



## *Academic Advising for Military Students*

### **Web Event Handout**

**Presenters:**

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**Moderator:**

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**Overview**

In February 2014, NACADA's [Advising Veterans, Military Students & Family Members Interest Group](#) and [Advising Students with Disabilities Commission](#) jointly sponsored [Soldiers to Students: Academic Advising for Returning Veterans](#), in which our panelists discussed issues that veterans may experience and shared strategies for assisting student veterans.

Webinar participants have responded with appreciation for the information previously shared and requests to "dig deeper" regarding the needs of current military students, as well as student veterans. Jill Geisler Wheeler, a panelist from the 2013 broadcast, will serve as moderator for a new team of panelists, who will share information and practices gleaned from their experiences advising these students. Topics to be addressed include:

- What does it mean to be "military-friendly"?
- Navigating the complexities of military life
- Advising Online
- Military benefit processes and procedures
- Collaborating with the VA
- Identifying struggling students
- Green Zone training
- Academic self-management for military students

**References and Recommended Resources**

Main GI Bill Website: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

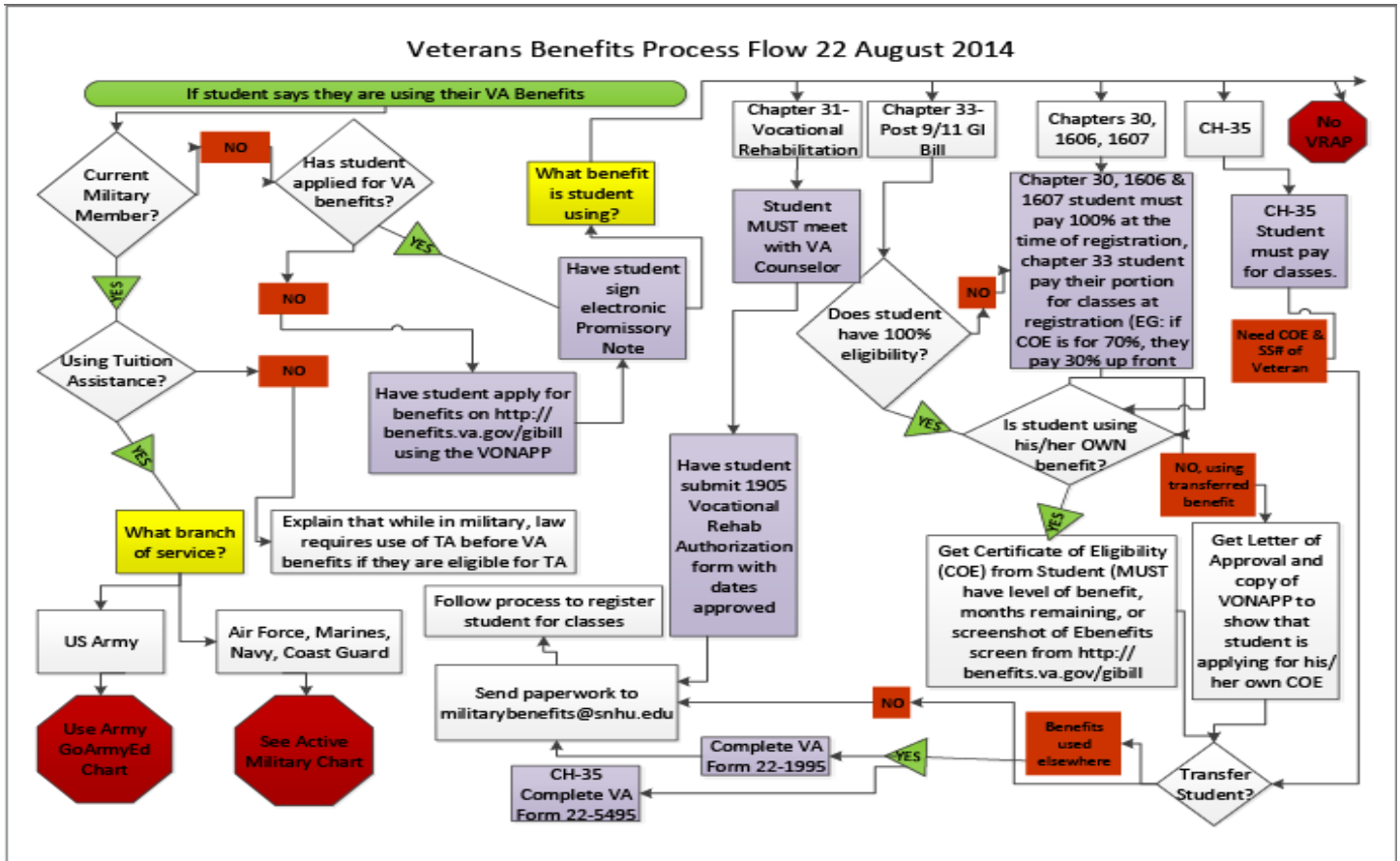
WAVE Site (For students to certify Chapter 30, Chapter 1606/1607) <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>

Apply for GI Bill here: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/apply.asp>

Check the status of your claim here : [https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/authenticate.do?sessionId=-ZoMiCdL9Xki2T7\\_S8B034leYGxJt-SgT9OphTJu\\_3AIPEhmIFTm!-129446691?execution=e1s1](https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/authenticate.do?sessionId=-ZoMiCdL9Xki2T7_S8B034leYGxJt-SgT9OphTJu_3AIPEhmIFTm!-129446691?execution=e1s1)

Handouts and forms for VA benefits we discussed today: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/handouts\\_forms.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/handouts_forms.asp)

## Additional Materials





**Unofficial Graduate Degree Map**

January 20, 2015

**Student ID#:**

**Student Name:**

**Degree:** Master of Aeronautical Science

**Specialization:** Aeronautics Specialization

As a student admitted to ERAU – Worldwide your success is our priority! This degree map will assist you in course selection throughout your graduate academic career. The map is intended for advisement purposes, is tentative and is subject to change. All official requirements are listed on your official degree evaluation. If you have any questions, please contact your Academic Advisor.

<b>Campus Recommended Courses</b>	<b>Term</b>
<b>ASCI 602 The Air Transportation System</b>	<b>May 2014</b>
<b>ASCI 604 Human Factors in the Aviation/Aerospace Industry</b>	<b>August 2014</b>
<b>ASCI 515 Aviation/Aerospace Simulation Systems (suggested Aeronautics course)</b>	<b>October 2014</b>
<b>ASCI 516 Applications in Crew Resource Management (suggested Aeronautics course)</b>	<b>January 2015</b>
<b>ASCI 560 Advanced Rotorcraft Operations (suggested Aeronautics course)</b>	<b>March 2015</b>
<b>ASCI 603 Aircraft and Spacecraft Development (suggested Aeronautics course)</b>	<b>May 2015</b>
<b>ASCI 500/600 ELECTIVE</b>	<b>August 2015</b>
<b>ASCI 500/600 ELECTIVE</b>	<b>October 2015</b>
<b>ASCI 500/600 ELECTIVE</b>	<b>January 2016</b>
<b>RSCH 665 Statistical Analysis</b>	<b>March 2016</b>
<b>RSCH 670 Research Methods</b>	<b>May 2016</b>
<b>ASCI 691 Graduate Capstone Course</b>	<b>August 2016</b>



**1<sup>st</sup> Year Undergraduate Degree Map**

January 20, 2015

Student ID#:

Student Name:

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics

Congratulations on your acceptance to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Worldwide! As a student admitted to ERAU – Worldwide your success is our priority. This unofficial degree map will assist you in course selection during the first year of your academic career. This degree map is for advisement purposes, and all official requirements are listed on your official Academic Requirement report. If you have any questions or need an updated degree map please contact your Academic Advisor or Campus representative.

Campus Recommended Courses	Term
*ENGL 123 English Composition	May 2014
ASCI 202 Introduction to Aeronautical Science	August 2014
*MATH 111 College Mathematics for Aviation I	August 2014
MATH 112 College Mathematics for Aviation II	October 2014
ENGL/SPCH Elective (suggestion: ENGL 222 Business Communication or ENGL 221 Technical Report Writing)	October 2014
MATH 211 Statistics with Aviation Applications	January 2015
ASCI 254 Aviation Legislation	January 2015
RSCH 202 Research Methods	March 2015
MGMT 201 Principles of Management	March 2015

*\*Placement exam score of 70% or higher required. Otherwise, further prerequisite courses may be needed.*



I look forward to working with you! Please contact me with any questions or if you would like to discuss additional course options.

Best wishes,

**Academic Advising for Military Students**  
 A Panel Discussion

Today's panelists, sponsored by NACADA's Advising Veterans, Military Students & Family Members Interest Group, will discuss:

- What it means to be "military-friendly"
- Navigating the complexities of military life
- Advising Online
- Military benefit processes and procedures
- Collaborating with the VA
- Identifying struggling students
- Green Zone training
- Academic self-management for military students


**Amy Jeffs**  
**Robyn Lawther**

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical  
 University-Online Campus




**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical  
 University**

A top rated school for military  
 and Veteran students



**Our Dedicated University**

- 6 out of 9 current VA Counselors are veterans representing 3 branches of the military
- Registrar's office evaluators are branch specific
- Follow the VA Principles of Excellence and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program
- Satellite ERAU campuses are located on military installations as well as in Europe

**Military Friendly**

- Commitment to service and support
- Dedicated Military and VA Student Services Department
- Generous transfer credit policies
- Multiple scholarship opportunities
- Reduced tuition rate
- Application fee waivers
- Specific drop and withdrawal policies
- Shorter semesters

**Our Dedicated Advisors**

Advising structure

- 16 dedicated undergraduate advisors
- 8 dedicated graduate advisors
- The ERAU-Worldwide Campus serves approximately 18,000 students currently
  - Largest military population is Air Force at 4,500 which is 25% of our total population
  - We are almost exactly 50% civilian and 50% military

### Services

- Planning
- Outreach
- Academic status issue assistance
- Liaison
- Funding and financial aid
- Asynchronous and synchronous course modalities
- Tutoring

### Navigating the Complexities of Military Life

- Deployment and travel
- Transition to civilian life
- Family needs

## Joshua Stone

Southern New Hampshire University



### Terminology

- **VA** - U.S. Department of Veterans Administration
- **TA (FTA)** - Federal tuition assistance
- **Montgomery GI Bill** - "Old" GI Bill (Chapter 30)
- **Post 9/11 GI Bill** - Most commonly used benefit (Chapter 33)
- **Voc Rehab** - Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)
- **COE** - Certificate of Eligibility

### Military Benefits Process/Procedure

- Understand military population
- Determine current status of support
- Connect with VA certifying official

### VA Benefits Process

- What are they eligible for?
  - VONAPP
  - Ebenefits
- Time frames
  - GI Bill 6-8 weeks
  - Chapter 35 Dependent GI Bill 12-18 weeks
- COE (Certificate of Eligibility)

### Tuition Assistance

- Active Duty
  - Tuition Assistance
  - Requirements different by branch
  - No TA and VA at the same time
  - Payback criteria
- TA funding

### Collaborating with the VA

- VA as a resource
- Benefits Administered
  - Chapter 33 - Post 9/11 (most popular)
  - Chapter 30 - Montgomery GI Bill
  - Chapter 31 - Vocational Rehab
  - Chapter 35 - Dependent's GI Bill
- Vocational rehabilitation counselor

### Keys to Collaboration

- Keep up with the changes
- Follow up
- Know the benefits inside and out

### Identifying Struggling Students

- Military students vs. Traditional Student
  - Different traits
    - Standardized, systematic
    - Older, independent
    - Less likely to come forward for help
- Transition to school

### Identifying Struggling Students

- Metrics
- Triggers
- Life of a service member
  - Deployments
  - Professor collaboration



Rodney Mondor

University of Southern Maine

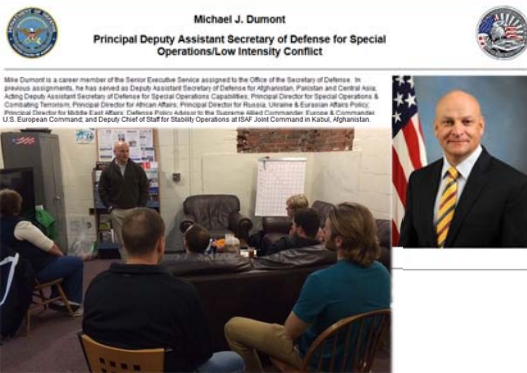




- 125-425+ Students utilizing GI Bill Benefits (2009-present)
- Offer **in-state tuition** rates to all U.S. Veterans and Active Duty Servicemembers
- 2009 – School Certifying Official also held Registrar functions
- 2013 – Coordinator of Veteran Services position was created

### Veteran Resource Center

- Veteran student initiative
- Created in 2009
- Safe space for veterans & dependents
- Services
  - GI Bill Assistance
  - Newsletter
  - Calling Program
  - Vet Center Counselor
  - Voc Rehab Counselor
  - Guest speakers



### Veteran Student Advisor Board

- Created in 2011
- Consisted of veterans, faculty, staff, and a representative from the Vet Center
- Monthly/Semester meetings
  - Campus Events
  - Institutional policies, and support services
- Increased concern/feedback from veterans having difficulty transitioning into a tradition college setting - "Common experience"



### Academic Self Management (Veteran Only Section)

- Focus is on:
  - self, learning, and career exploration
  - the critical role of personal decision making in identifying and pursuing strengths, interests, and areas for growth
  - understanding their own decision making process and the factors that influence that process
- Includes:
  - assessments of self and interests
  - explorations of academic life and career

### Academic Self Management

- Provides the opportunity and tools for taking enhanced control of their academic learning process
- Introduces resources and support systems to help maximize the University experience and create an intentional career path
- Conversations are open, free and safe
  - Agreement by group on first class



### Transition: Military life to College

Examples:

- Go from black and white orders to vague/interpretive college assignments
- How to work with groups on class projects
- How to manage time outside of class



### Course Feedback

- A safe place to talk and share
- Applicable to our transition issues
- Instructor understood us and our needs
- Course helped me with my other courses
- All veterans should take this course



### Barriers

- Could not fill course for fall semester – 1<sup>st</sup> time veterans felt “they could do it without help”
- Spring semester roster – students in academic trouble
- Elective course
- Timing of course



University of Southern Maine's

## Green Zone

Faculty & Staff  
Military Awareness Training

Helping Student Veterans and  
Servicemembers Succeed

### USM Green Zone

- In 2012 - Veterans wanted a chance to share their stories
- Aimed to help staff and faculty become more familiar with military life and how to translate into the classroom

Training sessions

- 1 ½ - 2 hours
- led by veterans



### USM Green Zone

Presentation and Conversation includes:

- Campus & community resources for Veterans
- Vocabulary on military terms
- Military life and structure
- Cycle of Deployment
- USM Veteran population
- PTSD/TBI Challenges
- Easing the transition
- Experiences veterans bring to class



### USM Green Zone

- Participants receive:
  - Handout of slides and resources
  - Green Zone Sticker for office door
- Participants include:
  - Student groups;
  - Advising staff;
  - Student Center staff;
  - Faculty;
  - Dean’s Office staff (June 2015)



### Reverse Green Zone

- Feedback:
  - What if we educated our veterans on how to be a student?
  - How can we help our veterans adjust to college?
  - How can we provide a training that meets the need of our veterans?



### USM Boot Camp (Pilot)

- One Day Training
  - Using elements from the Resiliency Training
  - Offer training during school break
  - Word of mouth promotion
- Orientation
  - Offer mini Boot Camp session
  - Lead by student veteran

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Amy Jeffs, Director of Undergraduate Advising, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Online Campus

Joshua Stone, Team Lead-Military Academic Advising, Southern New Hampshire University

Rodney Mondor, Coordinator, Student Success Center, University of Southern Maine

**NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising**

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