

Welcome

MILITARY AND VETERANS PROGRAM

Military-Connected Ally Support Training
SOLES Faculty Professional Development Series
Spring 2024



Today's Presenters



Nelson Chase
Director, MVP



Today's Presenters

Tiffany Anderson
Assistant Director, MVP



Courtney Gage
Academic Success Coordinator, MVP



What is MCAST?

Military Connected Ally Support Training

As part of our mission, the Military & Veterans Program seeks to support the community by engaging in dialogue about military-connected students' experiences and how university personnel can help them. We accomplish this goal by hosting military awareness training events for faculty, staff, and administrators and promoting our resources and services. Our military awareness training is based on SDSU's Military Ally training, with information tailored specifically to USD.



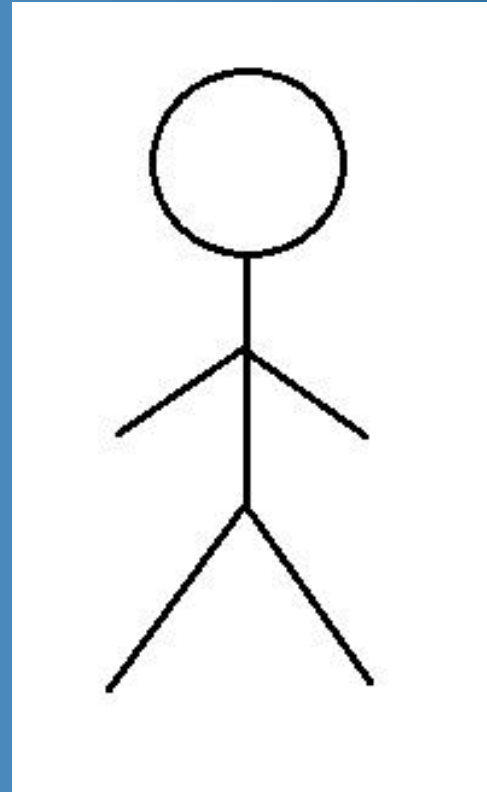
Today's Topics

- **Military Culture**
- **Transition from Military to Student/Civilian Life**
- **Military & Veterans Program**
- **How to Support Military-Connected Students at USD**



What does a student veteran look like?

- What characteristics would this stick figure need?
- How do they act?
- Why do they join?
- Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Phenotype, Personality, Behavior, etc.



Who are military-connected individuals? Why do they join the military?

While people may use "veteran" in a broad sense to include all of these groups, we encourage a more encompassing term - "military connected." This adjustment recognizes a broader spectrum of individuals with ties to the military, accommodating a more diverse range of experiences and backgrounds.



Veteran: Person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable

Service Member: Personnel currently in the uniformed services

- Active Duty
- Reserve Duty
- National Guard
- ROTC

Other Military-Connected Students:

- Spouses
- Children



Who are military-connected individuals? Why do they join the military?



Why serve?

- Education Benefits (53%)
- Desire to Serve Country (52%)
- New Experience, Adventure, Travel (49%)
- Sense of Purpose (36%)
- Career Opportunities (31%)
- Other:
 - Economic
 - Rite of Passage
 - Family Tradition



Having a Loved One in the Military

Spouses • Dependent Children • “Military Brats”

Experiences that military-connected individuals may experience include, but are not limited to:

- Moving often and living on and off military bases all over the world
- Establishing new support networks in new locations every few years
- Feeling like a single parent if spouse is in the military (deployments can be six months to a year and often)
- Missing family members when on deployment and anxiety about service member’s safety
- Adjusting to and supporting family member returning from service

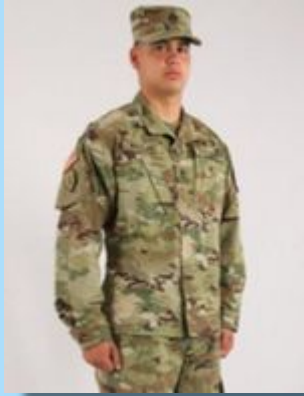


Military Experience

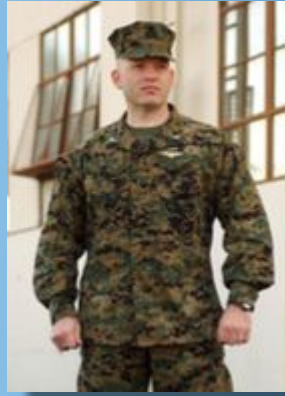
- Camaraderie - Trust
- Responsibility
- Structure & Hierarchy
- World Travel & New Experiences



Military Culture



Army - Soldier



Marines - Marine



Navy - Sailor



Air Force -
Airman



Coast Guard -
Coast Guardsman



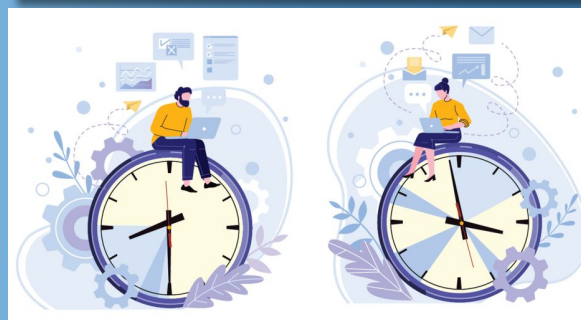
Space Force -
Guardians

Rank Structure

Ability to see:

- Resume
- Where you have been
- What you have done
- Authority & hierarchy

Military vs. Higher Education



Final		ACADEMIC MARKS				
1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	1st Sem	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Fnl Exm	Fnl Mrk
A	A		B+	B		B+
B+	C+		C+	C		C+
B+	B+		B+	B		B+
B	D+		C	C+		C
			C	C+		C+
						C+



Transition & Balance

Becoming a Civilian	Being a Veteran	Becoming a Student
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Losing structured environment/schedule• Losing camaraderie• Figuring out how to be independent & making decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pride / Silence about service• Seeking Community/“Band of Brothers”• Effects & Experiences from Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choosing a major• Selecting classes• Studying• Questioning authority• Being a fellow student• Finding balance



Student Veterans in Higher Education

STUDENT VETERANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO:



BE OLDER;
BE MARRIED;
HAVE CHILDREN;
HAVE A DISABILITY;
WORKING FULL OR PART-TIME;
FIRST GENERATION STUDENT

In 2020 69% of student veterans were male and 31% were female.

In 2023: 62% of student veterans were first-generation college students.

The majority of student veterans were between 24 and 40 years old.

Only 15% of student veterans were traditionally aged (ages 18 to 23).

47% of student veterans were parents and 47% were married.



Growth Mindset

- We encourage **Military-Connected Students (and especially Student Veterans)** to adopt (or readopt) a growth mindset.
- Many have fallen into a fixed mindset and we as faculty and staff have to help them move past that.
- Intelligence is not the same thing as eye color. Our brain is a muscle and it needs to be exercised.
- Being a human is a rigorous, extended exercise in growing and developing



Growth Mindset

- **Military-Connected Students are resilient and need to be reminded of that.**
- **Student Veterans have proven their abilities to learn how to do things they did not know how to do and in stressful situations**
- **The things that they did in the military were much more difficult than the things they will study and do in college**
- **Helping them remember that struggling is learning and that not knowing is a prerequisite for learning**
- **Making mistakes and errors are precious gift for us to learn and grown**
- **Faculty and administrators can help military-connected students to see college as extended version of the learning they accomplished in the military.**



What should Faculty Know?

I think the number one thing I appreciated as a student veteran were the few trustworthy relationships I was able to form with members of the faculty... I'd love to see most professors prioritize mental health in their classes. I had a professor who would do breathing exercises with us the first few minutes of each class. Most who do show that prioritization come off as extremely approachable right off the bat, and that opened the door for me to be more willing to converse with them after classes. The more conversations there are between Student Veterans and Faculty, the higher chance there are for relationships built on trust to develop, which should naturally lead to success in the classroom . When I trust someone in higher education, I always make the best effort to deepen that relationship, even well after I am done with a class.

Ray, US Navy Veteran



What should Faculty Know?

I believe that faculty should be aware that military-connected students, especially veterans, are likely to have mental or physical disabilities that affect their everyday lives. Faculty should be patient with veterans in the classroom, be mindful of potential triggers, and considerate of the fact that they are not typical civilian students. Building trust with them may require more time and consideration.

Bri, Military Dependent



Faculty Support

- **Setting aside personal views on US Military and Foreign Policy Decisions**
 - **Overwhelming majority of military-connected students were not policy makers or higher level administrators**
 - **Veteran and Active Duty Students have a wide variety of views and opinions on policy decisions but have no power to control what politicians decide to do.**
 - **Many Veteran and Active Duty Students struggle to make sense of their service in a Post-Afghanistan withdrawal world.**
- **Seeing the humanity in the Veteran / Active Duty Service Member**
 - **empathizing with them as the learn and grow in a post-military service context.**
 - **Remember they are coming from a structured society and it can be a struggle to adjust**
 - **Give lots of grace and reassurance that their presence is valued**



Faculty Support

- **Utilize the real world experience military-connected students bring to your classrooms**
 - **Veteran and Active Duty Students have leadership experience and can be valuable in collaborating with other students and faculty.**
- **Help connect military-connected students to appropriate offices for additional support**
 - **Many Veteran students have had traumatic experiences and have diagnosed VA disabilities (both seen and unseen)**
 - **Connecting them with the DLDRC or making accommodations in your classroom could be vital in seeing our students succeed.**



Key Takeaway

Communicating a positive and clear message to our military-connected population that they are a valuable part of the campus community, and that this community is stronger and more diverse through their presence and participation.



Military & Veterans Program- Staff

Nelson Chase
Director



Courtney Gage
*Academic Success
Coordinator*



Briana Torres
Graduate Assistant



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Assistant Director



Raymond Gorospe
*Program Coordinator
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Military & Veterans Program

The USD Military & Veterans Program provides student-focused services to all USD military-connected students, from their initial consideration of higher education, through services when they are enrolled as students and in their transition to alumni status. USD MVP services enhance military and veteran students' abilities to achieve their higher education and career goals effectively, from a quality institution, while using their benefits as efficiently as possible.

The Center provides:

- Free printing (10 pages/day), Computer access
- Coffee & Events
- Quiet study room & lounge
- Textbook checkout
- Support to find resources on campus
- Certifying Educational Benefits
- Community Events
- Monthly Newsletter



Military & Veterans Program: Events



- **Career Development Mixer - network with alumni and industry professionals**
- **Veterans Day/Week Events**
- **Family & Social Events- Welcome Back Celebrations, SD Gulls & Padres Games, and an annual Holiday Party**
- **Military-Connected Graduation Celebration**



Military & Veterans Program: Resources

- **Our Resource page operates as a Hub of Information for military-connected students**
- **Areas include: VA Work Study Information, Scholarships, and Campus and Community Resource information in these main categories**

On Campus Resources

Our MVP Team cultivates and sustains relationships with many campus partners to bring you the best student experience on campus. Explore what USD has to offer!

Academic Success and Accessibility



Health and Wellbeing



University Services



Family Services and Resources



Involvement and Campus Life



Community Resources

San Diego and the neighborhoods surrounding USD has a bright and vibrant history, with many military and veteran connections. Explore these resources, and be a part of your new community! Please always feel free to let us know if there are ever any resources we can add, or if any links are broken.

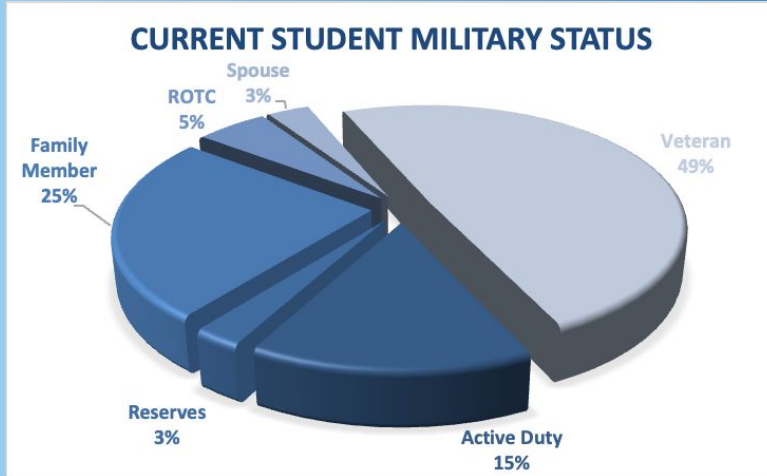
Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense



Local and National Resources



Military-Connected Students at USD (Fall 2023)



Fall Enrollment: 763 Students

- **Undergraduate: 42%**
- **Graduate: 50%**
- **Law: 8%**

Average Age of Military Connected Students: 31 years old

- **Undergraduate: 24 years old**
- **Graduate: 36 years old**

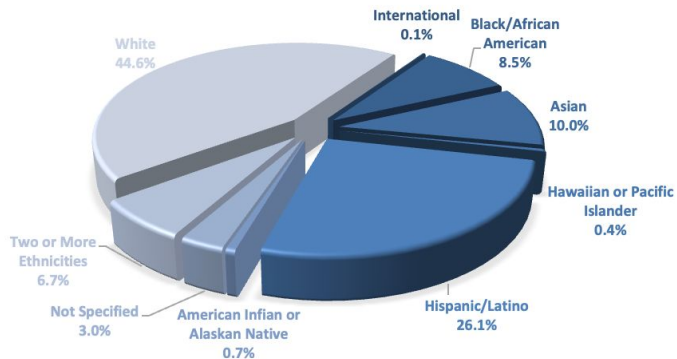
Gender (self identified):

- **Male: 64%**
- **Female: 36%**

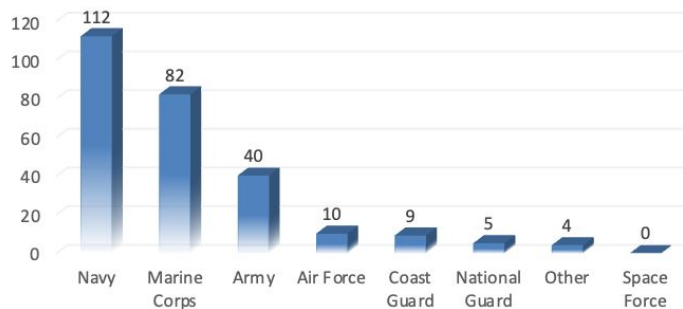


Military-Connected Students at USD

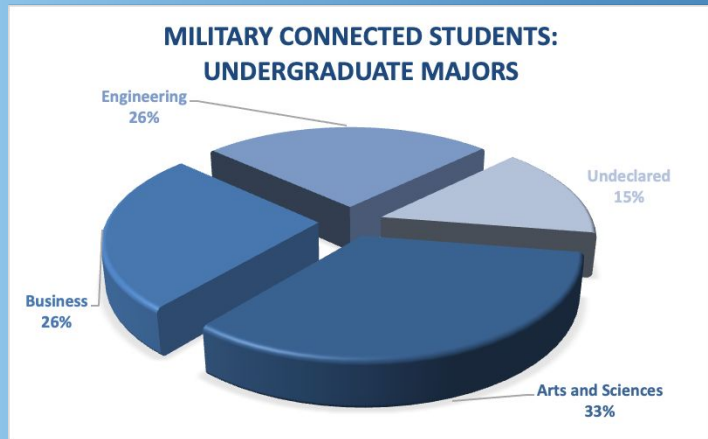
ETHNIC IDENTITIES OF MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS



MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS: BRANCHES OF SERVICE



Military-Connected Undergraduate Students: A Closer Look



Undergraduate Student Entry

- 45% entered USD as a first year student
- 55% entered USD as a transfer student

Average Term GPA

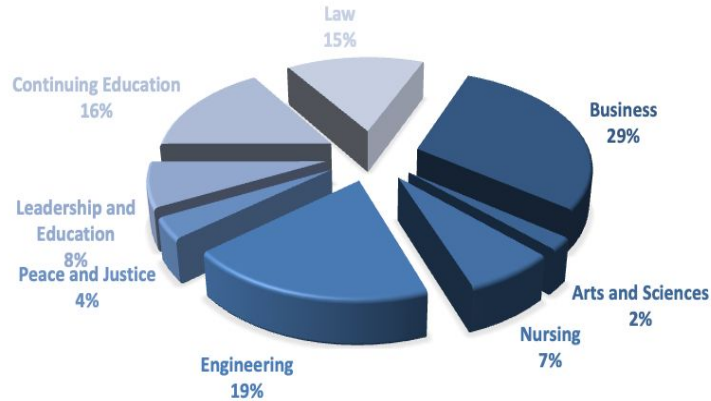
- Fall 2022: 3.25
- Spring 2023: 3.25

While 25% of all military-connected undergraduate students self identify as First Generation Students;
41% of Veteran undergraduates identify as First Generation.

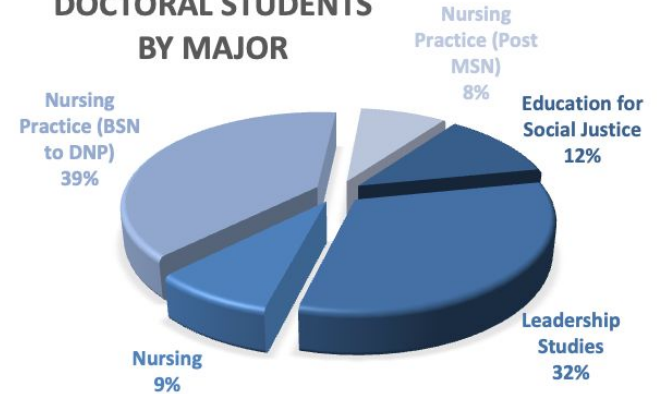


Military-Connected Graduate Students: A Closer Look

MILITARY CONNECTED GRADUATE STUDENTS BY COLLEGE



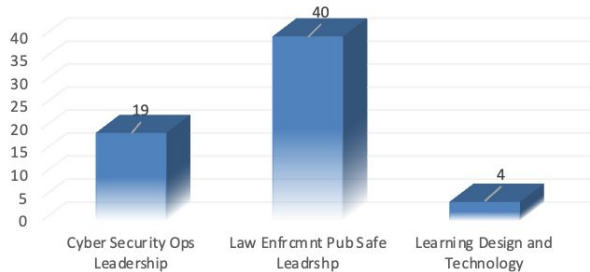
DOCTORAL STUDENTS BY MAJOR



Military-Connected PCE Students: A Closer Look

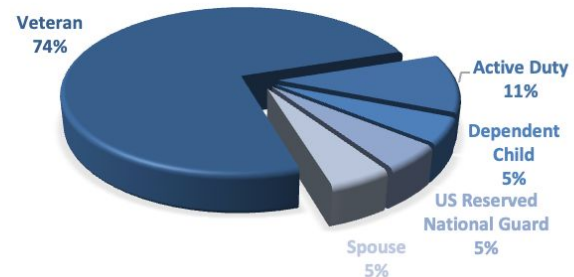
PCE MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS PROGRAM AREAS

Fall 2023 - 63 total students



PCE MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS

Fall 2023



- The average age of a Military Connected PCE Student at USD is 40.
- 81% of your military connected students identify as Male, while 19% identify as Female.



Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)

- Pays In-State Tuition and Fees, plus a book stipend
- Pays Housing Allowance (MHA)
 - Currently \$3782 per month
- Only while classes are in session
- Only pays 100% if student is full time
 - Pays \$0 *if student is half-time or less*
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Only lasts for 36 academic months
- Most Veterans have attended multiple colleges



VA Benefits at USD

Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)

EXAMPLE	FALL 2023	SPRING 2024
Undergraduate Tuition & Fees	\$28,222 /Semester	\$28,222 /Semester
VA Post-911 G.I. Bill*	\$27,120.05	\$0
USD YRP	\$550.97	\$14,111
VA YRP	\$550.97	\$14,111
Tuition due	\$0	\$0

The USD Yellow Ribbon Program is awarded after the Post-9/11 annual cap has been used. The unmet tuition will then be split into two awards USD YRP and VA matching of YRP.

For the academic year 2023-24, all students (Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, Spouses, and Dependent Children) 100% eligible for Chapter 33 Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® will have full coverage of their tuition and fees as long as they have entitlement time (months) to cover their enrollment.



Vocational Rehabilitation/Veteran Readiness and Employment (Chapter 31)

- Covers all tuition and fees, plus supplies, per their counselor
- Pays Housing Allowance (MHA)
- Most Veterans have attended multiple colleges

Survivors and Dependents Educational Benefits (Chapter 35)

- Pays Monthly stipend directly to the student



Overview

VA education benefits help Veterans, service members, and their qualified family members with needs like paying college tuition, finding the right school or training program, and getting career counseling. Learn how to apply for and manage the education and training benefits you've earned.

HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR BENEFITS WITH THE VA

Complete the application for Veterans Affairs (VA) Education Benefits on the [VA website](#).

The VA will determine your eligibility and mail your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to you in 30-45 days. With a COE, students can then request to certify.

[See an Example Certificate of Eligibility](#)

WHICH FORM IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Are you a veteran?

⇒ [Submit VA Form 22-1990](#)

Are you a dependent using transferred Post 9/11 GI Bill® benefits?

⇒ [Submit VA Form 22-1990E](#)

TYPES OF VA EDUCATION BENEFITS

[Chapter 30: Montgomery G.I. Bill®](#)

[Chapter 31: Vocational Rehab](#)

[Chapter 32: VEAP \(Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program\)](#)

[Chapter 33: Post-9/11 G.I. Bill®](#)

[Chapter 35: Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program](#)

[Chapter 1606: Montgomery G.I. Bill® for Selected Reserve](#)

[Chapter 1607: Reserve Educational Assistance Program \(REAP\)](#)

[Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program \(VRRAP\)](#)



What does it mean to be an ally?

- **What was your reason for attending this training?**
- **How can faculty & staff encourage students to utilize the military-connected resources at USD?**
- **How can MVP facilitate further dialogue about the military-connected experience?**



Thank You for Attending!

**You will be receiving an email with our survey.
We appreciate your feedback!**

**You will also be receiving a .pdf of the slides and
supplemental resources for your reference.**

We look forward to your partnership!



For more info on MVP

Come on by!



Military and Veterans Program Website
www.sandiego.edu/military

