

# Saluting Colleges' Dedication to Supporting Veterans



In honor of Veterans Day, we take a moment to salute the numerous colleges and universities that go above and beyond to support our nation's veterans in their pursuit of education. Ad Astra reached out to its college and university clients, and from their responses, we've identified several heartwarming themes that demonstrate their commitment to supporting veteran students.

## 1. Comprehensive Support Services:

Many institutions have established dedicated Veterans Services Offices, staffed with academic advisors, financial aid specialists, and coordinators. These professionals help veterans navigate the complexities of educational benefits, academic planning, and financial aid, ensuring a smoother transition into college life.

## 2. Veteran-Focused Facilities:

Colleges have set up Veterans Lounges, Veteran Resource Centers, and dedicated spaces within their campuses to provide veterans with a supportive environment. These spaces offer computer access, study areas, and other resources to assist with academic success and community-building.

## 3. Priority Registration and Barrier Removal:

Veterans often receive priority registration for classes, ensuring they can build their desired schedules. Colleges also go the extra mile by providing tutoring, assistance, and credit evaluations for their military experience, making the path to graduation as smooth as possible.



For over ten years, the University of Tampa has been deemed a Military Friendly® School. U.S. News and World Report included The University of Tampa in its list of "Best Colleges for Veterans" of Regional Universities South. This designation is from our handling of transfer credit, academic counseling, wellness counseling and career services."

**MICHELLE PELAEZ**

University of Tampa, University Registrar



The Chat State Veterans Center provides a welcoming, safe, one-stop experience to all student veterans, military members, and dependents. Here, they can discuss their educational benefits with our certifying official, attend Student Military Veteran & Allies Club meetings, and participate in community-related activities. We also host a picnic for graduating veterans and celebrate Veterans Day with a steak luncheon annually.”

#### TABITHA BANKS

Chattanooga State Community College  
Coordinator, Curriculum & Academic Support for Academic Affairs

#### 4. Military-Friendly Programs:

Colleges have implemented military tuition packages, scholarships, and credits for prior military training. This support helps make education more accessible and affordable for veterans, making them a key part of the academic community.

#### 5. Strong Veteran Associations:

Some institutions maintain various Veteran Associations, fostering a sense of community among student veterans, faculty, and staff. These organizations host events and get-togethers, creating opportunities for veterans to connect and share their experiences.

**“Fresno City College has a Veteran Resource Center. There, veterans get help with signing up for classes. They also offer free readjustment and PTSD counseling, which is affiliated with the San Joaquin Valley Veterans, a local non-profit corporation.**

#### SHIRLEY MCMANUS

Fresno City College  
Dean of Math, Science & Engineering

#### 6. Veteran Appreciation Events:

In honor of Veterans Day, many institutions host special events, including luncheons, BBQs, appreciation events, and flag-raising ceremonies to honor and celebrate their veteran students.

#### 7. Community Engagement:

Colleges extend their support beyond campus borders by engaging with external veteran organizations and providing access to counseling services, counseling for readjustment and PTSD, and career opportunities.

These initiatives reflect the deep appreciation and gratitude these colleges and universities hold for the veterans who have served our country. They go above and beyond to ensure that veterans have the resources, support, and sense of community they need to excel in their academic pursuits. On this Veterans Day, let’s extend our heartfelt thanks to these institutions for their unwavering dedication to our veterans’ success.

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