



Georgia's Military Education Initiative

A collaborative USG/TCSG Military Education Planning Team is drafting a Statewide Plan to guide military education strategies. This plan will align to the Higher Education Completion Plan.

Soldiers to Scholars (USG)

Select USG institutions have made a commitment to assist Active military personnel and veterans with achieving a smooth transition into the classroom. To expedite this goal, many campuses have established **Military Resource Centers** that help solve class scheduling issues, provide a place for veterans to meet and share experiences while also encouraging military/veteran students to identify themselves so that targeted benefits can be shared with them and their families.

Intent

To –

- Give credit for military training and education, PLA, transfer credit and CLEP tests;
- Create military-oriented degree programs and certificates;
- Encourage tutoring & mentoring *by* veterans *for* veterans;
- Train counselors, faculty and staff to understand social, emotional, physical and academic challenges active military and veterans face;
- Offer convenient class schedules that are 5 or 8 weeks, including night, weekend and online formats;
- Offer freshman experience classes in addition to military learning communities;
- Form campus task forces of administrators, faculty, staff and student veterans to assist with managing on-going military student topics and matters;
- Examine BOR policies to assure improved services for the military student and their families.

Military Friendly Checklist:

Before a USG institution launches a Military Resource Center, the following parameters must be met:

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| ✓ Maintain regional accreditation | ✓ Provide easy access to a Veterans Certifying Official |
| ✓ Provide a military outreach coordinator or point of contact | ✓ Participate in the VA work study program |
| ✓ Actively identify veterans and military students | ✓ Organize a student veterans group |
| ✓ Gain Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) membership | ✓ Develop a military web page |
| ✓ Follow American Council on Education (ACE) guidelines | ✓ Offer a mentoring programs and peer tutoring |
| ✓ Commitment to assist military family members | ✓ Assist in locating scholarships and completing scholarship applications. |
| ✓ Offer evening or weekend orientation for military students | ✓ Provide barrier free, handicapped accessible campus |
| ✓ Provide "Freshman experience" courses or Military Student learning communities | ✓ Offer Prior Learning Assessment opportunities |
| ✓ Offer distance education for deployed military students | ✓ Consider becoming a Yellow Ribbon School (<i>optional</i>) |
| ✓ Create a task force of administrators, faculty, staff and military/veterans | ✓ Establish contingency plans for late arriving VA GI Bill or Tuition Assistance benefits |





Military Presence in Georgia

In Georgia there are:

- 90+ National Guard armories;
- Six Air National Guard units; and
- Eleven active duty bases including Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines

With 780,000+ Veterans

- 32% female
- 68% male
- 74% are 20-34 years old
- 37% are married

70% of Georgia's Veterans will use their GI BILL benefits to attend college.

Fortunately, the State caps on the amount the GI bill will pay for education have been removed. Now, active duty and mobilized reservists are eligible to receive up to \$4,500 per year in tuition assistance.



Understanding our Challenges

Our Active Duty students often are forced to withdrawal due to sudden deployment or being transferred before completing their degree

Georgia veterans face difficulties in readjusting to civilian life, experience a lack of camaraderie and structure, and fight many other transition difficulties. Also, there is a delay in GI Bill benefits which often impedes class registration and enrollment.

