11th Annual Cal State LA Counselor Update Conference

An Introduction to the Veterans Resource Center at Cal State LA
Roadmap for Today’s Presentation

• Key Data Points to Consider
• Recommendations for High School Counselors
• Recommendations for Community College Counselors
• The Veterans Resource Center
• Discussion
Key Data Points to Consider
What percentage of enlisted military personnel come from California?
11 percent!

That’s about 23,000 a year…and thousands more decide to make California their home after serving at the many military bases in our state.
As of Fall 2016, there were...

Student Veterans
- Approx. 452

Dependents
- Approx. 305
Education Benefit

- Ch. 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Ch. 31 Vocational Rehabilitation
- Ch. 1606 Reserve GI Bill
- Ch. 30 Montgomery GI Bill
- Ch. 35 Dependent Education Assistance
- Cal Vet Fee Waiver (state benefit)
- Veterans without education benefits
Gender

As of Fall 2016

Female Veterans/Dependents
• Approx. 243

Male Veterans/Dependents
• Approx. 514
Transfer Admissions

Upper Division Transfer
• Complete at least 60 semester/90 quarter transferable college units

Minimum 2.0 transferable GPA

Golden 4 subjects with “C”:  
• Oral Communication (Speech)  
• Written Communication (College-level English)  
• Critical Thinking  
• Quantitative Reasoning (College-level Math)

RECOMMENDED: General Education Courses  
• CSU General Education Breadth  
• Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)
Veterans Admission

First time Freshman (FTF)
- 2.0 GPA minimum
- High school graduate

Additional transfer pattern available
- Upper division (traditional pattern)
- Lower division*
  - Complete **college-level Math and English** with “C” or higher and fewer than 60 transferable units
  - Minimum 2.0 transferable GPA

Please note that lower division transfer students will be required to submit official HS transcripts along with official college and military transcripts, and any other supporting documentation (i.e., DD214).
Recommendations for High School Counselors
Be Knowledgeable About Benefits

• Identify students who are veteran dependents and make them aware of possible education benefits
• Often students are not aware that they may be eligible and for benefits and fear putting themselves in debt to attend college
• Contact information to University Veterans Resource Centers who could help them apply well ahead of time (i.e., Cal State LA is a pay-first campus)
Cal State LA Veterans Resource Center

Dependent Benefits

BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS

Cal State LA’s Veterans Resource Center offers assistance with applying for education benefits.

The following educational benefits are available to dependents of veterans:

- Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 GI Bill - Transfer of Entitlement)
- Chapter 35 (Dependents Educational Assistance)
- California Veterans Fee Waiver Program (Dependents of Veterans with a Service-Connected Disability)
California Veterans Affairs (Cal Vet)

College Fee Waiver

The College Tuition Fee Waiver for Veteran Dependents benefit waives mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any State of California Community College, California State University, or University of California campus. This program does not cover the expense of books, parking or room and board. There are four plans under which dependents of veterans may be eligible.

Plan A

- The child of a veteran who is totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities or whose death was officially rated as service-connected is eligible. The child must be over 14 years old and under 27 years old to be eligible. If the child is a veteran, then the age limit is extended to age 30.
- The spouse or Registered Domestic Partner (RDP) of a wartime veteran who has been rated as service-connected totally disabled is eligible. There are no age limit restrictions.
Recommendations for Community College Counselors
Build your Network

• Work closely with your Veterans Resource Center
• Know about special admissions or exceptions for student veterans at different colleges and universities
• Be knowledgeable about possible education benefits
• Attend region meetings for great information (LACCD is part of the Region 7 coalition)
Educate and Empower

• Actively work with student veterans to ensure they are on the right track to transfer
• Encourage student veterans to learn how to utilize all educational aid
  • Debunk myths about financial aid and VA educational benefits
  • Often student veterans exhaust benefits at the community college and have a difficult time paying for university fees
How many military-connected students?

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<tr>
<th>Military Status</th>
<th>National*</th>
<th>Cal State LA**</th>
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<td>Active Duty</td>
<td>1,016,664</td>
<td>758</td>
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<tr>
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*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Fiscal Year 2015-2016  
**Cal State LA, Fall 2016 Quarter
Cal State LA
Veterans Resource Center
Veterans Resource Center (VRC) Mission Statement

The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) at Cal State LA is committed to enhancing the higher education access and success for our nation’s military-connected individuals – active duty, reservists, National Guard, veterans, and dependents.

The VRC meets its mission by providing programs and services that holistically support the academic and personal enrichment of prospective and current military-connected students.
Veterans Resource Center (VRC) History

Opened its doors in Fall 2013.

Currently have an estimated 420 student veterans and 264 dependents.

Estimated 97% of Cal State LA student veterans are transfers.
Veterans Resource Center (VRC)  
Staff Team

Dani Molina, Ph.D.  
Director  
Veterans Resource Center  
U.S. Army Veteran

Deana Garay  
Veterans Benefits Coordinator  
Veterans Resource Center  
U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

Lianne Salerno  
School Certifying Official  
Registrar’s Office

Keri Fujiwara  
Counselor  
Veterans Success On Campus (VSOC)  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Resource Center (VRC) Services and Programs

- Pre-admission information
- Education benefits certification
- Priority registration
- Social space
- Study space
- Meeting space
- Computer workstation with printing
- Student veteran scholarships
- Tutoring
- Veterans Day Ceremony
- On-campus referrals
Veterans Resource Center (VRC) Events

We host a variety of events throughout the year.

- Memorial Day Ceremony
- Veterans Graduation Dinner
- Student Veteran Orientation
Our student veteran population is as diverse as the rest of Cal State LA.

Service Project: Midnight Mission Veterans’ Homeless Stand down

SALUTE New Induction Ceremony

RCA Children’s Back to School Event
Discussion
Your participation today and your support of student veterans and their dependents is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!

-VRC Team