

MSAC Mission Statement and Goals

Mission:

In keeping with our mission to support and enhance the journey of our veteran and military family member students here at UTC, VSS understands that connection and communication are vital to success and growth. The mission of this council will be to address the needs and concerns of our veteran students from a campus-wide perspective, develop veteran liaisons with all student support service areas, and ensure that veteran students have a smooth transition from the military to campus with the necessary support and resources in place to promote academic excellence throughout their time here at UTC and beyond. This council is an opportunity to connect the greater Chattanooga community, alumni veterans, current student veterans, UTC staff, faculty, and administration and unite with one goal in mind: student veteran support and what we want that to look like at UTC.

Goals:

(Our goals are identical to the 8 Keys of Student Veteran Success which are attached in greater detail in a separate document)

1. Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans.
2. Ensure consistent and sustained support from campus leadership.
3. Implement an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.
4. Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space for them (even if limited in size).
5. Collaborate with the local community and organizations, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans.
6. Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention, and degree completion.
7. Provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans.
8. Develop systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans.

Military Student Advisory Council
Initial Meeting Agenda
February 22, 2019

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Veteran Related Activity
3. Vice-Chancellor Freeman's Charge to the Council
4. VSS Current Resources and Support for Student Veterans
5. Who is Not at the Table?
6. Plans for the Future
 - Student Veteran Specific Orientation (online and on campus)
 - Peer Mentoring Program (PAVE)
 - Rebranded "Green Zone": Student Veteran Success Training
 - Development of Veteran Recruitment
 - Establishment of a Veteran Alumni Association
 - Academic Advisors Trained to Work Specifically with Student Veterans
7. Assignment of Homework

Dedicated support staff for active duty service-members, veterans, reservists and family members

- Director, Assistant Director, Coordinator, Veterans Benefits Specialist, Admin Support Assistant, and Student employees

Student Veteran Computer Lab

- New Desktop Computers & Free printing and scanning

Student Veteran Lounge

- T.V., coffee station, microwave, refrigerator, snacks, and refreshments

Support Services

- Preferential admission to self-identified veterans
- Veteran & military student orientation sessions and open house
- Veterans Affairs and Tuition Assistance benefits advisement sessions
- VA out-of-state tuition fee waivers
- Tuition & fee deferments for benefit students
- Priority registration
- UTC Military Student Advisory Council
- UT-Chattanooga Chapter for SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society
- Dining/bookstore discounts
- Transfer Equivalency Self-service tool for military courses and experiences
- Advocacy and resource services
- Veteran & military outreach services through social media and partnerships with local community colleges and military bases
- Student Veteran Organization
- Yellow Ribbon Scholarships
- Sergeant David "Alex" Stephens Scholarship

Veteran Student Services Programs

- VA Work Study program
- Tech-for-Vets Program (iClickers, smartpens, voice recorders, laptop, and TI-84 calculator rentals)
- Green Zone training

Veteran Student Services Events

- Cording and Coining Graduation Ceremony
- Welcome Week events
- 9/11 Remembrance Memorial service
- Quilts of Valor
- Military Appreciation week events
- Women in the Military Appreciation event
- Memorial Day Service
- Pre-employment & resume writing for veteran workshops with Career Services
- Therapy Dog Visits through Alliance of Therapy Dogs Organization

Grants

- Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) Veteran Reconnect Grant 3 (Prior Learning Assessment Initiative)
- UTC Library Enhancement Grant (increase veteran literature in UTC library)
- The Journey Home Project Grant
- Daughters of the American Revolution Grant (in progress)
- SPAC Option II