

17th Annual Texas A&M University System Military-Affiliated Symposium

Call for Programs

Theme: *From Policy to Practice: Advancing Military-Affiliated Student Success*

General Guidelines

Session Length: Each session should be approximately 55 minutes. Presenters or facilitators are encouraged to allocate at least 10-15 minutes for audience questions and discussion.

Suggested Formats:

1. **Presentation** – A traditional conference session led by one or more presenters, focusing on sharing research, insights, or best practices.
2. **Panel** – A moderated discussion featuring 3-5 panelists and a facilitator. Panelists should receive prepared topics or questions in advance to ensure a well-structured and engaging conversation.
3. **Workshop** – An interactive session designed to engage participants in hands-on learning, skill-building, or problem-solving activities.

Session Tracks

Each session should align with one of the following tracks:

1. **Thriving Through Transition: Strengthening Belonging, Academic Engagement & Career Success**
Explore initiatives that enhance students' sense of belonging, academic achievement, and career readiness—both inside and outside the classroom, including mental health support.
2. **Building Bridges: Community, Leadership & Fundraising for Military-Affiliated Student Success**
Strategies for engaging campus and community leaders, fostering partnerships, and securing financial support to sustain and expand military-focused programs.
3. **Maximizing Military Benefits: Navigating Educational Certification & Support Systems**
Insights on effectively navigating military education benefits, certification processes, and evolving policies to remove barriers and support military-affiliated student success.
4. **Policy & Progress: Shaping the Future of Veteran Education**
A forward-looking discussion on emerging policies affecting military-affiliated students, including legislative updates, VA initiatives, and advocacy efforts.

Proposal Evaluation

Session proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Relevance** – The proposal clearly aligns with the symposium tracks and/or theme.
2. **Innovation & Best Practices** – The session presents best practices, innovative techniques, and/or effective methods.
3. **Impact** – The topic is relevant to the education and professional development of those working with student veterans and military-affiliated students.
4. **Engagement** – The proposal demonstrates a thoughtful and intentional approach to audience engagement, appropriate for the session format.
5. **Clarity** – The abstract is well-written, clearly outlining the session's main points and target audience.
6. **Strengths-Based Approach** – Proposals that highlight proactive, strengths-based, inclusive, and/or evidence-based practices are encouraged.