



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Students That Serve

Alex Rodriguez
Military and Veteran Center

Overview

- Definitions
- Student Support
 - Resources
 - Programs
 - Services
- Campus Education
 - Faculty/Staff Support Network
 - Councils
 - Communications
- Challenges
- Case Study

What We Offer

 <p>Alumni Group</p> <p>The MIVC facilitates meet-ups for alumni veterans and current student veterans. Go to this link to receive communications about events.</p>	 <p>Career Development</p> <p>Professional development activities for transitioning from military service to civilian employment, include resume critiques and mock interviews.</p>	 <p>Community Advisory Council</p> <p>The MIVC Community Advisory Council supports UTD veterans, outreach to student veterans. Members include successful partners, students, professionals and community leaders dedicated to assisting in the development of student veterans.</p>
 <p>Community Service</p> <p>Military-affiliated students participate in community service, learn about governing and past projects here.</p>	 <p>Connect-A-Vet</p> <p>Connect-A-Vet to UTD Dallas is an opportunity for self and prospective student veterans from Dallas/Fort Worth area community colleges to meet the student veteran community at UTD Dallas and learn more about the University from MIVC staff. Contact vetm@utdallas.edu to RSVP.</p>	 <p>Connect to Resources</p> <p>The MIVC partners with community resources that serve prior and current military members. Learn more at here.</p>
 <p>Cord Ceremony</p> <p>Students graduating from UTD Dallas who serve or have served in the U.S. military are invited to select a special red, white and blue honor cord at fall and spring commencement in recognition of their service to our country. Contact the MIVC for more information.</p>	 <p>Discussion Group</p> <p>Student vets discuss topics including stress management, competitiveness experiences, and transition to civilian life. Facilitated by Domingo Rodriguez, a Military Veteran Peer Network (JAVNet) mentor.</p>	 <p>Green Zone</p> <p>The Green Zone program aims to establish a University-wide network of staff and faculty who will create a military-friendly campus culture. Classes are offered periodically to the MIVC.</p>

www.utdallas.edu/veterans/about

Defining Military-Affiliated Students

- Veterans – Served in military
- Current Military
 - Active Duty
 - National Guard
 - Reserves
- Military Spouses and Dependents
- ROTC Cadets

Terminology

- Active Duty
 - 24/7/365 for contract term/commitment
 - Military is their profession/occupation
- Reserve & National Guard
 - Drill at military installation one weekend/ month
 - Train for two-week period (Annual Training or AT)
 - Civilian occupations (“weekend warriors”)
- Individual Ready Reserve - IRR

Military-Connected Undergraduates

Exploring Differences Between National Guard, Reserve, Active Duty, and Veterans in Higher Education

November 2015

Dani Molina
American Council on Education

Andrew Morse
NSAA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

ACE American Council on Education
CPRS Center for Policy Research and Strategy

ACE American Council on Education
CEAT Center for Educational Assessment and Technology

NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

I AM A POST-9/11 STUDENT VETERAN

Collaboration of the Institute of Veterans and Military Families and Student Veterans of America

HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH

JUNE 2017

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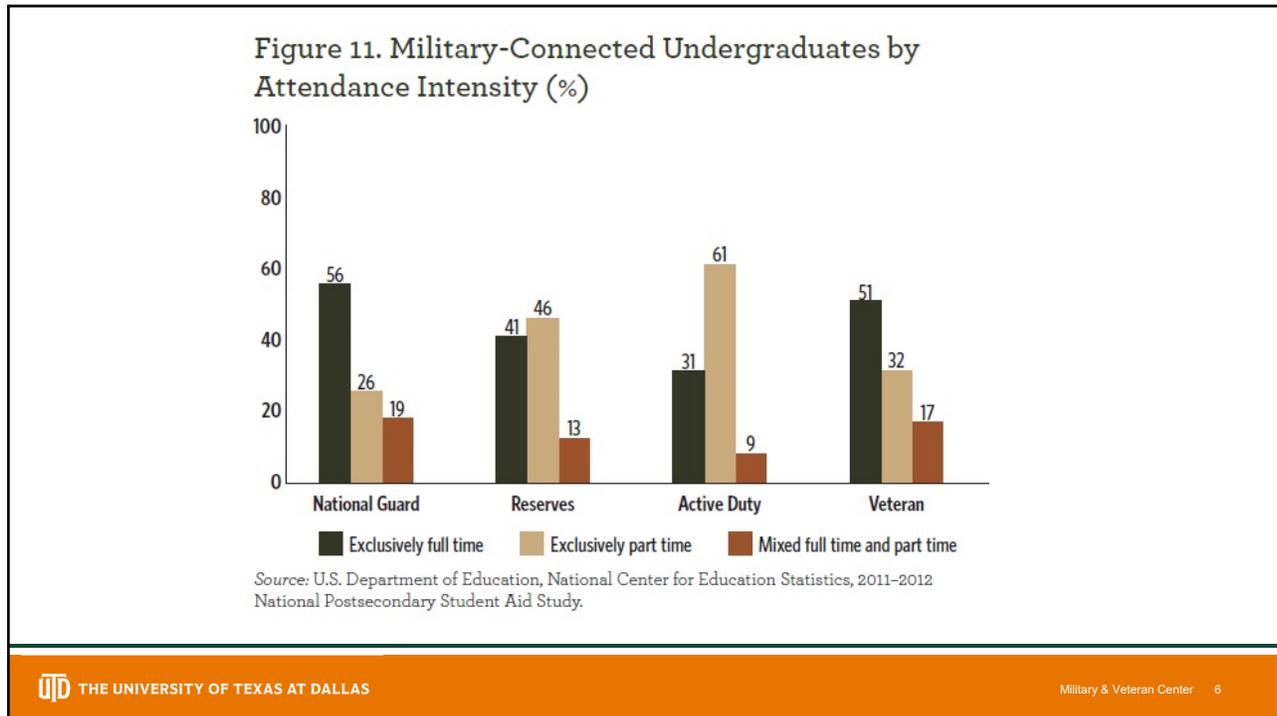
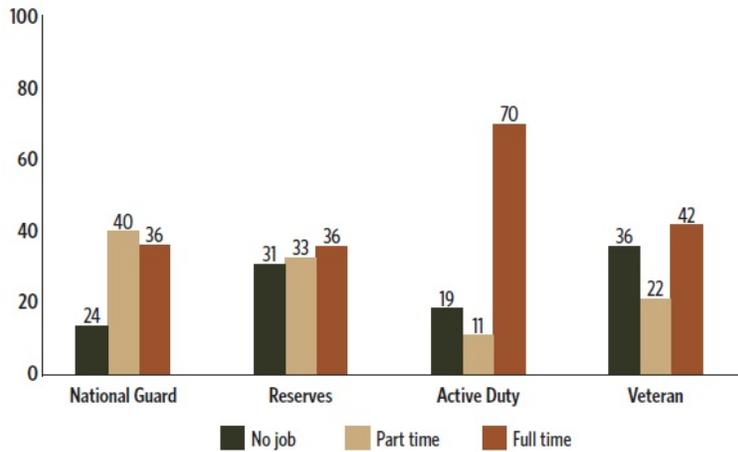


Figure 13. Military-Connected Undergraduates by Employment Status (%)



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–2012 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study.

Student Support

- Resources
 - Memo – Verification of Orders
 - Military Student Checklist
 - Pre-Deployment/Deployment/Post-Deployment Checklist
- www.utdallas.edu/veterans/resources
 - Military Students and Cadets
 - Policies for Military Students (Catalog)
 - Benefits information
- www.utdallas.edu/veterans/serve
 - Checklists

UT DALLAS | Military and Veteran Center

TO: Undergraduate Associate Dean of <school>

CC: Dr. Amanda Smith, Associate VP/Dean of Students

FROM: Lisa Adams, Director, Military and Veteran Center

DATE: <date>

SUBJECT: VERIFICATION OF MILITARY ORDERS FOR <STUDENT NAME>

This student has presented the Military and Veteran Center with orders to review for upcoming military duty. According to Texas Education Code Sec. 51.9111 and the UT Dallas undergraduate catalog, students are excused from attending class or taking examinations when participating in military service, including travel associated with the service. Students may not be penalized for the absence. If a student misses no more than 25% of the class, the student is allowed to complete missed assignments or take the examination within a reasonable time after the absence. Instructors may appropriately respond if students fail to satisfactorily complete the assignment or exam within a reasonable time after the absence. Alternatively, students have the option to withdraw for military service, receive an incomplete grade, or request to receive a final grade.

Based on the Military and Veteran Center's review of the attached orders, <student's name> will not be available to attend UT Dallas from <start/Day/Year to Month/Day/Year>. The student requests assistance with rescheduling assignment/exam due dates based on military duty.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Verified By: _____ Date: _____

Attachment: Copy of orders

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
800 W. Campbell Road, D5203
Richardson, Texas 75080-0523
(972) 883-4623 Fax: (972) 883-4610



UT Dallas Military Student Checklist

This checklist is for students who are serving in the Reserves or Guard and have military training requirements throughout the semester. Use this to prepare and coordinate with faculty prior to the Annual Tour or drill weekend.

1. Understand the nature of military training. During tour, will I have access to internet? Will I have time to study?
2. Look at class syllabus
 - a. Are there assignment deadlines during/after the tour?
 - b. Are there tests?
 - c. Any group projects?
 - d. Write papers before you leave. Having a draft will make things easier
 - e. Read assignments ahead of time
3. Prepare as much work ahead of time if possible
4. For group assignments, work with your group to make sure the work is balanced and you are a part of the group.
5. Notify faculty of military training dates as soon as possible. By notifying a professor in advance s/he may have more flexibility with your schedule and developing a plan.
 - a. Explain to faculty whether you have access to internet or time to study during training.
 - b. Go over the syllabus together
 - i. Review assignments and test schedule and develop a plan:
 1. Reschedule tests?
 2. Due date extension for assignment(s)?
 - ii. Find out whether there will be supplemental material distributed in class or whether all materials will be from the text. What tools will the professor use during missed classes?
 - iii. Can the professor provide the powerpoint slides of the lecture or lecture notes?
 - iv. Is there a student in the class that can provide notes?
 - v. Request a meeting with professor upon return from the Annual Tour or drill weekend to go over syllabus missed and material covered.
 - c. For online courses
 - i. Due date extension for discussion questions/tests/assignments?
 - d. Should/can you request an incomplete?
 - i. 70% of class has been attended and the professor allows 8 weeks into the following semester to complete the course
 - e. Has this faculty member received Green Zone training? If not, would s/he like to learn more? If so, contact the Military and Veteran Center.
6. Is the absence during class registration time?
 - a. Meet with school advisor to see if they can help/what can be done about registering for that semester

The UT Dallas Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs include Policies related to military service and provide an additional resource: <http://catalogs.utdallas.edu/how/undergraduate/policies/military>

Military Student Checklist

Prepare work/assignments in advance

Do you have any group projects?

Will you have internet?

Reschedule tests



Pre-Deployment Checklist for Reserve and National Guard

Students that are activated by the Reserve or National Guard (not routine training) should refer to the policies in the undergraduate catalog <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/how/undergraduate/policies/military> or graduate catalog: <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/2017/graduate/policies/military>

Pre-Deployment Stage

- The following are suggested steps for departing UT Dallas for military service:
1. Students are encouraged to contact the Military and Veteran Center to assist with the process: 972-883-4913 or veterans@utdallas.edu
 2. Submit copy of orders to Registrar's office. (Do not withdraw from class until you have your orders.)
 3. View the catalog and determine one of the four following options for withdrawing.
 - a. Withdrawn-Called to Military Duty (WM on transcript)
 - i. Registrar will process the withdrawal from all classes
 - ii. Bursar Office will refund tuition and fees
 - b. Incomplete-Called to Military Duty (IM on transcript)
 - i. Registrar will process the incomplete
 - ii. Pending eligibility for an incomplete grade (course 70% complete), student must resolve the incomplete within one year from "release from active duty" date on orders
 - iii. For incompletes, obtain permission form and get signatures from the Undergraduate Associate Dean of the school offering the course (see step 4)
 - c. Petition professors for final grade
 - d. Before Census Day, request Military Leave from the Registrar. Courses will be dropped and will not appear on transcript
 4. Notify academic department/academic advisor/faculty to announce departure and coordinate incompletes (if applicable).
 5. Contact Veterans Benefits in the Office of Financial Aid regarding enrollment status for loans, scholarships, insurance, or other agreements, including the G.I. Bill.
 6. Contact Residential Life if living in residence halls or university apartments, to coordinate withdrawal and termination of lease: <http://www.utdallas.edu/housing/contact/>
 7. Contact Parking Office for a prorated refund for your parking pass: <http://www.utdallas.edu/services/transport/>
 8. Verify your permanent address online through Orion.

Deployment

Students have the option to stay connected to UT Dallas through the Deployed Comet Program. The Military and Veteran Center (MVC) will send periodic emails to deployed students with the latest information at UT Dallas. Contact the MVC for more information and to get added to the list: 972-883-4913 or veterans@utdallas.edu

Post-Deployment: Return to Campus

Students may be readmitted within one year of the "release from active duty" date on the orders. When preparing to return to UT Dallas:

1. Notify the Military and Veteran Center of your plan to return to assist with the process.
2. Depending on deployment time period, fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year expected to return: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
3. No later than 10 days before the beginning of the semester, submit the UT Dallas Re-entry Form to the Registrar's Office: <http://www.utdallas.edu/registrar/forms/>
 - a. Registrar will activate student accounts so that student can register for classes.
4. Contact academic advisor to discuss degree program prior to registering for classes: <http://www.utdallas.edu/undergraduate-advising/undergraduate-advisors/>
5. Following deployment, you may qualify for additional VA educational benefits, or state of Texas benefits. Check with Veterans Benefits in the Office of Financial Aid for eligibility. Plan to contact the VA and apply via eBenefits: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/> or 1-800-442-4551 (Mon-Fri, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.)
 - a. Student should submit veteran benefits certification paperwork (GI Bill or Hazlewood) to Office of Financial Aid (if applicable): www.utdallas.edu/vetbenefits/

Programs

- Deployed Comets
 - Keep in touch with your students!
 - Care packages: T-Shirts, Swag items



Services

- Military and Veteran Center
 - Monday – Friday, 8 – 5
 - Full-time staff + VA Work Study students
 - Peer support
 - Study/Lounge Space
 - Free coffee, computer use, printing
 - CAC Reader
- Priority Registration
- Application Fee Waiver



Campus Education

- Faculty/Staff Support
 - UTD Green Zone
- Advisory Councils
 - Veteran Advisory Council
 - Community Advisory Council
- University Communications
 - Publications
 - Marketing



Campus Education - Green Zone Training

1. Build a better understanding of student veterans and military-affiliated population
2. Develop confidence in teaching and working with military-affiliated students
3. Increased knowledge of resources available for military-affiliated students

Green Zone

Military and Veteran Center | What We Offer | Green Zone



GREEN ZONE

The Green Zone program aims to establish a University-wide network of staff and faculty who shape a military-friendly campus culture.

[Green Zone Network \(pdf\)](#)

2020-2021 Training

Green Zone classes are offered periodically by Military and Veteran Center staff.

Temporarily suspended. Sign-up to receive notification for next class.

Resources

The following articles and resources are made available during Green Zone trainings and are helpful to understand student veteran populations:

- Lighthall, Allison. "Ten Things You Should Know About Today's Student Veteran" (pdf)
- Osborne, Nicholas. "Veteran Ally: Practical Strategies for Closing the Military-Civilian Gap on Campus" (pdf)
- "Accommodating Student Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder: Tips for Campus Faculty and Staff" (pdf)
- Paradotto, Nicole. "Reporting to Class" (pdf)
- Military Cultural Competence Resources.

Green Zone Training Overview

- Military Basics
- Challenges for Veterans
- Classroom Considerations
- Community Resources
- UT Dallas Resources
- Scenario training
- Student Veteran Panel



Campus Education – Advisory Councils

- Veteran Advisory Council
 - 30+ Faculty and Staff members
 - Meet quarterly to discuss strategies for military affiliated student support
- Community Advisory Council
 - Corporate/Community Partners
 - Career opportunities preparation for students
- **Thursday Oct 15 1:00-1:45**
 - “Extend your influence with Advisory Councils”

Campus Education - Communications

- Publicize your work!
- Advertise services
- <https://utdallas.edu/veterans/media/>

In The Media

Military and Veteran Center - What We Offer - In the Media

Check out the ways our military-affiliated students at UT Dallas and alumni are in the media.

Articles

- **May 11, 2020**, *Graduating Student Veteran Discovers Perfect Balance in Service, Studies*
[Read More](#)
- **May 3, 2020**, *UTD Students in National Guard deployed to combat COVID-19*
[Read More](#)
- **Aug 19, 2019**, *Military Student Finds Her Place at UTD*
[Read More](#)
- **Spring 2019**: *Graduating Navy Veteran Completes 30-Year Academic Mission*
[Read More](#)
- **Winter 2019**: *Reading Peace in the Tea Leaves*
[Read More](#)
- **Dec. 3, 2018**: *Women Veterans Describe Transition From Military Life to College*
[Read More](#)
- **Fall 2018**, *The 4-1-1 on Service Dogs*
[Read More](#)
- **Nov. 12, 2018**, *Student Veterans Find*

Videos

- **April 2019**: *SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society Induction Video*
[Watch](#)
- **Nov. 11, 2018**: *Whatcha Eatin' with The Mercury discovers "Military Food: Meals Ready to Eat"*
[Watch](#)
- **Nov. 2017**: *Veterans Lecture 2017: Major General Tony Cuolo, Associate Vice Chancellor for Leadership Development and Veterans Affairs for the UT System*
[Watch](#)
- **Nov. 2016**: *Veterans Lecture 2016: Cpl. Jacob Schick shares with levity the dramatic events of his life and time in the service.*
[Watch](#)
- **Nov. 2015**: *Veterans Lecture 2015: Hear from two veterans who have fought their way through intense conflict overseas, battled the hardships of reintegration back at home, and discovered a renewed sense of purpose by*

Commencement Speakers

- **Fall 2019**: Jerry Li
[Learn More](#)
- **Fall 2019**: Jessi Howell
[Learn More](#)
- **Spring 2019**: Tevin Edney
[Learn More](#)
- **Fall 2018**: Archie Nettles
[Learn More](#)
- **Spring 2016**: Malicka Modgill
[Learn More](#)

External Coverage

- **November 7, 2019**: *University Business. Campus service projects, success electives and 'Networking' events help ex-military students adjust.* [Learn More](#)
- **Oct. 25, 2018**: *The Bulletin of ACUI (Association of College Unions International): Unions Taking the Lead in Supporting Student Veterans*

Challenges

- Identifying Guard/Reserve members
 - Admissions – Texas application
 - Transfer Services
 - Benefits
- Promoting/Marketing services
 - Transfer Orientation
 - Welcome Emails
 - Flyers

Serve in the Guard or Reserves?

The Military and Veteran Center can assist UTD students with the challenges of managing military obligations and academics

Provide a memo to faculty to verify absences when on orders

Stay in contact if/when you are deployed and facilitate your return to campus

Discuss eligibility for educational benefits, including the MGIB-SR and TA

Add you to the priority registration list if you are not on an educational benefit

Equip you with checklists and tips for balancing military duty and coursework

Did you know that the MVC has CAC readers for our computing stations?
Check one out at the reception desk!

Military and Veteran Center
utdallas.edu/veterans

Case Study

- Texas Army National Guard
- March 2020: Annual Tour extended to COVID response
- Actions
 - Remained enrolled
 - Petitioned for final grades
 - Worked outside duty hours
 - Periodic Check ins
- End of Semester
- Benefit check
- Re-Enrollment

Recap

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<https://utdallas.edu/veterans/enroll/>



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Questions/Discussion

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