

## **Student Veteran Need Assessment Survey**

The purpose of this assessment survey is to measure student veteran use and awareness of current services and to identify potential resource and service additions. It is not to internally evaluate current services. The results of the survey will lead to further exploration and research including focus group and in-depth interviews. The outcomes from the assessment research, including this survey, will lead development of signature programs and services and drive strategic campus relationships.

This work is tied to the VRSC first year goal to develop, implement and assess programs to positively impact student veteran academic performance, holistic development and future employment.

### **Survey sample:**

There will be two sample groups. The first will include all students who began this past January. That sample will be provided by Col. Smith. Student Life Studies will determine the other sample from undergraduate and graduate student veterans enrolled prior to January 2013.

This survey will only focus on veterans and will not include military dependents. Dependents will be addressed in future assessment measures.

From this sample, Student Life Studies can pull basic demographic data including major, GPA, transfer student or new student, gender, ethnicity, classification and college/major.

### **Survey Structure and Questions:**

The survey will be broken into five sections to include: Academics, Student Life, Career Plans, Demographics and Recommendations. Section titles on the actual survey may vary for the better understanding of the survey sample.

Each section will include a brief intro and/or description of the questions in the section. It will be the goal to have the survey take no more than 10 minutes.

## Academics:

Before arriving at Texas A&M, had you taken classes at another higher education institution?

- Yes, on-campus classes
- Yes, online classes
- Yes, BOTH on-campus and online
- No

*(logic based question only for those with prior classes)* Compared to your previous college classes, have your classes at Texas A&M been:

- Easier than your previous college coursework
- Equivalent to your previous college coursework
- More difficult than your previous college coursework

Have your classes at Texas A&M:

- Been easier than expected
- Met your expectations
- Been more difficult than expected

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being Strongly Disagree and 5 being Strongly Agree, please rate the following statements: *(include a N/A option)*

- I was placed in classes at an appropriate level based on my placement exams/previous coursework.
- I have the appropriate level of study skills to succeed academically.
- I have the time management skills to balance my course work and personal commitments.
- I am aware of Texas A&M resources to better study/time management skills.
- I wish I knew more about resources on campus to help with academics.
- I have sought out resources to better study/time management skills.

Have you experience difficulty with any of the following?

Yes, often    Yes, occasionally    No

- Anxiety during test taking or other important class requirements.
- Difficulty hearing professors.
- Difficulty in class because of being physically uncomfortable in the provided chairs/desks/tables.
- Scheduling outside appointments (VA, doctor, etc.) around classes.
- Managing frustrations or stress in class or at home.

How many times have you met with your academic advisor since arriving at Texas A&M?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 or more

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being Strongly Disagree and 5 being Strongly Agree, please rate the following statements: *(include a N/A option)*

It is easy to schedule an appointment or see my advisor.

My advisor is able to answer my questions.

My advisor is enthusiastic to help me.

I feel comfortable asking my advisor questions related to my courses/degree plan.

I feel comfortable asking my advisor questions related to accessing campus resources to help with academic or personal issues.

I wish my advisor better understood veteran issues

What are the most common ways you receive information from or communicate with your advisor?

In person

Email

Handouts/Fliers

Other (fill in)

Do you use any of the following tools to assist with note taking or other academic tasks?

LiveScribe Smart Pen

Evernote

Other recording device

Other *(fill in the blank)*

Do you have access at home to the technology you need to complete class assignments? This may include a computer, Internet access, etc.

My access is sufficient

My access is hit or miss

I do not have access to the appropriate technology at home

In keeping with the 2009 Texas legislation, Texas A&M University has updated its policy on how academic credit is awarded for prior military service. With at least one (1) year of prior active duty service and an honorable military discharge, students will receive credit for the university-required KINE 198 and KINE 199 courses and may receive up to 12 elective credits as determined eligible by their academic advisor. Veterans can apply for this course credit with the Military Service Request Form, filed with the Office of Admissions.

Have you applied for the Military Service Credit?

Yes, I received credit

Yes, I did not receive credit

No, but I am aware of it

No, I didn't know about it

*(logic question if they answered yes, received credit)* How many credit hours did you receive?

1-3

4-6

7-9

10-12

*(logic question if they answer either no option)* How likely are you to apply for the Military Service Credit?

Very likely

Maybe/Maybe Not

Not very likely

*(open ended)* Please tell us about your decision to attend Texas A&M and your path to enrollment.

## **Student Life**

Are you a member of the veterans unit, Delta Co. or V1, within the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets?

Yes

No

I am not aware of the unit

Are you a member of the Texas A&M Veterans Student Organization?

Yes

No

I am not aware of the organization

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being Strongly Disagree and 5 being Strongly Agree, please rate the following statements: (include an NA option)

I feel connected to other student veterans on campus.

I have friends who are student veterans.

Being connected to student veterans who understand my experiences helps me succeed at Texas A&M.

I want to be more connected with fellow student veterans on campus.

I would like to meet more married student veterans to help my spouse/partner feel connected/supported.

I feel Texas A&M is a veteran-friendly campus.

I feel non-veteran students are supportive of veteran students.

I feel non-veteran students understand my challenges/issues as a veteran.

In what ways would you like to connect to other student veterans on campus?

(check all that apply)

Social/Happy hours

Veteran student lounge

Peer mentoring program

Veteran only class

Student organizations

Veteran section at sporting events

Other (fill in)

*(opened ended)* What are the biggest obstacles to connecting to other student veterans on campus?

*(opened ended)* Do you have other suggestions for activities and ways to connect to other veterans?

## Career Plans

What do you plan to do after graduating from Texas A&M? (check all that apply)

- Return/join to active-duty military
- Return/join a reserve or National Guard Unit
- Seek part-time employment outside of the military
- Seek part-time employment outside of the military
- Continue my education with additional undergraduate or vocational training
- Continue my education with an advanced graduate degree
- Participate in an organization like the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps/VISTA, or Teach for America
- Participate in community service organization
- Travel
- Other (fill in)
- No current plans (have this response be mutually exclusive)

Do you have a resume prepared?

- Yes, it has been reviewed by Career Services
- Yes, it has been reviewed by a friend/professor/etc.
- Yes, it has not been reviewed by any one
- I am working on my resume
- No

How many job or similarly structured interviews have you completed?

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- More than 4

Do you feel prepared for a job search?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

*(open ended)* What concerns do you have related to your post-Texas A&M plans?

*(open ended)* What skills would you like to enhance related to your post-Texas A&M plans?

**Demographics:**

The Veterans Resource and Support Center would like to know more about your service and family. Please answer the following questions so we may better understand Texas A&M student veterans.

Which branch of service do/did you serve (*check all that apply*)?

- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Marines
- Coast Guard

Which of the following best describes your current military service status?

- Former active duty
- Current active duty
- Reservist
- National Guard

What is your total years of military service?

- Less than 4 years
- 4-7 years
- 8-11 years
- More than 11 years

What is your total months spent in a combat zone?

- 6 or fewer
- 7-12
- 13-18
- 19-24
- More than 24

Have you used Chapter 33 (G.I. Bill) benefits prior to coming to Texas A&M?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

*(logic question for those answering yes)* How much of your benefits did you use prior to Texas A&M?

- 25% or less
- 26-50%
- 50-75%
- 75% or more
- I have exhausted my benefits.
- Not sure

Will you exhaust your Chapter 33 benefits before graduating?

Yes, in less than a year  
Yes, within 1-2 years  
Yes, within 3-4 years  
No  
Not sure

Have you used your Hazlewood benefits prior to coming to Texas A&M?

Yes  
No  
Not sure

*(logic question for those answering yes)* How much of your benefits did you use prior to Texas A&M?

25% or less  
26-50%  
50-75%  
75% or more  
I have exhausted my benefits.  
Not sure

Will you exhaust your Hazlewood benefits before graduating?

Yes, in less than a year  
Yes, within 1-2 years  
Yes, within 3-4 years  
No  
Not sure

What is your marital status?

Single  
Single living with partner  
Married  
Divorced/Separated/Widow  
Other (fill in)

What is your household income?

Below \$12,000  
\$12,000 to \$23, 999  
\$24,000 to \$35,999  
\$36,000 to \$47,999  
\$48,000 to \$59,999  
\$60,000 and above

Do you feel that you have enough financial aid and veteran benefits to adequately cover your own/your immediate family's *living* expenses?

Yes  
No



Would you be interested in apartment-style on campus housing options?

Yes

No

Not sure

How many dependents are in your household? (excluding spouse/partner)

0

1

2

3

4 or more

*(logic based question only for those with dependents)* Do you feel that you have enough financial aid and veteran benefits to adequately cover childcare expenses needed for you to attend the university?

Yes

No

Not sure

## Recommendations

What do you feel is the best method to connect with campus resources? (check all that apply)

- In person
- Email/Chat
- Online group/forum
- Single website with resource listings/contacts
- Small group sessions
- Other (fill in)

Do you find it difficult knowing whom to contact on campus regarding various needs you may have?

- Yes, often
- Yes, sometimes
- No

When you have questions regarding student veteran services, whom do you contact first?

- Veteran Services Office
- Veteran Resource & Support Center
- Academic Advisor
- Other professor/staff
- Friends
- Other (fill in)

*(open ended)* What services could Texas A&M provide or improve to help you succeed?

*(open ended)* What could Texas A&M do to improve student veteran transitions to campus?