

IMPACT & OUTLOOK 2019 - 2020

Veteran & Military Resource Center

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Who We Are

UNM's greatest asset for military-affiliated students is our centrally located Veteran & Military Resource Center (VMRC). This one-stop-shop provides information to military-affiliated students on the ins and outs of transitioning from military life to civilian and college life, including how to start the process of using VA Education Benefits at UNM. The VMRC consists of a Director; Student Success Specialist; Program Coordinator for Academic Success; two VA School Certifying Officials; Vet Success on Campus (VSOC) Counselor; Professional Support Intern; and ten VA Work Study employees. The VMRC is the liaison between the veteran and military-affiliated community to UNM as a whole, as well as the vast network of external veteran entities such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services. The VMRC works hand-in-hand with other UNM resources to ensure that military-affiliated students receive the support they need to succeed academically, personally, and professionally.

Mission

The VMRC is dedicated to providing the highest quality and comprehensive support to military-affiliated students in an atmosphere that provides commitment, respect, and academic excellence. We provide education, administrative services, and job advisement to our military-affiliated students, as well as outreach to military communities at large.

Vision

To make the University of New Mexico the premier veteran friendly institution in New Mexico and nationwide by:

- Increasing the admission, retention and graduation rates of veterans;
- Meeting the needs of military-affiliated students effectively and efficiently;
- Increasing access to higher education for New Mexico's military-affiliated population;
- Removing social, physical, and psychological barriers to higher education for military-affiliated students; and
- Providing military-affiliated students with resources to better prepare them for successful entry into the workforce.

Impact on Students

The VMRC offers and provides comprehensive student services and academic support to current and potential military-affiliated students. This includes helping those students find the needed resources to support their academic, professional, and personal journeys, from admissions to graduation, and everything in between. The VMRC is the cultural center where military-affiliated students go to when they feel lost and out of place on campus, or when they need to talk to someone who relates to their issues as military-affiliated students.

The VMRC typically graduates over 100 students in fall and spring, and over 40 in summer. The VMRC offers and/or gives referrals for many services at UNM, including (but not limited to):

- Recruitment, retention, and graduation
- Orientation for student veterans and their dependents to welcome them and help them navigate the higher education processes and procedures
- Ensuring students meet the timelines to graduate before their GI Bill runs out
- Mentoring and tutoring
- Advocating for students with faculty or staff
- Integrated advising for our military-affiliated students

The VMRC works with the Student Veterans organizations, Ethnic Centers, Women Centers, Enrollment Management, Accessibility Resource Center, Student Health and Counseling, CAPS (tutoring), and the various colleges and schools to address student needs.

Programs, Services, Sub-units and Initiatives

PROGRAM	Academic Affairs Engagement*	UNM 5 **
	Extensive, moderate or minimal *	
<p>Green Zone Training</p> <p>Green Zone Trainings prepare university faculty and staff to more fully understand the experience of veterans, service members and their families at UNM. Participants will be able to identify the strengths, challenges and unique needs of our military student population, and will be better equipped to refer those students to appropriate services when needed.</p> <p>Since September 2018, the VMRC has conducted 12 Green Zone Trainings at UNM; over 215 people took those trainings.</p>	Minimal	<p>Critical Thinking (perspectives)</p> <p>Communication (active listening)</p> <p>Collaboration (creating and maintaining relationships; group and team dynamics)</p>
<p>Vet Success On Campus (VSOC)</p> <p>Vet Success on Campus (VSOC) is a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of New Mexico (UNM). Beginning in 2009 as a pilot program at the University of South Florida, the VSOC program has expanded to over 100 schools nationwide. The overarching goal of VSOC is to assist veterans, service members, and qualified Dependents so they can succeed academically and prepare for a viable career upon graduation. The VSOC program is coordinated on each campus by a VSOC Counselor, who is a trained VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. In essence, the VSOC Counselor serves as the “face of the VA” on campus.</p>	Minimal	<p>Communication (contextual)</p> <p>Collaboration (creating and maintaining relationships; measuring progress and success)</p> <p>Professionalism (professional development; personal development; career exploration)</p>

<p>Embedded counselor</p> <p>This is a new program in collaboration with SHAC. The embedded counselor serves the military-affiliated student population. The goal is to give military-affiliated students access to mental health counseling in a space they feel safe in, in an environment they are comfortable visiting.</p>	<p>Minimal</p>	<p>Communication (oral; non-verbal and visual; active listening)</p> <p>Collaboration (creating and maintaining relationships; measuring progress and success; community engagement)</p> <p>Professionalism (personal development)</p>
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Fiscal Update, Revenues

Source	Amount
Instruction and General (I&G) funds	\$242,538
Research and Public Service Project (RPSP) funds	\$250,000

Goals for 2019-20

1. Work with UNM University College to offer and have a Military-Affiliated Student Transition Course (FYEX, previously known as UNIV 101).
2. Revamp and perform a marketing/outreach surge of the Vet2Vet peer-mentor program at UNM.
3. Work with UNM Alumni to grow the Veteran Alumni Chapter at UNM.
4. Establish a retreat to offer to student-veterans.
5. Work with the UNM Chapters of Student Veterans and Women Student Veterans to collaborate on outreach and resource referral.

Selected Impacts and Outcomes

2018-19	Entire student population	Military-affiliated students
Course completion rate	85.34%	84.68%
GPA	3.37	3.33

RETENTION RATE	2018
Full-time military-affiliated students	66.93%
Part-time military-affiliated students	35.42%

Military-affiliated students	Graduation Rate
2017	55.40%
2018	49.53%

Students served by VA Education Benefit used

	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Total
Chapter 1606	55 (6.3%)	42 (5.3%)	8 (3%)	105 (5.4%)
Chapter 30	21 (2.4%)	17 (2.1%)	10 (3.8%)	48 (2.5%)
Chapter 31	103 (11.9%)	120 (15.2%)	63 (23.8%)	286 (14.9%)
Chapter 33	476 (54.9%)	412 (52%)	129 (48.7%)	1017 (52.8%)
Chapter 35	213 (24.5%)	201 (25.4%)	55 (20.7%)	469 (24.4%)
Total	868	792	265	1925

Students using VA Education Benefits, by ethnicity

	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Total
American Indian	65 (7.5%)	55 (6.9%)	14 (5.3%)	134 (7%)
Asian	22 (2.5%)	18 (2.3%)	6 (2.3%)	46 (2.4%)
African American	33 (3.8%)	26 (3.3%)	8 (3%)	67 (3.5%)
Hispanic	368 (42.4%)	336 (42.4%)	110 (41.5%)	814 (42.3%)
Native Hawaiian	7 (0.8%)	4 (0.5%)	1 (0.4%)	12 (0.6%)
Unknown	16 (1.9%)	17 (2.1%)	8 (3%)	41 (2.1%)
Two or more races	41 (4.7%)	37 (4.7%)	14 (5.3%)	92 (4.8%)
White	316 (36.4%)	299 (37.8%)	104 (39.2%)	719 (37.3%)
Total	868	792	265	1925

Students using VA Education Benefits, by gender

	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Total
Female	315 (36.3%)	303 (38.3%)	106 (40%)	724 (37.6%)
Male	553 (63.7%)	489 (61.7%)	159 (60%)	1201 (62.4%)
Total	868	792	265	1925

Students using VA Education Benefits, by level of studies

	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Total
Undergraduate	781 (90%)	701 (88.5%)	230 (86.8%)	1712 (88.9%)
Graduate and/or Professional	87 (10%)	91 (11.5%)	35 (13.2%)	213 (11.1%)
Total	868	792	265	1925

Quick Facts

- ♣ Ranked number 8 in the 2018-2019 Military Friendly Rankings for Research 1 Institutions.
- ♣ Named a Military-Spouse Friendly Institution by the 2018-2019 Military Friendly Rankings.
- ♣ Named a 2018-2019 Best for Vets University.
- ♣ Graduated 296 military-affiliated students in the 2018-2019 academic year (including summer 2019).
- ♣ Served a diverse population, including American Indian, Asian, African American, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian students.

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