

Veteran Services Conference and Schedule for 2025-2026

Last updated 03.04.2026

The following is a list of professional development opportunities that may be of interest to those who support military-affiliated students in higher education.

Upcoming Conferences

Student Veterans of America National Conference (NatCon)

PURPOSE: SVA's National Conference (NatCon) is the largest annual gathering of student veterans, advocates, thought leaders, stakeholders, and supporters in higher education in the world.

DATE: January 8-10, 2026

LOCATION: Colorado Springs, CO

WEBSITE: <https://studentveterans.org/programs-events/national-conference/>

Florida's Association of Veterans Education Specialists (FAVES) Conference

PURPOSE: The 2026 FAVES NCD Conference held virtually via Zoom offers 2 half-day training for School Certifying Officials (SCOs) working with Military & Veteran Education Benefits/GI Bill®. This year's conference is Presentations are delivered by Florida's SAA Team, other VA representatives, and experienced SCO's. Ample time is dedicated to answering program questions. Please see the tentative agenda for a listing on the training topics.

DATE: January 14-15, 2026

LOCATION: VIRTUAL

WEBSITE: <https://flfaves.org/2026-faves-ncd-conference/>

NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students

PURPOSE: Hosted by the NASPA Military-Connected Knowledge Community, the Symposium on Military-Connected Students is NASPA's premiere event designed for student affairs practitioners supporting military-connected students. The symposium is your exclusive opportunity to share evidence-based practices from your campus or organization. Learn from leading researchers in the field and engage with other professionals committed to supporting military-connected students.

DATE: February 17-20, 2026

LOCATION: Norfolk, VA

WEBSITE: <https://www.naspa.org/events/2026-naspa-symposium-on-military-connected-students>

American Legion Annual Washington Conference

PURPOSE: The Annual Washington Conference brings together Legionnaires for critical discussions with lawmakers, informative sessions with members of Congress and VA leadership, and insights on legislative priorities from the National Commander. The National Commander will also address attendees on legislative priorities during the National Commander's Rally.

DATE: February 28-March 4, 2026

LOCATION: Washington, D.C.

WEBSITE: <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/meetings/washington-conference>

Texas Association of Collegiate Veteran Program Officials (TACVPO) Conference

PURPOSE: TACVPO was created 50 years ago to help educate staff members at educational institutions across the state of Texas who provide assistance to veterans and their family members that are using Veterans Benefits from the state of Texas or the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Members of TACVPO have the opportunity to network with colleagues to solve problems, seek advice, or mentor one another. We encourage anyone that works with Veterans in Higher Education to join us, even if you are from another state! We welcome all new members and encourage you to attend our annual conference which is planned with you in mind!

DATE: March 9-12, 2026

LOCATION: Houston, TX

WEBSITE: <https://www.tacvpo.com/conference>

Veterans in Society Conference

PURPOSE: The Veterans Studies Association believes that the category *veteran* must be approached critically, inclusively, and comparatively. We support critical and creative studies covering military and former military personnel and their families of all identities, from the time they contemplate living outside the military across their lifespans as they navigate civilian norms and lifeways.

DATE: March 26-28, 2026

LOCATION: Chicago, IL

WEBSITE: <https://www.veteranology.org/conference>

Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Symposium

PURPOSE: The 2026 National Symposium is your premier opportunity to connect with leaders and innovators. Showcase your organization's commitment to supporting the educational goals of service members, veterans, and their families.

DATE: March 29 – April 2, 2026

LOCATION: San Francisco, CA

WEBSITE: <https://www.ccmeonline.org/2026-symposium>

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) Virtual Convening

PURPOSE: The CAEL Virtual Convening is your essential two-day deep dive into the strategies, policies, and partnerships that are redefining this ecosystem.

DATE: April 21-22, 2026

LOCATION: Virtual

WEBSITE: <https://www.cael.org/2026virtualconvening>

2025 Gordon State College Student Veteran and Adult Learner Symposium

PURPOSE: We are thrilled to invite you to the 2025 Student Veteran and Adult Learner Symposium: Advocacy in Action: Enhancing Support for Student Veterans and Adult Learners – a free event dedicated to empowering higher education professionals to better serve these valuable student populations.

This one-day symposium will bring together faculty, staff, administrators, and organizations from across higher education to explore innovative solutions for enhancing support for student veterans and adult learners. Attendees will take away actionable insights and tools to implement in their home institutions.

DATE: April 24, 2025

LOCATION: Barnesville, Georgia

WEBSITE: <https://www.gordonstate.edu/newsroom/2025/april/blog-post-folder/index.html>

Tennessee Veteran Initiatives Conference

PURPOSE: The Tennessee Higher Education Commission's Veteran Initiatives Conference of 2026 will convene academic professionals and military-connected student leaders from across Tennessee to collaborate, share best practices and explore new opportunities for supporting military-connected students from enrollment to credential attainment. THEC welcomes administrators, faculty, staff and military-connected students to participate in this annual event.

DATE: April 22-23, 2026

LOCATION: Nashville, TN

WEBSITE: <https://www.tn.gov/thec/for-institutions/veteran-initiatives.html>

American College Health Association Annual Meeting

PURPOSE: The ACHA Annual Meeting is the largest college health event of the year. Join nearly 2,000 other college health professionals for networking, exchanging ideas, and professional development.

DATE: May 26-20, 2026

LOCATION: Denver, CO

WEBSITE: <https://www.acha.org/event/acha-2026-annual-meeting/>

California Community Colleges Veterans Summit

PURPOSE: The Veterans Symposium invites all faculty, administrators and staff from California community colleges, California State Universities, Universities of California, four-year universities and statewide partners dedicated to supporting this unique population of students. Join us to explore innovative strategies, share best practices and collaborate on actionable solutions for success.

DATE: June 16-17, 2026

LOCATION: Indian Wells, CA

WEBSITE:

National Association of County Veteran Services Officers (NACVSO)

PURPOSE: Train & educate CVSOs and veterans advocates in preparation, submission and representation of claims with Department of Veteran Affairs. Also to advocate on behalf of veterans and eligible family members to receive the benefits in which they are rightfully earned.

DATE: May 31-June 5, 2026

LOCATION: Reno, NV

WEBSITE: <https://www.nacvso.org/annual-conference>

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)

PURPOSE: Professional development opportunity for financial aid administrators in higher education. This conference includes informative presentations, networking opportunities and other unique events for professionals in financial aid.

DATE: June 29-July 2, 2026

LOCATION: National Harbor, MD

WEBSITE: <https://www.nasfaa.org/conference>

National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Veterans Conference

PURPOSE: The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) is the national organization representing all 50 state workforce agencies, D.C., and U.S. territories. These agencies deliver training, employment, career, business, and wage and hour services, in addition to administering unemployment insurance, veteran reemployment, and labor market information programs. NASWA provides policy expertise, shares promising state practices, and promotes state innovation and leadership in workforce development.

DATE: July 8-10, 2026

LOCATION: Washington, DC

WEBSITE: <https://www.naswa.org/conferences/save-the-date-naswa-conferences>

Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials (AVECO) Annual Conference

PURPOSE: AVECO 2025 will welcome back the Department of Veterans Affairs, various State Approving Agencies from across the regions as well as industry and colleague led interest sessions. The conference curriculum will continue to promote open peer-to-peer dialogue as well as provide industry led training opportunities to aid in your professional development.

DATE: July 11-15, 2026

LOCATION: Austin, TX

WEBSITE: <https://www.aveco.org/conference>

Western Association of Veterans Educations Specialist (WAVES)

PURPOSE: Serve the needs and interests of veterans, faculties, and administrators in the member institutions. Foster communication and cooperation between all concerned and interested institutions and agencies on matters affecting the education of veterans and other eligible persons.

DATE: July 20-24, 2026

LOCATION: Hollywood, CA

WEBSITE: <https://www.uswaves.org/>

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Convention

PURPOSE: To conduct the business of the organization, elect leadership, set the legislative agenda, recognize volunteers, and provide educational seminars for members.

DATE: August 1-4, 2026

LOCATION: Orlando, FL

WEBSITE: <https://www.dav.org/events/2026-national-convention/>

2025 Warrior Symposium

PURPOSE: The annual Warrior Symposium is an industry-leading event where hundreds of veteran-serving professionals gather to foster collaboration and enhance service to veterans and their families in communities across America.

This year's theme is "Together, We Can Do Better," a call to action leveraging businesses as a catalyst for Community Integration. The event conversations will highlight best practices, peel back the layers on pressing issues, and explore strategic opportunities to maximize government and nongovernment programs while building thriving, sustainable veteran communities nationwide.

DATE: August 5-6, 2025

LOCATION: Washington, D.C.

WEBSITE: <https://www.americaswarriorpartnership.org/symposium>

Texas A&M University System Military-Affiliated Symposium

PURPOSE: The Texas A&M University System Military-Affiliated Symposium convenes veterans, higher education administrators, state and federal officials, and others who offer services to veterans in order to share best practices and facilitate communication. The goal of the symposium is to connect local, state, and national support services for higher education institutions with student veterans and military-affiliated students. Additionally, the Symposium is an opportunity to increase communication and collaboration across the state and nation.

DATE: October 5-6, 2026

LOCATION: Frisco, TX

WEBSITE: <https://www.tamus.edu/veterans/symposium/>

2025 Dallas College Veterans Mental Health Summit

PURPOSE: The summit is a collaborative education and outreach initiative between Dallas College Military Connected Services and Counseling and Psychological Services, as well as the VA North Texas Healthcare System.

DATE: September 25, 2025

LOCATION: Dallas, TX

WEBSITE: <https://www.dallascollege.edu/events/2025/vet-health-summit/>

Military Influencer Conference (MIC)

PURPOSE: The premier event for those who shape and support the military community.

DATE: September 23-26, 2026

LOCATION: Tampa, FL

WEBSITE: <https://militaryinfluencer.com/>

Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)

PURPOSE: TASFAA advances student access to higher education by providing professional development for its diverse members, advocating for informed public policies, and facilitating forums on financial aid topics.

DATE: October 7-9, 2026

LOCATION: South Padre Island, TX

WEBSITE: https://www.tasfaa.org/toc_conferences

2025 Endeavors Veterans Mental Health & Wellness Summit

PURPOSE: Designed for licensed professionals—including counselors, social workers, case managers, and mental health providers—the Summit will feature insights from national and regional leaders, practical strategies for supporting veteran well-being, and tools for strengthening trust and connection.

DATE: October 16-17, 2025

LOCATION: Dallas, TX

WEBSITE: <https://endeavors.org/2025-veterans-mental-health-wellness-summit/>

MBA Veterans Career Conference & Expo

PURPOSE: The MBA Veterans Career Conference is the nation's leading military and MBA diversity conference. Every Fall, it connects 500+ 1st and 2nd year MBA students, all of whom are military veterans enrolled at top ranked programs with more than 60 of America's leading MBA employers.

DATE: October 8-9, 2026

LOCATION: Atlanta, GA

WEBSITE: <https://mbaveterans.com/>

National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) Annual Conference

PURPOSE: To connect with an organization of institutions and individuals who are involved or interested in the operation of veterans' affairs programs and/or the delivery of services to veterans as school certifying officials across the country.

DATE: October 19-22, 2026

LOCATION: Dallas, TX

WEBSITE: <https://navpa.org/conference/>

2025 Alabama Veterans Affairs Association (AVAA) Conference

PURPOSE: Alabama Veterans Affairs Association is the oldest nonprofit organization of its kind, founded in 1974, dedicated to serving our educational professionals that serve our military students and their families. AVAA has become the foremost training and networking organization for professionals administering educational benefits for Veterans and other eligible persons.

DATE: October 19-23, 2025

LOCATION: Orange Beach, AL

WEBSITE: <https://www.avaa.online/conference>

Council on Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) Conference

PURPOSE: CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning) is a national, nonprofit membership organization that supports the creation of education-to-career pathways, fueling economic mobility and community prosperity for all. CAEL helps organizations succeed among accelerating changes reshaping education and employment landscapes. We build and lead inclusive partnerships that result in agile, responsive pathways linking learning and work. By helping diverse organizations find common cause in adult learners and workers, we keep education and training providers aligned in real time, sustain healthy talent pipelines, and support enrollment in education and training programs, from badges and microcredentials to certificates and advanced degrees.

DATE: November 3-6, 2026

LOCATION: Pittsburgh, PA

WEBSITE: <https://www.cael.org/cael-conference>

2025 Southwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SWASFAA)

PURPOSE: Professional development opportunity for financial aid administrators in higher education in the Southwest region of the United States. This conference includes informative presentations, networking opportunities and other unique events for professionals in financial aid.

DATE: November 5-7, 2025

LOCATION: New Orleans, LA

WEBSITE: <https://www.swasfaa.org/25superconference>

Past Conferences

Military Social Work & Behavioral Health Conference *out of date*

PURPOSE: The Military Social Work & Behavioral Health Conference is a gathering of clinicians, researchers and veteran service organizations committed to sharing and learning from clinical and research experts about how to best address the behavioral health needs of our country's service members, veterans, caregivers, and family members.

WEBSITE: <https://sites.utexas.edu/military-social-work-conference/>

NC Student Transition Resource Initiative for Veteran's Education (STRIVE) Conference *out of date*

PURPOSE: Formed in 2015, NC STRIVE is a consortium of two- and four-year colleges along with federal and state agencies who plan, organize, and sponsor a yearly conference offering resources to veterans and educators of veterans to increase awareness and knowledge of issues affecting veterans and their families transitioning from the military to the academic setting. NC Strive is a project of the Governor's Institute and the North Carolina Governor's Working Group.

WEBSITE: <https://www.uncfsu.edu/fsu-admissions/military/nc-strive-conference>

The War Horse Symposium *out of date*

PURPOSE: On April 6, The University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and *The War Horse News* will host a day-long convening where members of the public are invited to discuss the human impact of military service with legendary journalists, world-class scholars, and the senior government officials shaping the United States Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. Featured speakers include Jon Stewart, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dennis McDonough, and Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Kathleen Hicks.

WEBSITE: <https://info.harris.uchicago.edu/war-horse-symposium>

National Minority Veterans Summit *out of date*

Purpose: To focus on the needs and issues imperative to minority Veterans and provide minority Veterans and the local/state/Federal/NGO partners who serve them with information about VA benefits and services.

WEBSITE: <https://www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/summit/index.asp>

Women Veterans in Higher Education Conference *out of date*

PURPOSE: Hosted by California State University - Fullerton, it is a conference for women veterans who are looking to attend college, who are current college students, or who would like to connect to women veterans as peers, mentors, or service providers. It is an opportunity for women veterans to gather, meet, and share their stories in an inclusive and supportive environment.

WEBSITE: <http://www.fullerton.edu/veterans/women/>