



Federal Interagency Academic Credentialing for Service Members Task Force

The departments of Defense, Education, and Veterans Affairs are dedicated to identifying, supporting, and sharing promising strategies for institutions of higher education to use when evaluating military training and experience. The purpose of the evaluation is to award appropriate amounts of academic credit for the skills and knowledge service members gain through their service. The departments of Defense and Education, with support from the Department of Veterans Affairs, have formed the **Federal Interagency Academic Credentialing for Service Members Task Force**. To advance their work, the agencies have established significant collaboration with key external stakeholders, including institutions of higher education, state policymakers, associations, and advocacy organizations with a vested interest in service members' and veterans' success as college students. The work builds on [Executive Order \(EO\) 13607](#),¹ "Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members," issued by President Obama on April 27, 2012, and the "Improving Transparency of Education Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2012" ([Public Law 112-249](#)).²

The task force is dedicated to increasing awareness of promising practices and policies that promote awarding academic credit at institutions of higher education for prior military training and experience, facilitating the ability of institutions of higher education to understand how prior military training and experience are relevant to their programs of study, and supporting the overall success of men and women in our armed forces who matriculate into postsecondary learning. The task force is currently taking actions to

- ensure that the Accessing Higher Education curriculum -- available to individuals retiring or separating from military service who are interested in pursuing postsecondary education -- has an emphasis on transfer of academic credit and military training;
- review the fiscal impact of the misapplication of academic credit on the Post-9/11 GI Bill (*Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008*) and on Title IV Federal Student Aid programs (*Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended*), and identify promising practices to address any concerns raised;
- identify, evaluate, and implement specific enhancements to the Joint Services Transcript (JST) and the American Council on Education (ACE) National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training;
- engage state officials on the need to formally address policies related to credentialing and licensing of service members and veterans;
- engage college and university leaders, and higher education associations on the need to address policies related to awarding academic credit for service members and veterans;
- explore the potential for existing and future service members Opportunity Colleges (SOC) and Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) certificate and degree programs to serve as bridge programs for civilian credentialing; and
- develop a joint strategic communication and dissemination plan aimed at key higher education stakeholders and state leaders.

¹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/04/27/executive-order-establishing-principles-excellence-educational-instituti>

² <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr4057/text>

Contact Information

For more information on the **Federal Interagency Academic Credentialing for Service Members Task Force**, please contact Charles Browne in the U.S. Department of Education at Charles.Browne@ed.gov.

What Can My Institution Do?

Colleges and universities can support this work in the following ways:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the [Joint Services Transcript \(JST\)](http://www.jointservicetranscript.com/)³ and consider fully accepting, when possible, ACE college credit recommendations for military experience and training.
- Attend the following ACE webinars:
 - “[Demystifying Military Evaluations](http://www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/Demystifying-Military-Evaluations.aspx)”⁴ on July 11, and Sept. 5, 2014, at 2 p.m. ET.
 - “[Using the Joint Services Transcript \(JST\) and the Military Guide](http://www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/Using-the-JST-and-the-Military-Guide.aspx)”⁵ on Aug. 8, 2014, at 2 p.m. ET.
- Include a standard question on admissions forms to identify student veterans and develop a process for reaching out to them to provide evaluation of military training and experience.
- Ensure all student veterans receive academic guidance that includes an evaluation of their military training and experience that may be eligible for college credit.
- Work with state officials, accrediting agencies, and relevant associations to ensure that academic awarding policies recognize military training, education, and experience toward the award of academic credit.
- Monitor the departments of Defense, Education, and Veterans Affairs websites for newsletters, webinars, and announcements of resources and promising practices related to the evaluation of military training and experience. These websites are:
 - Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/veterans-and-military-families>
 - Department of Defense: <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/voluntary-education>
 - Department of Veterans Affairs: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/index.asp>

Additional Resources

- ACE [Toolkit](https://vetfriendlytoolkit.acenet.edu/about/Pages/default.aspx)⁶ for Veteran Friendly Institutions
- American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) [resources](http://www.aacrao.org/resources/resources-list-view/veterans-and-service-members-issues)⁷ for Service members and Veterans
- White House [Fact Sheet](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/fact_sheets/supporting-servicemembers-veterans-and-military-families.pdf)⁸ “Supporting Servicemembers, Veterans, and Military Families in the President’s Fiscal Year 2015 Budget”
- [8 Keys to Success for Supporting Veterans, Military and Military Families on Campus](http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/08/13/8-keys-success-supporting-veterans-military-and-military-families-campus)⁹
- [American Council on Education \(ACE\) National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training](http://www2.acenet.edu/credit/?fuseaction=browse.main)¹⁰

³ <http://www.jointservicetranscript.com/>

⁴ <http://www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/Demystifying-Military-Evaluations.aspx>

⁵ <http://www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/Using-the-JST-and-the-Military-Guide.aspx>

⁶ <https://vetfriendlytoolkit.acenet.edu/about/Pages/default.aspx>

⁷ <http://www.aacrao.org/resources/resources-list-view/veterans-and-service-members-issues>

⁸ http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/fact_sheets/supporting-servicemembers-veterans-and-military-families.pdf

⁹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/08/13/8-keys-success-supporting-veterans-military-and-military-families-campus>

¹⁰ <http://www2.acenet.edu/credit/?fuseaction=browse.main>