

Faculty and Staff Information Sheet

Veteran Resource Center

Our mission is to assist CSUN students as they transition from military service to academic success. The VRC promotes the academic, personal and professional development of student veterans, reservists, members of the National Guard and their dependents through supportive services, resources and community building events.

“Student veterans” are active-duty service members, reservists, members of the National Guard and veterans.

Programs & Services Offered by VRC for Faculty

- Veteran Awareness Training
- Referral information to on- & off-campus partners
- Student veteran support



On-Campus Resources

Veteran Resource Center

(Between the Student Recreation Center and the USU Computer Lab)

Fall/Spring Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Summer/Winter Hours:

Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(818) 677-4672

www.csun.edu/vrc | vrc@csun.edu

VRC Services

Education and Outreach:

- We Love Out Veterans Week
- Women in Military History Week
- Veterans Awareness Trainings

Academic Development:

- Academic Advisement Dinner
- Orientation
- Student Support through Read & Write Gold Software and Work Study students

Personal Development:

- Weekly Community Building Programs
- Women to Women
- Graduation Reception
- Professional Development
- Conferences
- Professional Development Dinner
- Employment Opportunities

Off-Campus Resource

VITAL Program

Marissa Burgoyne, PsyD
Clinical Psychologist
VITAL Program Coordinator
VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System

Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center
(213) 999-6577



CSUN Veteran Affairs Office

The CSUN Veterans Affairs Office works with the Veterans Administration to assist veterans and military dependents eligible to participate in the VA Educational Benefits Program.

Office Hours

Monday & Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bayramian Hall Room 160

(818) 677-5928

www.csun.edu/admissions-records/veterans-affairs

University Counseling Services

Provides a variety of free services, including individual counseling and a wide variety of group counseling options, outreach workshops for faculty, staff and student organizations on academic, mental health, interpersonal and wellness topics.

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Bayramian Hall 520

(818) 677-2366 (Choose Option 1)

www.csun.edu/counseling

For after hours, urgent care assistance call
818-677-2366 (Choose Option 3)

How to Make Your Classroom Inclusive for Student Veterans

Culturally Responsive Classroom Management Techniques

- Recognize your own cultural lens and biases and become knowledgeable of student veterans' background.
- Societal & Institution consideration:
 - Be mindful of your worldviews, including political ideologies and impact it can have on student learning.
 - Student Veterans should not be considered as the spokesperson for the veteran community.
- Ability and willingness to use culturally appropriate management strategies.

Tips on making syllabus veteran friendly

- Creating a syllabus that reflects awareness of student veterans can communicate your interest and respect for their service and success in school.
Ex: Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments and drill requirements) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these in advance, if possible, to the instructor. For additional support contact the CSUN Veteran Resource Center.

Faculty Support

- Encourage veteran participation in campus groups and activities. Veterans bring tremendous life experience, diversity and skill (e.g., leadership and teamwork) with them to the campus.
- Encourage students to approach you and reinforce that it is normal for student veterans to seek support after class and during breaks, or to use office hours and email. The relationship with a faculty member or advisor could be the single item that helps the veteran remain in school. For instance, this relationship may help the veteran feel more connected to the campus, may help the veteran navigate a new system (many veterans leave higher education because they grow frustrated with the process and inability to obtain benefits), or feel support from an authority figure.
- Recognize that a veteran is a non-traditional student who may hold multiple roles (parent, spouse, employee, Reservist/Guardsman). Encourage communication and exhibit flexibility related to these many demands.
- Enhance feelings of comfort in the classroom and in testing setting (e.g., quiet, less crowded). In the case where a medical or mental health disorder is present, the student veteran may qualify for academic accommodations or special arrangements, which can be made through the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES).
- Some student-veterans are sensitive to people being behind them or in very close physical proximity. It may make them more comfortable to let them choose where to sit. Recognize that some individuals will be most comfortable in the back of a classroom near an exit door. Do not perceive this as disinterest. In fact, this position may enable them to better attend to and integrate new information.
- Veterans often have medical appointments scheduled months in advance, which may impact course attendance. If their instructor will not work with them, they may get discouraged, possibly fail the class and/or drop out of school. The student veteran may be required to repay the money paid for that class, as a result.
- Student veterans may have special needs but are often disinclined to seek assistance due to stigma and/ or fear of appearing weak. Encourage them to contact the DRES.
- Information adopted from:
Brainlinemilitary.org (www.brainlinemilitary.org/content/2013/04/from-combat-to-classroom_pageall.html)
VA Campus Toolkit Handout (http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/studentveteran/docs/ed_tipsForSupport.html)