

Understanding new Washington laws requiring the acceptance of military training recommendations for college credit.

Credit for Veterans Workshop

Introductions

- Andy Brucia
- Senior Recruiter for Robert Half Technology
- Previously: Prior Learning Assessment Specialist on a DOL grant at Bellevue College.
- Program Manager for 2 years of a grant assisting veterans in transitioning to college and employment

Topics of the Day

- SSB 5969-Policy to award academic credit for military training courses or programs
- Department of Defense MOU
- Identifying what needs to be done, and by when.

Story of 2 college students

- My niece Rachel
- 18 when entering college
- 30 AP credits from her high school work accepted at her college

Story of 2 college students

- "Sarah"
- 30 year old Army veteran
- 10 years military service
- Worked as an IT specialist for 5 of the 10 years
- Received 3 college credits (3 phys ed credits for boot camp)

Workshop Goals

- Talk about SSB 5969, DOD MOU and college requirements around acceptance of military credit.
- View a Joint Service Transcript
- Making a sample policy
- Creating\Sharing the policy
- Making a Military to College Course Crosswalk


SSB 5969

- **Summary: Each public institution of higher education must adopt a policy to award academic credit to individuals for certain military training courses or programs before December 31, 2015**

Each public institution of higher education must:

- **Develop a procedure** for receiving the necessary documentation to identify and verify the military training course or program that an individual is claiming for academic credit;
- **Provide a copy of their policy** to award academic credit for military training to any applicants who listed prior or present military service in their application; and
- **Develop and maintain a list of military training courses** and programs that qualify for academic credit.

Other Similar Legislation

- This follows up 2011 Legislation promoting Prior Learning that specifically charges institutions to:** 
- Increase the number of students who receive academic credit
 - Increase the number and type of academic credits accepted
 - Develop transparent policies and practices in awarding credit
 - Improve prior learning assessment practices;
 - Create tools to develop faculty and staff knowledge
 - Develop outcome measures to track progress
 - Report progress annually.

Department of Defense MOU

What is it?

- What does it say about military credit and acceptance?
- Is my school participating?

Department of Defense MOU

What does it say about military credit and acceptance?

- Evaluate and award credit for military training
- Disclose transfer policy to military students prior to enrollment.
- Use official service records to document training and education.

Department of Defense MOU

Is my school participating?

<http://www.dodmou.com/Home/InstitutionList>

- (The answer is almost definitely yes.)

Veterans Administration

The VA Education takeaways:

- Millions have been spent training the men and women in the military.
- Additional funds have been spent evaluating that training (ACE credit recs)
- We don't want to pay *twice* to train veterans the same thing

Veterans Administration

The VA Education takeaways:

- Schools must use ACE credit recommendations when possible
- Student veterans don't get to pick and choose.

Not Groundbreaking

- Thousands of individual colleges across the U.S. accept ACE credits
- Many states have developed systems to accept military credit.
- State of Minnesota Service to Credit Crosswalk
 - <http://www.mnscu.edu/collegesearch/index.php/vets/search>

What is Required?

My list of 10 requirements:

- Specific requirements written into SSB 5969, DOD MOU that colleges can use as benchmarks.
- Some practices are implied or assumed.
- List to consider when creating a policy around military credit.

What is Required?

- #1-Colleges obtain military education transcripts for all military veterans seeking to use VA Education benefits
- #2- Colleges evaluate all military education transcripts received
- #3- Colleges accept the Joint Service Transcript as an official education transcript.

What is Required?

- #4- Credit recommendations from official military transcripts are identified and accepted when meeting course criteria.
- #5- Military credit recommendations that match course offerings are identified and tracked
- #6- A list of matching courses and military training is created.

What is Required?

- #7- Colleges create transparent policies that explicitly detail military credit acceptance
- #8- Colleges provide a copy of this policy to all veterans exploring attending the school.

What is Required?

- #9- ACE credits must be used if possible
- #10- All schools must submit their policy to the State PLA workgroup by year's end

Group work

- What school are you from?
- Where are you on this work?
- Do you have a military credit policy?
- Do you have a list of courses that match military courses?
- Fill out checklist!

- 15 minutes- get coffee, say hello

Requirements Review

- Scores? Anyone have a 9? An 8?
- Have you begun this work?
- What questions came up?

Requirements Review

- Assumptions:
 - ACE credits now seen as transfer credits
 - #4, #5 and #6 means Washington colleges must accept matching military training as course equivalents, not just as elective credits.
 - No more or less scrutiny than credits from other approved institutions

Requirements Review

- Questions that still remain
 - Is this military course equivalent to our course?
 - The credit recommendation for a course is 3 Semester hours. Our course is 5 quarter hours. What to do?
 - Who is going to do the work, and how will we pay for it?
 - What else?

Steps to Compliance

- Evaluating the JST
- Writing a Military Credit Policy
- Letting Veterans Know
- Creating a List of Courses that Match

History of the JST

- Combined Army, Navy and Coast Guard military branches into single transcript in 2013
- Earlier branch transcripts and other branch transcripts provide similar info
- Joint Transcript allows veterans and others to learn a single system and tool

What is a Joint Service Transcript?

- Record of military training
- Record of military education
- Credit recommendation tool for veterans pursuing college/additional training

What is in a JST?

- A JST will include training records for **multiple military occupations** in a single transcript
- Detailed description of each training provided
- ACE credit recommendations
- Information to access more detailed info about each training using ACE online tools

Education record and recommendations

- Training is often combined with credit recommendations for colleges
- Other classroom training and standardized testing is included

Other Transcripts

- Veterans who separated before 2013 have an Army, Navy or Coast Guard transcript

Different tools- JST and ACENET

- [ACENET Occupation Guide](#)
- [ACENET Course Guide](#)
- Short Video-
<http://www.jointservicestranscript.com/>

Different tools- JST and ACENET

- See your Navy sample JST
- <http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/Navy-JST-Sample.pdf>
- Go to Page 2 of Summary Section

Different tools- JST and ACENET

- Identify courses that might have a course equivalent at your school.
- **International Relations- 3 sem hours**
- **Bellevue College-**
 - **POLS 203-International Relations 5 cr**

Different tools- JST and ACENET

- Bellevue College description
- ACENET Course Description

ACENET Evaluation Process

- “All recommendations are based on ACE reviews conducted by college and university faculty members who are actively teaching in the areas they review.”
- SSB 5969, DOD MOU recommend acceptance of ACE recommendations
- ACENET offers webinars and other info on this process

Creating a Policy

- See Sample Policy Handout

Creating a Policy

- **#1- YOUR College evaluates every military transcript received from active duty military and veterans pursuing an education here.**

Creating a Policy

- **#2- YOUR College uses the American Council on Education (ACE) "A Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services" as a guide.**

Creating a Policy

- **#3- YOUR college accepts ACE military course recommendations for both the amount of credit, and the level of the credit recommended under the following circumstances:**
 - **The military course must match a required course**
 - **No more than two-thirds of credit can come in from transfer, including military credit.**

Creating a Policy

- **#4- Any remaining ACE credits on transcripts that do not match any courses in any degree of pursuit will be accepted as elective credits when possible.**

Creating a Policy

- A list of military courses that match to YOUR college courses can be viewed HERE (www.yourcollege/milcoursecrosswalk)

Creating a Policy

- **See Everest's Policy (Thanks Brian Lee!)**

Creating a Policy

- Write a Sample Policy
 - Consider the 10 Requirements
 - Use my sample policy as a starting point
 - Use Everest policy as another source
 - Write questions for sharing
-
- 15 minutes- 5 minute break- back in 20

Creating a Policy- Discussion

- How is your Policy?
- Questions for the group?
- Discussion

Letting Military Students Know

- Include Military credit policy in multiple places and media (course catalogue, website, campus military and veteran pages, Facebook, LinkedIn Groups, et cetera)

Tracking Course Matches

- Back to our NAVY JST
- Bellevue's Course
- Tracking Spreadsheet

Course Tracking- Example

- My rough example from our eval
- Actual example from Brian Lee at Everest College

Tracking Course Matches

- Identifies Training/Course Matches for future veterans attending your school.
- Branches combine training more and more now, so one military course might work for veterans from multiple branches.

Deliverables

- Due to the State PLA work group by end of year:
 - Military credit policy
 - Materials Informing Student Veterans
 - List of military courses

Challenges

- What **challenges** will you face completing these 3 tasks?
 - Military credit policy
 - Materials Informing Student Veterans
 - List of military courses
- 3 each- 5 minutes

Steps

- What **steps will you take** to complete these 3 tasks?
 - Military credit policy
 - Materials Informing Student Veterans
 - List of military courses
- 3 each- 10 minutes

Steps

- Share Your Steps
 - What is a step you plan to take to begin this work?

Thanks!

- Thanks to each of you for creating a more veteran-friendly campus!
- Thanks to Peter Schmidt, Samantha Powers and the Veterans Training Support Center for making this workshop possible.
- Stay and collaborate if time allows!