bridge programs in the 13 states that form the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit, check out the [state-by-state program index](#) at the end of this guide!

Program Profiles

Lake Superior College Military Bridge PTA Program, AAS Degree

Duluth, MN

PROGRAM	ELIGIBILITY	COST/TIME SAVINGS
 <p>PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (Associate Degree)</p>	<p>Completion of METC PTA Program</p> <p>6 months recent experience</p>	<p>Credits to completion: 20 (2 semesters)</p> <p>Credits Saved: 54</p>

This 20-credit online degree completion program is available for servicemembers who have completed Phases 1 and 2 of the physical therapy assistant (PTA) program at the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) in San Antonio, TX. Lake Superior College (LSC) began enrolling military bridge students in 2013. At the time, LSC had developed an online refresher course for graduates of PTA programs who were reentering the field and/or studying for the national board exam for PTAs. Because of the college's experience with innovative online refresher courses for civilian PTAs, it was a natural fit to create an online accelerated military bridge program.

LSC collaborated directly with the physical therapy assistant program instructors at METC in developing their military bridge PTA program. Completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the METC PTA program in addition to a six-month work requirement equates to a package of 54 Lake Superior College credits that count towards the 74-credit Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree.

Prior learning credit is available for general education requirements through challenge exams and CLEP tests. Students may also petition to substitute courses. There are 30–40 military students currently enrolled in some stage of this 20–credit online program. Many servicemembers are on active duty stationed overseas with schedules that allow them to take only one course at a time; those who are able to take on a larger course load can graduate in 16 weeks (two semesters).



College instructors get to know their students through online class discussions and interactive activities. The program emphasizes licensing standards and real-world experience by requiring applicants to have 6 months recent experience (at least half time) as a PT specialist/technician (for those on active duty) or 6 months recent experience in a civilian clinic (for veterans discharged from active duty or those currently serving in a National Guard or Reserve unit).

LSC's Military Bridge PTA Program is limited to 20 spots per semester due to licensing exam requirements and may have a wait list. For more information, visit bit.ly/mbpta.

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Lansing Community College, Military Medic to Paramedic Program

Lansing, Michigan

PROGRAM	ELIGIBILITY	FORMAT	COST/TIME SAVINGS
 PARAMEDIC (Certificate of Achievement)	68W Army Healthcare Specialist HM Navy Hospital Corpsman 4NoX1 Air Force Aerospace Medical Service	TWO STAGES 1. Military Medic to Paramedic 2. Paramedic to RN	TIME TO COMPLETE Paramedic: 28 weeks compared to 11-12 months RN: 10 months compared to 2 years
 REGISTERED NURSE (RN) (Associate Degree)			

In January 2012, Lansing Community College (LCC) launched an accelerated 2-semester education program specifically designed for military medics: Army healthcare specialists (68W), Navy hospital corpsmen (HM), Air Force aerospace medical service technicians (4N0X1), and advanced civilian EMTs. The goal was to create a two-stage pathway for military medics and advanced civilian EMTs to transition to careers as paramedics and nurses. Students who complete the first stage will be prepared to take the National Paramedic Certification Exam offered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). After the second stage, graduates will be prepared to take the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN).

The program began when instructors noticed that military students already possessed many of the skills and competencies required in paramedic program coursework. The college worked with Department of Defense officials in Washington to evaluate METC program curriculum and streamline the military medic to paramedic crosswalk. The LCC program has an average cohort size of 16 students. The internship requirements limit the number of students in each cohort to 20.

Students can earn a Paramedic Certificate of Achievement in 28 weeks compared to the 11–12 months required in traditional programs. The paramedic to registered nurse program can be completed in 10 months compared to the traditional 2-year nursing program.

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The Lansing program is unique because it offers a free competency test to all applicants that addresses the gaps in each individual servicemember's training. No math or English placement scores are required. The competency test combines both hands-on active learning as well as a written 100-question portion and is uniquely tailored to each individual. Factors considered include: number of years served, number of deployments, and Joint Service Transcript (JST) or Community College of the Air Force credits. However, military students may be awarded additional credits beyond their military transcript recommendations if they can prove their skills on the competency test. Each student is assessed holistically and on a case-by-case basis. Everything from interpersonal skills to bedside manner to communication skills is taken into account. The current pass rate on the NREMT certification exam for LCC military medic to paramedic program graduates is 81%.

LCC offers a wide range of wrap-around veteran services. The Veterans Resource Center on campus offers help with housing, medical services, counseling, academic advising, military credits, and GI Bill® benefits. LCC plans a new state-of-the-art Veterans Resource Center as part of an upcoming downtown campus renovation project with work beginning in 2018. LCC is already among 28 Michigan colleges with a gold-level acknowledgment from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency as a veteran-friendly school. The college is also an institutional partner in the Michigan Veterans Education Initiative, which aims to serve between 30,000 and 50,000 veterans returning to the state in the next five years. LCC offers additional healthcare military crosswalk programs including radiology and surgical technology, and on a case-by-case basis.

For more information, visit bit.ly/MMedic2P. To view a video about the MM2P program, visit bit.ly/lcvideo.

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Joliet Junior College, Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse Program

Joliet, Illinois

PROGRAM	ELIGIBILITY	COST/TIME SAVINGS
 <p>PRACTICAL NURSE (Certificate)</p>	<p>HM Navy Hospital Corpsman</p> <p>4NoX1 Air Force Aerospace Medical Service</p>	<p>Time to completion: 8 weeks</p> <p>Estimated savings: 18 months</p>

Joliet’s Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse Program offers Navy hospital corpsmen (HM) and Air Force aerospace medical service technicians (4NoX1) who have completed the METC Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program the opportunity to earn a practical nurse certificate in 8 weeks. After finishing Joliet’s accelerated program, students may apply for licensure as a LPN after passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN.) Joliet Junior College was the first community college in Illinois to offer the practical nurse bridge program for military personnel, with the founding class starting in March 2015.

Graduates from the Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse Program can continue to Joliet’s LPN Transition to Registered Nurse Program. Prior learning options for the LPN to RN transition program include department challenge exams, Joint Service Transcript evaluations, DSST exams, and CLEP exams. If the student successfully finishes the Military Medic to Practical Nurse program (6 credits), completes the NCLEX-PN (state boards), and becomes a LPN, they are awarded 23 nursing credit hours (5 courses) towards the RN transition program, significantly shortening the traditional time to a degree.

Joliet Junior College offers short-term student housing for students enrolled in the Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse program. There are inclusive support services offered for military students at JCC, including a Veteran’s Resource Center, Veteran’s Advocate Program, and a Veterans Alliance Club. The Illinois Veteran’s Grant is also available to cover eligible expenses beyond the traditional GI Bill®.

For more information, visit bit.ly/mmcnp

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Herzing University, VET2RN Associate Degree Program

Madison, Wisconsin

PROGRAM	ELIGIBILITY	COST/TIME SAVINGS
 <p>REGISTERED NURSE (RN) (Associate Degree)</p>	<p>68W Army Healthcare Specialist HM Navy Hospital Corpsman 4NoX1 Air Force Aerospace Medical Service</p>	<p>Up to 8 months Program typically takes 20 months</p>

Herzing University, a private nonprofit institution, was founded by a Navy veteran and gives servicemembers preference in the application process. A grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs spurred the development of the Madison VET2RN program for Army, Navy, and Air Force medics. The VA reached out to Herzing to create a RN program where military medics could receive licensure credentials and be working in the field within a one-year timeframe. Herzing had a bridge program on its Florida campus for LPNs interested in becoming registered nurses and expanded the LPN/RN bridge program to integrate the skillsets of military medics.

The leaders of the 16-week VET2RN program collaborated with students in developing the curriculum and determining where the gaps were to assist with the military medics' transition into civilian life and into the program. A special transition to RN "gatekeeper" course is required to introduce military students to the scope of nursing care at the civilian RN level. Students must be successful in this course to continue on with the program.

Military medics enter the VET2RN program as advanced standing students at the one-year mark and may receive up to 20 transfer credits for their military experience.

Upon completion, students earn an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and are eligible to take the National Council Licensing Examination for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN). Additionally, after the first semester of the ADN program, students are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN for licensed practical nurses. The students in the VET2RN program consistently outperform other LPN transition students.

Herzing University offers an online and in-person military and veteran appreciation program to help provide students with the support they need. Prior learning credit options are accepted including CLEP and DSST exams, competency-based challenge examinations, and American Council on Education military credit recommendations. Advisors and support personnel are

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available via online chat. Student advisors serve as the single point-of-contact from start to finish of the academic program.

The university also offers military discounts such as Military Appreciation Grants in which undergraduate and graduate veterans and family members of active duty military may be eligible for up to a 10% discount off their semester tuition charges. Among the many financial incentives available, undergraduate active duty military students enrolled in both regular and specialty programs may be eligible for a scholarship reducing the cost of tuition to \$250/credit. Herzing recognizes the unpredictability of military students' lives, and there are no penalties for deployed students.

For more information, visit bit.ly/vetlpnrm.

Student Veteran Testimonials

Mission Connect: Blake



"It's a no brainer, because in this field there are so many jobs available."

Blake (32, U.S. Army, Active Duty) joined the U.S. Army two years after graduating from high school in Texas. He spent those interim two years, as he says, working minimum wage odd jobs, "getting into trouble" and searching for direction. He joined the Army because he wanted an opportunity to develop himself and do something better with his life.

Blake began his Army career as a combat medic 68W (also known as healthcare specialist) and worked in that role for six years. During his one-year deployment in Iraq, Blake explains that he treated Iraqi civilians and children who called him doctor because he "handed out a lot of aspirin and cough drops."

He received additional training at the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) in San Antonio to become a physical therapy specialist (68F). Blake received his physical therapy assistant (PTA) licensure in October 2015 after graduating from the Lake Superior College Military Bridge PTA Program in 2014. He is currently a physical therapy specialist with the U.S. Army and is planning to attend Baylor University's doctor of physical therapy program with an expected graduation date of Fall 2019.

He enjoys helping his patients heal in the calm physical therapy office work environment. Blake observes, "I appreciate where I am, knowing where I came from." He goes on to say that some medics find the transition to PT specialist challenging because the "tough guy has to become touchy feely."

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Lake Superior recognized his military training and experience as equivalent to college credit, accelerating his path to PTA licensure. The process of receiving credit for his military training and experience at Lake Superior was seamless and uncomplicated, and it allowed Blake to earn his licensure more quickly than he would have at the other PTA program he considered, which did not award credit for military training. Lake Superior's 20-credit online completion program awards 54 credits for military training and on-the-job experience.

Blake's Army leadership, training, and experiences enriches his work with colleagues, doctors, and patients. Lake Superior's PTA program provided Blake with additional tools for his toolkit, enhancing his ability to work with special populations, including stroke victims, dependent adults, and patients with cerebral palsy, ALS, and MS.

The online Lake Superior Military Bridge PTA Program is great for self-directed learners like Blake, and he definitely recommends the program to others with his military occupational specialty (MOS). "It's a no brainer, because in this field there are so many jobs available. There are licensed PTA jobs everywhere—part-time and weekends, special care facilities, etc. Plus, it's fun."

For more information on the Lake Superior Military Bridge PTA Program, visit bit.ly/mbpta.

Mission Connect: Jervaughn Miller



“It’s great to have a licensure that can translate to the civilian world after active duty.”

Jervaughn Miller (21, U.S. Navy Reserve) is originally from Jamaica and came to the U.S. after graduating high school in 2011. Jervaughn worked in a minimum wage retail position when, in search of direction, he decided to join the Navy. He explains that, “after moving to the States, I got somewhat lost in terms of what to do next. The Navy gave me that push.”

Jervaughn’s military occupation was hospital corpsman (HM), a role that he enjoys and excels in. Since returning from active duty, he has been working as a fraud specialist at a bank while pursuing his LPN at Joliet Junior College. During his transition, Jervaughn found it challenging to find employment and transfer his military training to the civilian sector. Luckily he found out about Joliet’s Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse Program. Joliet’s program was Jervaughn’s first venture into the United States educational system and he is using his Montgomery GI Bill® benefits to complete the program.

Jervaughn says that when his Leading Petty Officer told him about Joliet’s program he thought, “It’s as if the stars aligned.” Jervaughn had been looking at various programs and was disappointed that his military training as a hospital corpsman was not equivalent to college credit. Joliet’s program was a good fit for Jervaughn. His Navy training has helped in advanced nursing courses because he was already familiar with the material and just needed to “brush up on certain areas.” The fact that this program recognized his military training was essential in Jervaughn’s decision to attend Joliet. He enjoys the hands-on experience in Joliet’s clinical settings and has overcome some of his shyness through interaction with a diverse group of patients. Jervaughn explains that what he loves most about Joliet’s program are the instructors. “They are absolutely phenomenal.”

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Jervaughn would recommend Joliet's program to all eligible military personnel. "It's great to have a licensure that can translate to the civilian world after active duty." He encourages potential students to ensure that the healthcare field is the right fit for them before pursuing education. "Do it because you have passion for it," he explains. Jervaughn graduated from the Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse Program in December 2015 and completed the National Council Licensure Examination to receive his LPN.

For more information on Joliet's Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse Program, visit bit.ly/mmcnp.

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Mission Connect: Rachel Welter



"I was so happy to see that what corpsmen did was seen as relevant."

Rachel Welter (34, U.S. Navy, 2002–2008) grew up in Chicago and attended Saint Xavier University for a year immediately after graduating high school. She joined the Navy in 2002 and was a hospital corpsman (HM), treating both Navy and Marine Corps personnel. She was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, for her first three years and in Saginaw, Michigan, for her last three years. Rachel loved her job in the Navy and has wanted to be a nurse since she was a little girl.

After leaving the Navy, Rachel worked as a medical assistant from 2008–2010 while figuring out her plans for school. She explains that her college credits are “all over the place.” She had the St. Xavier credits as well as credits from community colleges in Florida and Michigan earned while she was in the Navy. Rachel was a stay-at-home mom when she found out about the Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse Program in 2015. She enrolled immediately using her Post 9/11 GI Bill® benefits.

Rachel was excited to find out about Joliet’s program because it was the first school she encountered that recognized her military credit in the academic civilian world. When she heard about the program, she was “so happy to see that what corpsmen did was seen as relevant.” She could “never understand why all the experience and skills we received while in the Navy wasn’t held up once we got out.”

Rachel definitely recommends Joliet’s medic to LPN program to other servicemembers. “It’s a wonderful stepping stone to either becoming an RN or starting your LPN career.” Rachel recently graduated and is currently studying for her boards for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses. After becoming a licensed practical nurse, she plans to go back to Joliet and finish her RN degree. For more information on the program, visit bit.ly/mmcpnp.

Mission Connect: Josh Campbell



Lansing
Community
College

“If a veteran wants to continue in healthcare, paramedicine is a fantastic option due a similar sense of camaraderie and ‘team’ that they may be accustomed to.”

Josh Campbell (34, Army Reservist) is a husband and father who lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He graduated from high school in 1999 and bounced from various unfulfilling, low paying jobs in retail, construction, trucking, and corrections until he was 21. He had always wanted to serve in the Army because he felt “drawn to contributing to something larger than myself.” He felt drawn towards being an EMT earlier in life, so the 68W healthcare specialist MOS was a natural fit.

Upon leaving active duty, he found work in the local emergency room as an ER tech, but he missed the camaraderie and “safety net” feeling of the military, so he moved from the Individual Ready Reserve to the Army Reserves, maintaining his 68W occupation.

Josh had always felt good about his work in healthcare, feeling it was a good way to give back to society, and his family and friends noticed how passionate he was when he talked about it. But Josh was impatient and he “wasn’t looking for a long, drawn-out program to eventually get me where I wanted to be. I wanted immediate gratification.”

A Google search for “army medic to paramedic” led Josh to the Lansing Community College (LCC) Military Medic to Paramedic program. “The accelerated nature of the courses, and the fact that I could once again use the Post 9/11 GI Bill®, my decision to attend LCC was made quickly, and without regret.” Lansing accepted 35 credit hours for Josh’s military training, and he also utilized CLEP exams to fast-track his degree program. The military transfer credit process at Lansing was relatively seamless, and Josh was able to complete the paramedic program in seven months compared to the traditional year-long program.

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Josh explains, “The LCC instructors are fantastic. Our classroom instructors were all experienced paramedics from the fire service, and had a wealth of knowledge and real-life scenarios to draw from. All of our skills and lab instructors were paramedics with instructor/coordinator certifications, who all work in either the fire service or in the nursing field. I would absolutely recommend the program to other former medics, with the only caveat being ‘stay flexible,’ which is something veterans are typically accustomed to.”

“If a veteran wants to continue in healthcare, paramedicine is a fantastic option due to a similar sense of camaraderie and ‘team’ that they may be accustomed to.” Josh graduated and passed the cognitive portion of the National Registry exam. He is hoping to work full time as a paramedic, then continue on to higher learning. “I’d really like to get in to higher levels of care.”

For more information, visit bit.ly/mmp2lcc.

STATE-BY-STATE RESOURCE GUIDE

Many resources are available to help make your transition from military to civilian life as smooth as possible. We have compiled this guide to the resources available on benefits, services, and special programs in each of the member states of the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC). In this guide, you will find hyperlinks to key agencies and initiatives in each state, as well as an index of college and university accelerated and bridge programs for students with military training and experience. All of the MCMC states are committed to the recognition of military learning for college credit; however different states are at different stages in the development of bridge and accelerated programs for veterans and servicemembers. This resource guide is not exhaustive; instead, it is meant to serve as a launching point as you begin exploring the opportunities available to you. We hope you find it to be useful!

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Please note: Military credit opportunities listed in the State-by-State Resource Guide do not guarantee automatic acceptance of credit; additional assessment may be required.

Illinois

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs site is the first point of information for veterans on benefits, scholarships, entrepreneurship, and educational information.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>illinois.gov/veterans/benefits/Pages/education.aspx This is the main education page of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. This page has contact information for veteran service officers and veteran coordinators at public universities and colleges as well as scholarship and state veteran grant information.</p>
<p>Additional online resources for veterans in the state</p>	<p>illinoisjoiningforces.org The Mission Illinois Joining Forces website offers information in one spot to help servicemembers and their families identify resources and services available throughout the state. Housing, healthcare, employment, education and entrepreneurship, disability, and benefit resources are provided.</p> <p>troopstoteachers.net/States/Illinois.aspx The Illinois Troops to Teachers site details the eligibility requirements, registration, and contact information for the Troops to Teachers program in Illinois.</p> <p>vethhealthcarejobs.org This site connects Chicago-area veterans who have military healthcare experience to educational opportunities and navigational specialists to pursue careers in the civilian healthcare sector.</p> <p>ides.illinois.gov/Pages/Veteran_Services.aspx This veteran focused Illinois Department of Employment Security website provides contact information for veteran employment specialists and lists of resources for employment searches.</p> <p>ides.illinois.gov/Pages/Illinois_Hires_Heroes.aspx This site lists employers who participate in the Illinois Hires Heroes Consortium, a group of Illinois employers who recognize the great value veterans bring to the workplace and operationalize the term veteran-friendly by committing to implement military veteran recruitment, training, and retention practices.</p> <p>isac.org/students/during-college/military.html Student veterans and servicemembers can access state and federal benefit information and other resources on paying for college at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission website.</p> <p>illinoishiringourheroes.jobs/jobs/ This is the direct link to the job search database for the Illinois Hiring our Heroes program.</p>

Fast Track!

Model accelerated programs for veterans in my state:

Illinois				
Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE CERTIFICATE				
HM Navy Hospital Corpsman		4NoX1 Air Force Aerospace Medical Service		
College of DuPage Glen Ellyn	<p><i>Navy and Air Force only</i> Completion of the METC basic medical technician corpsman program or at least one year of experience using corpsman skills within the last five years.</p> <p>This single six-credit course builds on skills servicemembers have already learned to fast track to a career as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). After completing this course, servicemembers will be awarded a certificate in practical nursing and be eligible to sit for the practical nurse licensing exam (NCLEX-PN).</p>	6 (Program length reduced from 42 credit hours to 6 credit hours)	36	<p>Jose Alferez alferezj@cod.edu (630) 942-3814 cod.edu/medic</p>
Illinois Central College East Peoria	<p><i>Navy and Air Force only</i> Completion of the METC basic medical technician corpsman program within the last five years. If more than five years, at least one year of experience using corpsman skills in the last five years.</p> <p>This is an intense eight-week program designed for Navy and Air Force veterans who have completed the METC basic medical technician corpsman program and seek to earn a practical nurse certificate.</p>	6 (Program length reduced from 42 credit hours to 6 credit hours)	36	<p>Marie Marcotte Marie.Marcotte@icc.edu (309) 694-5565 icc.edu/admissions/veteran-information/medical-corpsman-to-practical-nurse-certificate-program</p>



Illinois				
Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE CERTIFICATE				
HM Navy Hospital Corpsman		4NoX1 Air Force Aerospace Medical Service		
Joliet Junior College Joliet	<p><i>Navy and Air Force only</i> Completion of the METC basic medical technician corpsman program within the last five years. If more than five years, at least one year of experience using corpsman skills in last five years.</p> <p>This is an intense eight-week program designed for Navy and Air Force Veterans who have completed the METC basic medical technician corpsman program and seek to earn a practical nurse certificate.</p>	6 (Program length reduced from 42 credit hours to 6 credit hours)	36	<p>Debbie Fitzgerald dfitzger@jjc.edu (815)280-2857 jjc.edu/nursing/Pages/Military-Medical-Corpsman-to-Practical-Nurse-Program.aspx</p>
PROGRAM: LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE				
Southwestern Illinois College Belleville <i>Police Academy Intern Program</i>	<p>All Illinois resident veterans with an interest in a career in law enforcement.</p> <p>Servicemembers attend a basic law enforcement training academy (400-hour program) and, upon passing the state certification examination, will receive Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) State Certification. Upon successful completion of the 10-week program, the student will earn 20.5 hours of college credit that may be applied to Southwestern Illinois College's Administration of Justice AAS degree.</p>	AOJ AAS degree: 65	20.5	<p>Van Muschler van.muschler@swic.edu (618)235-2700, ext. 5396 or ext. 5265 swicpa.com/veteran.htm</p>



Illinois		
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Contact Information
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES		
Municipal Police and Firefighters	The educational requirements of an Associate's Degree needed to be hired as a firefighter or police officer are waived if (1) applicant served honorably for 24 months of active duty or (2) the applicant served 180 days in combat. The educational requirements of a Bachelor's Degree needed to be hired as a firefighter or police officer are waived if (1) applicant served honorably for 36 months of active duty or (2) the applicant served 180 days in combat.	illinois.gov/veterans/programs/Pages/StateLicensesMilitaryTraining.aspx
Illinois State Police and the Illinois Conservation Police	Collegiate educational hiring requirements are waived for persons who have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces, or are active members of the Illinois National Guard or a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces and while serving honorably during active duty deployment received the Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.	illinois.gov/veterans/programs/Pages/StateLicensesMilitaryTraining.aspx
Commercial Driver's License	The Commercial Driver License (CDL) skills test waiver form may be used by servicemembers who are currently licensed and who are or were employed within the past year (12 months) in a military position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle equivalent to a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV). This waiver allows a qualified servicemember to apply for a CDL without skills testing.	fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/commercial-drivers-license/application-military-skills-test-waiver

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Indiana

General information for veterans	in.gov/dva The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs website provides information on employment, education, and other related benefits.
Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans	in.gov/dva Use the State Approving Agency tab on left hand side. The State Approving Agency (SAA) provides information on employers, schools, and approved education programs for the GI Bill®.
Additional online resources for veterans in the state	ojrv.org Operation: Job Ready Veterans prepares servicemembers and their families for successful employment by connecting them with employers. in.gov/dva/2696.htm This Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs site lists veteran specific job opportunities. troopstoteachers.net/States/Indiana.aspx provides contact information for Indiana's Troops to Teachers program representative.

Fast Track!

Model accelerated programs for veterans in my state:

Indiana				
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
Ivy Tech Community College Valparaiso	Detailed crosswalk indicates specific course credit awarded for specific military training: ivytech.edu/files/Military-Crosswalk.pdf	Refer to Crosswalk	Refer to Crosswalk	Laura Vest (317)916-7891 lvest2@ivytech.edu
Vincennes University Vincennes Business Management Associate of Science	Coast Guard Food Service Coast Guard Storekeeper Coast Guard Yeoman	60 60 60	5-11 5-11 11	Matthew Schwartz mschwartz@vinu.edu (800) 468-7480 vinu.edu/web/military
Business Studies Associate of Science	Army Recruiters Navy Aviation Maintenance Navy Personnel Specialist Navy Storekeeper Navy Yeoman Coast Guard Food Service Coast Guard Storekeeper Coast Guard Yeoman	60 60 60 60 60 60 60	23-32 5-29 8-35 5-24 5-26 12-27 12-33 12-33	
Electronics Technology Associate of Science	Navy Electronics Technician	60	9-20	



Indiana

Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
Vincennes University (cont.)				Matthew Schwartz mschwartz@vinu.edu (800) 468-7480 vinu.edu/web/military
Electronics Technology Associate of Science	Navy Sonar Technician (Submarine)	60	2-11	
Emergency Medical Services Associate of Science	Military medics	62	13-16	
Funeral Service Education Associate of Science	Mortuary affairs specialist	67	3-11	
Health Information Management Associate of Science	Patient administration specialists	60	1-11	
Law Enforcement Studies Associate of Science	Navy Master-at-Arms	60	3-21	
	Coast Guard Maritime	60	15-18	
	Marine Corps Military Police	60	27	
LPN to RN Associate of Science	Military medics	67	19-27	
Medic (non LPN) to RN Associate of Science	Military medics	67	11-14	
Pharmacy Technician Associate of Science	Army pharmacy specialists	60	4-10	
	Class C Navy hospital corpsman	60	28-31	
Supply Chain Logistics Associate of Science	Army Supply Specialist	60	3-21	
Technology Apprenticeship Associate of Science	Coast Guard Electronics Tech (USMAP)	60	38-41	

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Iowa

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>va.iowa.gov The Department of Veterans Affairs website provides information on benefits and services including healthcare, education, specialized programs and resources, and employment.</p> <p>homebaseiowa.gov Home Base Iowa is a one-stop shop that connects military veterans and servicemembers to jobs, apprenticeships, community groups and calendars, education, and resources, including a comprehensive guide for veterans and their spouses for federal, state, and local veteran programs and benefits in the state of Iowa.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>homebaseiowa.gov/sites/homebaseiowa.gov/files/document_uploads/VetBook2015.pdf The Vet Book has a detailed section on education and training benefits including GI Bill® information, financial aid entitlements, vocational rehabilitation, VA work-study, apprenticeships, Helmets to Hardhats, and Troops to Teachers.</p> <p>educateiowa.gov/adult-career-and-community-college/veterans-military-education The Iowa Department of Education site has information about the state authorizing agency for GI Bill® benefit programs, including a directory of certifying officials and information on educational assistance for military children.</p>
<p>Additional online resources for veterans in the state</p>	<p>va.iowa.gov/benefits This page provides contact information for Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs benefit specialists who advise veterans and family members concerning federal VA benefits they may be entitled to receive. Information about the Injured Veterans Grant, homeownership assistance, property tax exemption, and lifetime hunting and fishing licenses is explained, as well as other benefits and entitlements.</p> <p>iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/veteran-employment-services The Iowa Workforce Development Veteran Employment Services site connects servicemembers to veteran representatives who assist with job searches, interviewing and resume writing skills, and locating programs that provide priority of service to veterans.</p> <p>va.iowa.gov/education-employment The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs Education and Employment webpage lists relevant links on one page.</p>

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Kansas

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>kcva.ks.gov/kanvet/ KanVet provides direct access to State of Kansas veteran-specific resources and benefits, including employment, education, and support services, without having to navigate multiple state agency websites.</p> <p>kcva.ks.gov/ The Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office website provides information on news and events, veterans services offices, and state and federal benefits. This site links directly to KanVet.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>kansasregents.org/students/military has information on Kansas colleges and universities, including direct links to veterans resources at each specific institution. Information on financial aid, residency, and higher education and training programs is also provided.</p> <p>kcva.ks.gov/kanvet/education-resources provides a comprehensive listing of educational programs and assistance, including scholarships, national guard benefits, and training opportunities offered by the Kansas Small Business Development Center.</p>
<p>Additional online resources for veterans in the state</p>	<p>workforce-ks.com/services_type/veteran-services/ connects veterans to veterans employment specialists who provide information about jobs, education and training opportunities, and employment trends. A list of relevant websites focusing on employment is provided on the homepage.</p> <p>kansastag.gov/NGUARD.asp?PageID=491 provides Kansas National Guard Education Services Office contact information.</p>
<p>Central source of information on credit for prior learning (CPL) or prior learning assessment (PLA)</p>	<p>kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/credit_for_prior_learning outlines Kansas’s state policy on credit for prior learning. A link to the Kansas Credit for Prior Learning Handbook is included as well as state survey data.</p> <p>kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/transfer-articulation lists the System Wide Transfer courses, when completed at any of Kansas public university, community college, or technical college will transfer as equivalent to any other public institution in Kansas.</p>

Fast Track!

Model accelerated programs for veterans in my state:

Kansas			
Institution	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
<p>PROGRAM: AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE/CERTIFICATE</p> <p>91B Army Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic</p> <p>(Requires successful completion of ASE testing for Electrical 1, Brakes 1, and Steering and Suspension 1)</p>			
Barton Community College Great Bend	AAS: 67 Certificates vary from 24-52	9	Ron Kirmer kirmerr@bartonccc.edu (620) 792-2701 or Mary Foley foleym@bartonccc.edu (620) 792-9278 bartonccc.edu/careerprograms/autotech
Butler Community College El Dorado	AAS: 66 Certificate: 39	9	Mark Jaye mjaye1@butlercc.edu (316) 322-3257 butlercc.edu/info/200155/auto-technology
Cowley College Arkansas City	AAS: 66 Certificate: 51	6	military@cowley.edu cowley.edu/departments/it/automotive/
Dodge City Community College Dodge City	AAS: 62 Certificate: 32	9	dc3.edu/prospective-students/admissions/request-a-contact Jeffrey Cole jcole@dc3.edu (620) 227-9439 dc3.edu/academics/educational-programs/automobile-mechanics-technology

Kansas

Institution	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE/CERTIFICATE 91B Army Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic (Requires successful completion of ASE testing for Electrical 1, Brakes 1, and Steering and Suspension 1)			
Hutchinson Community College Hutchinson	AAS: 64 Certificate: 34	9	Jacob Dreiling dreiling.jacob@usd308.com (620) 665-3500 hutchcc.edu/academics/ag-business-computers-and-technology/auto-mechanics-technology
Johnson County Community College Overland Park	AAS: 67 Certificate: 26	9	Richard Fort rfort@jccc.edu (913) 469-8500 x 4441 jccc.edu/academics/transportation/automotive/veteranservices@jccc.edu jccc.edu/admissions/veterans
Kansas City Kansas Community College Kansas City	51	6	Robert McGowan rmcgowan@kckcc.edu John Hattok jhattok@kckcc.edu Mike Wichtendahl mwichtendahl@kckcc.edu (913) 334-1100 kckcc.edu/programs/degrees-certificates/technical-certificates/automotive-technology
Salina Area Technical College Salina	AAS: 67 Certificate: 52	9	Admissions@salinatech.edu salinatech.edu/auto-tech.html

Kansas

Institution	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE/CERTIFICATE			
91B Army Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic (Requires successful completion of ASE testing for Electrical 1, Brakes 1, and Steering and Suspension 1)			
Seward County Community College Liberal	AAS: 64 Certificate: 48	9	admissions@sccc.edu sccc.edu/academics/divisions/technical_school/Auto_Mech_Tech/docs/AutoTechbrochure.pdf
Washburn Institute of Technology Topeka	AAS: 71 Certificate: 52	9	Michael Clouser michael.clouser@washburn.edu 785-228-6432
PROGRAM: CRIMINAL JUSTICE / HOMELAND SECURITY ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE			
31B Army Military Police			
Barton Community College Great Bend	AA:64 AAS:67 Certificate: 46	9	Jane Howard howardj@bartonccc.edu 620-792-9208 Melissa Stevens stevensm@bartonccc.edu (620) 792-9299 bartonccc.edu/careerprograms/criminaljustice
Butler Community College El Dorado	AA: 62 AS: 62	12	Miles Erpelding merpeldi@butlercc.edu (316) 322-3241 butlercc.edu/info/200132/criminal-justice--and--homeland-security/197/about-criminal-justice--and--homeland-security

Kansas

Institution	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: CRIMINAL JUSTICE / HOMELAND SECURITY ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE			
31B Army Military Police			
Cowley College Arkansas City	AA: 66 AAS: 68 Certificate: 55	12-21	military@cowley.edu cowley.edu/departments/hhs/criminal_justice/index.html
Garden City Community College Garden City	AS: 64 AAS:67 Certificate: 55	Up to 12	Brandy Unruh brandy.unruh@gcccks.edu (620) 276-9503
Labette Community College Parsons	AS: 62	10-16	Jason Sharp jasons@labette.edu
Seward County Community College Liberal	AS: 64 AAS: 64	20	admissions@sccc.edu
Wichita State University Wichita	Bachelor of Science: 124	9-24	military@wichita.edu Kristin Brewer kristin.brewer@wichita.edu
PROGRAM: CULINARY ARTS ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE OR CERTIFICATE			
92G Army Food Service Specialist			
Butler Community College El Dorado	AAS: 62	12-15	Tiffani Price tprice@butlercc.edu (316) 218-6236 butlercc.edu/info/201122/hospitality-and-culinary-arts/100/about-culinary-arts

Kansas

Institution	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: CULINARY ARTS ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE OR CERTIFICATE			
92G Army Food Service Specialist			
Flint Hills Technical College Emporia	AAS: 66-67 Certificate: 34	18	Brian Romano bromano@fhctc.edu (620) 341-1333
Garden City Community College Garden City	AAS: 67 Certificate: 34	12-15	Jacob Huth jacob.huth@gcccks.edu (620) 276-9572
Johnson County Community College Overland Park	AAS: 75	6-26	Ona Ashley oashely@jccc.edu (913) 469-8500
Kansas City Kansas Community College Kansas City	Certificate: 40	18	Cheryl Runnebaum crunnebaum@kckcc.edu (913) 334-1100 kckcc.edu/programs/degrees-certificates/technical-certificates/culinary-arts
PROGRAM: DIESEL TECHNOLOGY, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE OR CERTIFICATE			
91B Army Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic			
Hutchinson Community College Hutchinson	AAS: 68 Certificate: 38	12	Janet Hamilton hamiltonj@hutchcc.edu (620) 665-3384 hutchcc.edu/ag-diesel

Kansas

Institution	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: DIESEL TECHNOLOGY, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE OR CERTIFICATE			
91B Army Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic			
North Central Kansas Technical College Beloit	AAS: 68	17-19	Mark Rathbun mrathbun@ncktc.edu (785) 738-9088 ncktc.edu/programs/diesel-technology/
Northwest Kansas Technical College Goodland	AAS: 60 Certificate: 45	17-19	Oura Garrett oura.garrett@nwktc.edu (785) 890-1547
Seward County Community College Liberal	AAS: 64 Certificate: 48	30	admissions@sccc.edu sccc.edu/academics/divisions/industrial_technology/Diesel_Technology/documents/NewDieselBrochure.pdf
Washburn Institute of Technology Topeka	Certificate: 48	17-19	Jay Thowe jay.thowe@washburn.edu (785) 273-7140 washburntech.edu/career-programs/transportation/diesel-mechanical-training.html
PROGRAM: POWER PLANT TECHNOLOGY, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE			
12P Prime Power Production Specialist			
Flint Hills Technical College Emporia	62-63	17	Steve Loewen sloewen@fhctc.edu fhctc.edu/web/majors/details/ppt

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Kentucky

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>veterans.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs website provides information on benefits and services, including healthcare, education, specialized programs, and employment.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>kctcs.edu/en/System_Initiativess/Veterans_Affairs.aspx The Kentucky Approving Agency for Veterans Education has a mission to afford veterans and other eligible persons the opportunity to improve their quality of life and employability through the use of quality education and training programs approved for use with their GI Bill® education benefits.</p> <p>veterans.ky.gov/Benefits/Pages/education.aspx This link provides contact information for the veterans' benefits field representative in each county, links to veteran resource centers, and Student Veterans of America chapters at Kentucky universities.</p> <p>kheaa.com/website/kheaa/military?main=7 The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority provides information on federal and state government resources, benefits for spouses and dependents, and a listing of veterans program contacts at Kentucky universities.</p>
<p>Additional online resources for veterans in the state</p>	<p>kentuckycareercenter.ky.gov/veterans/default.aspx This one-stop shop provides a variety of employment resources, including the Kentucky Jobs for Veterans map, the database of veteran owned businesses, and contact information for statewide program staff.</p> <p>keepvets.org KEEP Vets is a collaborative effort between Kentucky employers and educational institutions to connect veterans with education and employment opportunities, including internships and co-operative education programs.</p>
<p>Central source of information on credit for prior learning (CPL) or prior learning assessment (PLA)</p>	<p>kctcs.edu/en/priorlearning/Standards_for_Awarding_Credit.aspx This page explains the requirements for using credit for prior learning for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System including military credit, portfolios, CLEP, and DSST exams.</p>

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Michigan

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>michiganveterans.com/ The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency website provides transition assistance and information on benefits and services, including healthcare, education, and employment.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>mitalent.org/michigan-state-approving-agency The Michigan State Approving Agency website provides a list of GI Bill® approved schools and training facilities.</p> <p>global.cmich.edu/cmve/Resources.aspx The Consortium of Michigan Veterans Educators site provides resources for current and prospective students, including community college and university veteran service contacts; GI Bill®, FAFSA, and scholarship information; as well as information about career searches and local, state, and national veteran and military support services.</p> <p>michigan.gov/mistudentaid/0,4636,7-128-60969_61016-274566--,00.html This website provides information on the Children of Veterans Tuition Grant.</p> <p>michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2360_68898--,00.html The Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs website has details on the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program.</p>
<p>Additional online resources for veterans in the state</p>	<p>michiganveterans.com/Home/Educator-Summary/Become-a-Veteran-Friendly-Campus This page explains the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) Veteran-Friendly School program to help veterans determine which academic institutions of higher learning are committed to supporting their needs by being veteran-friendly and providing veteran resource representatives to help them navigate financial aid and other topics. The program awards Gold-, Silver- and Bronze-level status to institutions that offer veteran-centric services and programs. There are currently 57 participating Michigan institutions.</p> <p>michiganveterans.com/Home/Education-Summary/In-State-Tuition-for-Veterans/Michigan-Veteran-Education-Initiative This page shares more about the Michigan Veteran Education Initiative (MVEI), a partnership between MVAA and the Michigan College Access Network, that places veteran resource representatives (VRRs) on college campuses throughout the state to help student veterans succeed as they pursue education. Through the MVEI, VRRs provide outreach and assistance during the transition from the military to college life. VRRs are assigned to 15 campuses across the state. These individuals are trained to provide support and answer questions from veterans, faculty and staff about admissions, financial aid and other topics.</p> <p>michigan.gov/mcoles/0,4607,7-229--292550--,00.html Military Police Basic Training Program – MCOLES (MI Commission on Law Enforcement Standards) is a special training program for military police veterans interested in transitioning to civilian policing. Kirtland Community College and Grand Valley State University both participate in this program.</p> <p>Michigan Troops to Teachers program assists eligible military personnel in transitioning to a new career as classroom teachers in K–12 public schools. More information at michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683_14795_49673-36797--,00.html or troopstoteachers.net/States/Michigan.aspx.</p>

VALUING MILITARY LEARNING

Additional online resources for veterans in the state

michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9623_38029_61350---,00.html Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Wounded Veterans Internship Program assists wounded veterans in their transition to the civilian workforce.

canr.msu.edu/institute_of_ag_tech/vets_to_ag The Vets to Ag program is an innovative residential training program for U.S. military veterans to work in a variety of food, agricultural, and natural resources businesses. Training is coordinated by Michigan State University; was developed in partnership with the Veterans Services Division of the Michigan Workforce Development Agency; and is supported by local Michigan Works! Agencies, state and local veterans services organizations, and shelters that serve homeless veterans.

<http://www.mitalent.org/veteran> The veteran-specific Talent Connect site provides information on veterans employment services, including job search tools and contact information for disabled veterans outreach program specialists.

michiganveterans.com/Home/Employment-Summary This is the subpage for the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency that has resources on employment, including job searches and tools, licensing and credentialing, and entrepreneurship.

michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-10573_68470---,00.html On the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs webpage, there is information on benefits related to professional and trade licensing, workplace safety and health, and utilities for veterans.

michiganveterans.com/Home/Michigan-VCATs This page has details and contact information for Veterans Community Action Teams (VCATs) – federal, state, local, and faith-based organizations that support veterans in the communities where they live and work. VCATs focus on identifying solutions for gaps in veteran services, reducing duplication of efforts and simplifying connections with local resources.

Fast Track!

Model accelerated programs for veterans in my state:

Michigan				
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: VETERANS BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING MILITARY MEDICS				
68W Healthcare Specialist		HM Navy Hospital Corpsman		4NoX1 Air Force Aerospace Medical Service
Davenport University Grand Rapids	For paramedic level certified medical military equivalent to LPN training, Army 68W healthcare specialist levels 10 and 20, and Navy HM hospital corpsman	120-122	Depends on individual evaluation	Shawn Ellis sellis21@davenport.edu (734) 943-2807 davenport.edu/college-health-professions/programs-and-degrees/veterans-bachelor-science-nursing
University of Michigan-Flint		120	Depends on individual evaluation	Beverly Jones jonesb@umflint.edu (810) 762-0605 umflint.edu/nursing/veterans-bsn
Wayne State University Detroit		126	Depends on individual evaluation; Students with military healthcare experience can potentially test out of 2 nursing courses	Sandra Oliver-McNeil Ab0224@wayne.edu (313) 577-0053 nursing.wayne.edu/bsn-veterans

VALUING MILITARY LEARNING

Michigan				
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: PARAMEDIC/NURSING CERTIFICATE OR ASSOCIATE DEGREE				
68W Healthcare Specialist		HM Navy Hospital Corpsman		4NoX1 Air Force Aerospace Medical Service
Lansing Community College Lansing	Military medics: Army 68W healthcare specialist, Navy NER-004 HM hospital corpsman, and Air Force 4NoX1 aerospace medical service	Paramedic Certificate: 36 EMS Associate Degree: 67 Paramedic to Nurse Program: 72	Depends on individual evaluation Students can earn a Paramedic Certificate of Achievement in 28 weeks, a time savings of 4-5 months.	Nancy Hayward haywardn@lcc.edu (517) 483-1418 Michael Welch b5welchm@star.lcc.edu (517) 483-9619 lcc.edu/hhs/programs/military
PROGRAM: RADIOLOGY TECH ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE				
Lansing Community College Lansing	Program details not yet available			Nancy Hayward haywardn@lcc.edu (517) 483-1418
PROGRAM: CERTIFIED SURGICAL TECH EXAM REVIEW				
Lansing Community College Lansing	Program details not yet available			Nancy Hayward haywardn@lcc.edu (517) 483-1418

Michigan				
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: MILITARY POLICE BASIC TRAINING				
31B Army Military Police		5811 MCE Marine Corps Military Police		
Grand Valley State University Allendale	Military police with 2,080 hours in MOS in last five years. Students will complete Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) and successfully pass a mastery exam administered by MCOLES in 7 weeks.	N/A		Williamson N. Wallace, III wallacew@gvsu.edu (616) 331-8515 gvsu.edu/cj/policeacademy/military-police-basic-training-program-2015-38.htm
Kirtland Community College Roscommon	Students will complete Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) and successfully pass a mastery exam administered by MCOLES in 7 weeks.	N/A		Tammy Mendyk Tammy.mendyk@kirtland.edu (989) 275-5000 ext. 284 catalog.kirtland.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=1&po_id=44&returnto=12
PROGRAM: PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION TRAINING FOR VETERANS				
Henry Ford College Dearborn	A developing partnership with the Ann Arbor VA Hospital to create pathways for students to complete program laboratory requirements at the VA facility leading to placement in certified pharmacy tech positions.	40	Depends on individual evaluation	Theresa Mozug tmozug@hfcc.edu (313) 317-6548 hfcc.edu/catalog/programs/2670
Washtenaw Community College Ann Arbor	A developing partnership with the Ann Arbor VA Hospital to create pathways for students to complete program laboratory requirements at the VA facility leading to placement in certified pharmacy tech positions.	31-34	Depends on individual evaluation	Kiela M. Samuels ksamuels@wccnet.edu (734) 477-8526 wccnet.edu/academics/programs/view/program/CTPHAR

Michigan				
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
PROGRAM: VETERANS' CYBERSECURITY RETRAINING				
Wayne County Community College Detroit	Developed in partnership with the VA, Merit Network, the Michigan Cyber Range, and Mile2, the 12-week District Cyber Defender program offers training in detection and reaction skills critical to cybersecurity and is aimed at placing veterans in this high-demand field.	N/A	N/A	James Robinson jrobins6@wccd.edu (313) 496-2704 wccd.edu/students/pp_veterans.htm Merit Network (734) 527-5790
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES				
Global Information Technology	Information Technology training course that will enable veterans to obtain a certification as a Certified Ethical Hacker, Cisco Certified Network Associate, Certified Information Systems Security Professional, and in COMP TIA Security+.	N/A	N/A	VA Certified Career Counselor at Global Information Technology (248) 557-2480 oaklandcountyprosper.com/innovationnews/globalitlaunchesveteransinformationsecurityinitiative.aspx

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Minnesota

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>mnsccu.edu/military/index.html is the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities page for resources for veterans and servicemembers. This one-stop-shop site has information on military credit transfer, education benefits, career and life planning, admissions checklists, and direct contact information for all Minnesota colleges and universities.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>MyMilitaryEducation.org is the main page for the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs with information about health and disability, employment, and state and federal resources, as well as information about scholarships and education benefits. Live chat is available, as is contact information for the Higher Education Veterans Program Regional Coordinators located on college campuses.</p>
<p>Additional online resources for veterans in the state</p>	<p>mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/veteran-services/ This site connects servicemembers to a variety of employment services, including information on job searches, online job databases, career events, and veteran employment representatives.</p> <p>MyMilitary GPS LifePlan is an interactive website that helps veterans, servicemembers, and their families set goals and design plans for transitioning to the civilian world. Students can utilize a GPS LifePlan tool and ePortfolio for assistance with career, education, financial, leadership, and personal goals.</p>
<p>Central source of information on credit for prior learning (CPL) or prior learning assessment (PLA)</p>	<p>Veterans Education Transfer System (VETS) This site allows servicemembers to enter in their military branch, occupation, and skill level to see how their military experience matches with specific college academic programs.</p>

Fast Track!

Model accelerated programs for veterans in my state:

Minnesota				
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
<p>Law Enforcement Career Transition Diploma Alexandria Technical and Community College Alexandria</p>	<p>Four years cumulative service experience in a military law enforcement occupational specialty. Two years cumulative service experience in a military law enforcement occupation specialty and completion of a two-year or more degree from a regionally accredited postsecondary education institution.</p> <p>Four years cumulative experience as a full-time peace officer in another state combined with cumulative service experience in a military law enforcement occupational specialty.</p> <p>This is an accelerated 26-week onsite program; online program is flexible.</p>	35	Depends on individual evaluation	<p>Scott Berger scottb@alextech.edu (320) 762-4475</p> <p>alextech.edu/programs/law-enforcement-career-transition</p>

Minnesota

Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
Practical Nursing Military Medic Diploma Lake Superior College Duluth	Military medics: Army 68W healthcare specialist, Navy NER-004 HM hospital corpsman, and Air Force 4N0X1 aerospace medical service	54	14	Deb Amys d.amys@lsc.edu (218) 733-7696 degrees.lsc.edu/wp-content/uploads/practical-nursing-pn-military-medic-diploma-guide-fall-2016.pdf
Physical Therapy Assistant Associate of Applied Science Lake Superior College Duluth	Servicemembers who have completed Phase 1 and 2 of the physical therapy assistant program METC at Joint Base San Antonio.	74	54	Jane Worley j.worley@lsc.edu (218) 733-7632 lsc.edu/military-bridge-pta-program-aas-degree/
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES				
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Veterans Education Transfer System (VETS)	More than 25,000 military occupations have been evaluated by 31 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. VETS allows veterans and servicemembers to enter their military branch, occupation, and skill level to see how their military occupation can apply to academic credit at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institutions.	Varies	Varies	mnscu.edu/college-search/public/military

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Missouri

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>mvc.dps.mo.gov This website provides general information regarding services for veterans in the state of Missouri as well as contact information for local veterans service officers (VSO). VSOs provide counseling and assistance to veterans and their dependents on available VA and state veterans benefits and complete and submit claims applications with all necessary documentation.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>dhe.mo.gov/ppc/veteransed.php This site details state-specific veteran education benefits for servicemembers and surviving family members, including the Missouri Returning Heroes' Act.</p> <p>dese.mo.gov/adult-learning-rehabilitation-services/veterans-education This one-stop shop website has information on all educational benefits for veterans including the Post 9/11 GI Bill®, Troops to Teachers, licensure and certification tests benefits, and contact information for Veterans Education and Training staff members in Jefferson City, Kansas City, and St. Louis.</p>
<p>Additional online resources for veterans in the state</p>	<p>Showmeheroes.mo.gov This website connects veterans and servicemembers to employers who have pledged to hire and recruit military men and women, including spouses, for available positions. There is an interactive employer map showing current job openings and servicemembers can sort relevant jobs by their military job title or code.</p>
<p>Central source of information on credit for prior learning (CPL) or prior learning assessment (PLA)</p>	<p>dhe.mo.gov/policies/documents/PolicyforAwardingEducationalCreditforMilitaryTrainingorService.pdf This is the general policy stating that colleges and universities in Missouri must recognize military training for academic credit. Students will always need to check with the academic advisors at their specific school for information specific to that institution.</p>

Fast Track!

Model accelerated programs for veterans in my state:

Missouri

Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
<p>Nursing Associate of Science Mercy College of Nursing Springfield</p>	Military medics: Army 68W healthcare specialist, Navy NER-004 HM hospital corpsman, and Air Force 4N0X1 aerospace medical service	72	Depends on individual evaluation; up to 18 credits awarded	Amy Jones Amy.jones@mercy.net (417) 820-2069 sbuniv.edu/academics/programs/nursing-associate.php

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Nebraska

General information for veterans	veterans.nebraska.gov/ has information on benefits and services for military servicemembers and their families including employment, fallen soldiers, self-help, and outreach.
Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans	education.ne.gov/PPCS/ The Nebraska Department of Education site has information on apprenticeships and on-the-job training, including information regarding reimbursement for licensure and certification tests. ccpe.nebraska.gov/multi-state-collaborative-military-credit On the left there is a list of colleges and universities with links to the main veteran/military services page at each institution.
Additional online resources for veterans in the state	ncta.unl.edu/specialty-programs-ncta-curtis Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots is a University of Nebraska - Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) program designed to assist eligible military personnel, their families, and armed forces veterans to become farmers, ranchers, and business entrepreneurs in their next careers.

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North Dakota

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>nd.gov/veterans is a comprehensive resource directory to assist veterans, servicemembers, and their dependents with questions about healthcare, employment, financial assistance, and education. Relevant VA and legislative changes are updated regularly.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>nd.gov/veterans/benefits/state-approving-agency is the primary information site for education benefits and includes information on the GI Bill®, scholarships, on-the-job and apprenticeship trainings, and vocational rehabilitation. A directory of ND state certifying officials and campus veteran centers is provided.</p> <p>ndus.edu/students/military-veterans-families This site connects military servicemembers, veterans, and their families to information about North Dakota colleges and universities. General information about applying for colleges, transferring credits, and credit-by-exam is provided, as well as information on the GI Bill®, National Guard Benefits, Dependents' Educational Assistance, and VA school certifying officials.</p>
<p>Additional online resources for veterans in the state</p>	<p>jobsnd.com/individuals/veterans provides information on job services including the veterans employment team that guides veterans in job searching, resume writing, and translating military skills and experience into the civilian workforce.</p> <p>findthegoodlifeinnorthdakota.com/military/ This military specific portal for North Dakota State Government lists relevant websites for military related resources in one centralized spot.</p>
<p>Central source of information on credit for prior learning (CPL) or prior learning assessment (PLA)</p>	<p>ndus.edu/makers/procedures/sbhe/default.asp?PID=85&SID=5 This is the policy page regarding transfer credit, including military credit, for the North Dakota University System.</p>

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Ohio

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>dvs.ohio.gov/HOME/Veterans_Benefits Primary information source for jobs, education, benefits, Ohio Veterans Bonus, and local veterans offices.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>ohiohighered.org provides information on education opportunities for veterans and servicemembers, including military credit, veteran services on Ohio college campuses, financial aid, and scholarships.</p> <p>transfercredit.ohio.gov/pg_35?0::NO:35 provides information about Military Transfer Assurance Guides (MTAGs), a statewide guarantee that military training, experience, and/or coursework that aligns to existing college and university courses will be awarded appropriate and transferable credit at all public institutions. Once a military course is approved as an “MTAG” it is transferable and applicable amongst all the public institutions.</p>
<p>Additional online resources for veterans in the state</p>	<p>dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS_EDUCATION/Troops_to_Teachers is the home page for the Ohio Troops to Teachers program and provides contact information and an overview of program eligibility.</p> <p>omj.ohio.gov/Veterans/index.stm This site contains a tool to assist veterans in mapping a pathway to earn a license or certificate required for a civilian occupation in Ohio based on their military occupation code or specialty.</p> <p>homefront.ohio.gov/HOME.aspx This is the homepage for the Ohio Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC). The purpose of the ISFAC is to connect the military community with national, state, regional, and community resources, as well as volunteer support opportunities. The website provides a calendar with information on a variety of events, including free legal clinics for veterans, job and career fairs, military discount nights, and fundraisers.</p>

VALUING MILITARY LEARNING

Central source of information on credit for prior learning (CPL) or prior learning assessment (PLA)

ohiohighered.org/PLA explains Ohio's prior learning assessment and college completion agenda: PLA with a Purpose.

ohiohighered.org/ohio_values_veterans/toolkit/awarding-credit provides background information about military credit transfer guidelines including American Council on Education recommendations, CLEP, and DSST credits.

ohiohighered.org/ohio_values_veterans is an overview of Ohio's state policy on credentialing and academic credit for military training and experience. A link to state-level evaluations of military trainings is provided.

Ohio law required the licensure and certification boards to create pathways for military members. Each board has its own respective webpage and information about how veterans can be expedited through the process. The webpage is omj.ohio.gov/Veterans/index.stm and then click on "MOS/MOC to State Issued License and Certification Tool."

Fast Track!

Model accelerated programs for veterans in my state:

Ohio				
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Wright State University Dayton	Veterans and active duty personnel who have completed training as a medic or corpsman.	123-126	Depends on individual evaluation	Sherrill Smith Sherrill.smith@wright.edu (937)775-2665 nursing.wright.edu/audience/veteran
Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership and Liberal Studies Wright State University Dayton	Veteran and military students	Liberal Studies: 124 Organizational Leadership: 120	Depends on individual evaluation	Carl Brun Carl.Brun@wright.edu (937)775-2155 OR Charles Long Charles.Long@wright.edu (937)775-5020 wright.edu/transfer/academics/veteran-and-military-articulation-transfer-programs
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES				
All Ohio Public Institutions (Over 100 pathways exist)	Veterans and military students	Generally 60 / 120	Depends on individual evaluation —unless approved as statewide transfer guarantee (MTAG)	Jared Shank jshank@highered.ohio.gov (614)466-5812 Military courses with statewide transfer guarantees - transfercredit.ohio.gov/pg_35?0::NO:35

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South Dakota

General information for veterans	vetaffairs.sd.gov/ This site is a great starting place for military students. It has a list of South Dakota colleges and universities with direct links to each school's veteran services office. Other resources on this site include contact information for veterans service officers and information on state and federal military healthcare, home loan, and educational benefits.
Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans	sdbor.edu/ The South Dakota Board of Regents website lists the names of campus contacts for veteran and military student educational benefits. vetaffairs.sd.gov/resources/colleges.aspx This page has a list of South Dakota colleges and universities with direct links to each school's veteran services office. sdbor.edu/student-information/Pages/NG-and-Vet-campus-contacts.aspx This is the direct link to campus contacts for national guard and veteran benefit questions. sdbor.edu/student-information/Pages/Reduced-Tuition-Programs.aspx This page has information on reduced tuition programs for veteran and military students.
Central source of information on credit for prior learning (CPL) or prior learning assessment (PLA)	sdbor.edu/policy/documents/2-5.pdf This is the state policy on the transfer of credit, including credit for military training.

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Wisconsin

<p>General information for veterans</p>	<p>dva.state.wi.us/Pages/educationEmployment/Education.aspx Wisconsin's Department of Veterans Affairs site has information on education, employment, academic credit for military experience, and even offers live chat with veterans services representatives.</p> <p>wicvso.org/locate-your-cvso This site provides contact information for veterans service offices located in every county and Indian Nation in Wisconsin. These offices employ professional veterans advocates who assist veterans and their families with obtaining local, state, and federal benefits. The site also lists upcoming veteran related events, hot topics, and relevant news stories.</p>
<p>Information about college programs and educational benefits for veterans</p>	<p>veterans.wisconsin.edu The University of Wisconsin (UW) System and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) created the Veterans Wisconsin Educational Portal to provide information on the college application process, education benefits, personal support, and campus resources. The portal also provides specific contact information for each of the UW and WTCS campus veteran and military student centers and Wisconsin County Veterans Service Offices. Live online support is available.</p> <p>dva.state.wi.us/Pages/educationEmployment/StateApprovingAgency.aspx For non-college degree programs, including licensure and certification, the Wisconsin State Approving Agency serves as a resource.</p> <p>dva.state.wi.us/Pages/educationEmployment/Vet-Ed-Reimbursement-Grant.aspx Click here for information regarding the Veterans Education (VetEd) reimbursement grant.</p> <p>www4.uwm.edu/trio/veterans/ The UW-Milwaukee Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program helps military veterans become college ready and enroll in a postsecondary school. VUB provides basic skills and instruction and educational and career advising.</p>

VALUING MILITARY LEARNING

Additional online resources for veterans in the state	<p>dva.state.wi.us/Pages/educationEmployment/Troops-to-Teachers.aspx The Wisconsin Troops to Teachers website assists military personnel with the transition into new careers as public school teachers. Program details and contact information is provided.</p> <p>dva.state.wi.us/Pages/educationEmployment/Retraining-Grants-.aspx The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs retraining grants award recently unemployed or underemployed veterans up to \$3000 per year while retraining for employment. The site provides information on program eligibility requirements and a link to the retraining grant application.</p> <p>dva.state.wi.us/Pages/educationEmployment/EmploymentVeterans.aspx This page provides details on employment opportunities, including veterans hiring preference and apprenticeship information, as well as contact information to local veterans employment representatives.</p> <p>dva.state.wi.us/Pages/educationEmployment/FeeWaiver.aspx Wisconsin law requires that qualified veterans will have professional and occupational licensing fees waived. This site explains the details, including which licenses are covered by this program.</p> <p>dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/home_vet.htm The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development provides some outreach through the Job Center of Wisconsin and in cooperation with the Office of Veteran Services. In addition, the department offers specific tools to help veterans link military occupations to specific jobs available through the Wisconsin Job data portal.</p> <p>wiscjobsforvets.wi.gov/public/index.asp This site assists veterans in finding job opportunities within the State of Wisconsin through connections with local veteran employment representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach program specialists.</p> <p>wisconsinjobcenter.org/lookforjobs/jobbanks.htm This site lists links to government and nonprofit job banks.</p> <p>wisconsintechconnect.com Wisconsin TechConnect is a statewide online employment information system for recruiting Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) students and graduates for all types of employment.</p>
Central source of information on credit for prior learning (CPL) or prior learning assessment (PLA)	<p>uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/testing/credit-prior-learning.aspx The UW HELP web portal contains general information regarding credit for prior learning in the University of Wisconsin System that is applicable for all students.</p>

VALUING MILITARY LEARNING

Fast Track!

Model accelerated programs for veterans in my state:

Wisconsin				
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
<p>LPN Certificate/ Associate of Science in Nursing Herzing University Madison</p>	<p>Military medics: Army 68W healthcare specialist, Navy HM hospital corpsman, Air Force 4N0X1 aerospace medical service</p>	<p>LPN: 41 RN: 74</p>	<p>Up to 20 16 week accelerated program for LPN; RN licensure in one year</p>	<p>herzing.edu/blog/madison/transtoning-military-medics-rewarding-careers-nursing</p>
<p>Information Technology Associate of Applied Science/Bachelor of Science Herzing University Madison</p>	<p>25B information technology specialist</p>	<p>AAS: 62 BS: 122</p>	<p>AAS: Up to 24 BS: Up to 28</p>	<p>herzing.edu/news/herzing/herzing-university-accelerates-degree-programs-military-veterans</p>
<p>University of Wisconsin-Stout Menomonee</p>	<p>Known as the UW System’s Polytechnic University, the institution maps a number of military occupations to career specific bachelor degree programs. Military occupation crosswalks are available for:</p> <p>Administration occupations</p> <p>Aviation-related occupations</p> <p>Combat specialty occupations</p>	<p>120 generally</p>	<p>Depends on individual evaluation</p>	<p>veteranstudents@uwstout.edu (715) 232-1659</p> <p>uwstout.edu/veterans</p>

Wisconsin

Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
University of Wisconsin-Stout (cont.) Menomonie	Construction occupations Electronic and electrical equipment repair occupations Engineering, science and technical occupations Human services occupations Intelligence, law enforcement and security occupations Mechanic, machinist, and precision work occupations Media and public affairs occupations Medical and healthcare occupations Nuclear power and power plant occupations Ship, boating, and diving occupations Special operations forces occupations Support service occupations Transportation and material handling occupations	120 generally	Depends on individual evaluation	veteranstudents@uwstout.edu (715) 232-1659 uwstout.edu/veterans



Wisconsin				
Program and Institution	Eligibility	Credits Required	Credits Saved	Contact Information
Western Technical College La Crosse Military Years of Service Agreement(MYS)	Veterans and servicemembers College credits are awarded based on competencies and common military training attained during service.	Depends on degree program	Depends on individual evaluation	Paula Speropulos speropulosp@westerntc.edu 608-789-4767 westerntc.edu/Veterans/MilitaryTranscripts.aspx
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES				
LEAD - Law Enforcement Accelerated Development program Wisconsin Department of Justice	Military police Accelerated pathway to become a certified law enforcement officer and sit for reciprocity exam. Servicemembers' preparatory law enforcement training for certification is waived.	N/A		Wisconsin Department of Justice doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/attorney-general-jb-van-hollen-and-veterans-affairs-secretary-john-scocos-announce doj.state.wi.us/
Move-IT Fast track for Commercial Driver's License (CDL)	Allows veterans with military license to obtain Wisconsin Commercial Driver's License.	N/A		WI Department of Transportation: (608) 264-7447 wisconsin.gov/Pages/dm/com-drv-vehs/cdl-how-apply/cdl-military.aspx

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