



Veterans Resource Center - Division Student Support Programs - Veterans Resource Center

Main

Overview

Academic Year 2024 - 2025

Originator Cisneros, Carina

Division Division Student Support Programs

Department Veterans Resource Center

Programs

Co-Contributors

Questions? Find answers in CurricUNET User Manual. (http://www.Gavilan.edu/en/employee-services/office-of-instruction/curricunet/program_reviews/create_pr.html)

Contributor

- Guerrero, Marisol
- Stuckey, Dewitt

Annual Update

1. Academic Year 2024 - 2025

Previous Goals Goal #2: 75 % of student-veterans will receive assistance evaluating official transcripts from previous institutions for credit applied towards their educational.

Proposed Activity to Achieve Goal:

All new student-veterans will attend student-veteran orientation that will provide required steps to receive prior learning credit for military and academic transcripts.

Responsible Party:

The Veterans Counselor, Counseling Department and Admissions and Records are the responsible parties for the above goal.

Total Three Year Resource Allocation Request:

0

Timeline to Completion Month / Year:

Spring 2025

How Will You Evaluate Whether You Achieved Your Goal:

The above goal will be evaluated by the completion rate of all new incoming student-veterans.

End of Year Goal Status In Progress

Please describe your status (No more than 200 words)

It is a minimum requirement of the VA for all student veterans using their education benefits to have their transcripts, including military transcript, reviewed/evaluated upon admission to provide maximum credit to veterans towards their degree. This is a work in-progress and we plan to increase the Veteran counselor time by hiring another FT AEC Counselor/LD Specialist and allowing the AEC/VRC Counselor to have more time for veteran counseling to support progress towards this goal in fall 2025.

Did you request the same resources the previous year? If so, what was the result? Has there been a significant change since your request?)

Yes, the Veteran's Resource Center has been requesting increased support in staff and counseling time for the past four years. Without the appropriate staffing, the VRC is severely limited from meeting the required minimum standard activities expected by the VA and CSAAVE, including the thorough review of military transcripts and the development of the VA student shopping sheet. These two areas have been difficult to make progress on due to our limited credit for prior learning efforts and technology needed for the development of the individualized shopping sheet. Currently, we have a general shopping sheet that is tailored for veterans attending Gavilan College and this is considered below standard for VA requirements.

Planning

Our current planning efforts will allow us to increase the Veteran Counselor time by 30% in fall 2025. We have received support for a back-up School Certifying Official and this will be helpful in supporting veterans in the event the part-time dedicated SCO is unavailable. This was an important step forward in supporting our student veterans by having two fully trained School Certifying officials.

Additional Comments

2. **Academic Year 2024 - 2025**

Previous Goals Goal # 1: 100 % of student veterans using GI Bill benefits will obtain information regarding GI Bill benefits within their first semester of attending Gavilan College.

Proposed Activity to Achieve Goal:

Student-Veteran Orientation

Responsible Party:

The Veterans Counselor and School Certifying Official are the responsible parties in ensuring all new student-veterans receive accurate information regarding GI Bill benefits.

Total Three Year Resource Allocation Request:

0

Timeline to Completion Month / Year:

Fall 2024

How Will You Evaluate Whether You Achieved Your Goal:

The above goal will be evaluated by the attendance of student-veterans and tracking their success within their first-year at Gavilan College using GI Bill benefits.

End of Year Goal Status In Progress

Please describe your status (No more than 200 words)

Over the last year, the Veterans SCO has worked to maintain easily accessible information on the Gavilan website for new veterans. A new veteran step-by-step guide was created to help veterans understand when and how they should submit their VA certification request and DD214 document. Over the last year, the Dean of Student Support has worked with IT to develop ARGOS reports to provide outreach to veterans. This effort has not yet resulted in a usable outreach report, but the request is ongoing. The intent is to provide a brief, welcoming message to all veterans at the start of every semester and provide contact/resource information regarding the Veterans Resource Center.

Currently the Veteran Resource Center utilizes an iLearn Canvas community to communicate with Veterans using their educational benefits. This has proved to be an effective means of communication when there is a need to relay veterans-specific resources and information.

What is still needed is more dedicated time from the VRC counselor who can develop a brief online orientation for veterans. We plan to accomplish this by fall 2025 when we will increase the veteran counseling time by 30% and hire another AEC counselor to support this change.

Did you request the same resources the previous year? If so, what was the result? Has there been a significant change since your request?)

The Veterans Resource Center request from last year included funding to support a full-time SCO/Coordinator for the Veterans Resource Center as well as a back-up SCO (School Certifying Official). Since the last request, we have received support in identifying a back-up SCO from within the A&R department staff. This back-up SCO has received the necessary 8-hour training for School Certifying Officials and will be ready to support certification requests, as needed. The Veterans Resource Center still requires the support of full-time staff to operate beyond three days per week.

Planning

As we look forward to the opening of the new Library and Student Resource Center, which includes a new Veterans Resource Center; it is important to fund a full-time staff person in the VRC to support veterans on a more consistent basis. Currently, our part-time SCO is only able to keep the Veterans Resource Center on a part-time basis (3 days per week). Our current VA work-study students require staff support 5 days per week.

Additional Comments

Resource Requests

Click Add Item to Enter a Resource Request

1. **1. Request Name (short title)** Full-time School Certifying Official
2. **2. Request amount** 70000
3. **3. Type of Request** Personnel
4. **4. Alignment to Goal(s)** Goal # 1: 100 % of student veterans using GI Bill benefits will obtain information regarding GI Bill benefits within their first semester of attending Gavilan College.
5. **5. Is this a one-time or ongoing expense.** Ongoing
6. **6. Category of Request (Select all that apply).**

- Full-Time Classified Professional

7. The committee will separate goals with resource requests. Requests will be categorized into two groups: those to be ranked and those not ranked. The requests not ranked include Safety, Compliance, Personnel, and Position.

Which of the following best describes your requests?

- Compliance: Requests that meet necessary regulatory and legal standards, such as Section 508, FERPA, and OSHA. These requests may or may not be related to safety or security issues, but they are required by law or regulation.
- Personnel and Position: Requests that involve hiring, staffing, or reclassifying full-time or part-time faculty or staff. These requests are reviewed and approved through a separate process by the Faculty Staffing Committee or the Executive and Leadership Council.

8. Provide a complete description, justification, or rationale for the requested amount. Describe how it aligns to the selected goal(s) and your responses to the above questions. (300 words)

The Veterans Resource Center has strict and complex minimum standards required for compliance with both the California state approving agency and the federal VA department. On January 5, 2021, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-315) was signed into law. The requirements for veterans resource center increased significantly with the introduction of two-step certification process for all certifications, requiring the SCO to complete a monthly verification of enrollment for all VA students. At the same time, this new law requires all institutions to provide a personalized shopping sheet to VA students.

Veterans at Gavilan could benefit from a full-time SCO who can operationally support the VRC and have it open to students 5 days per week whereas it is currently open only 3 days per week with a part-time SCO.

Please see attachment that outlines minimum requirements for Veteran Resource Centers.

Currently, our part-time SCO supports all veterans and certifies approximately 80 veterans per term.

Executive Summary

Please provide a brief executive summary regarding program trends and highlights that surfaced in the writing of this report. Summarize, using narrative, your program goals for this year. Your audience will be your Peer Review Team, the program review Committee, President's Cabinet, Dean's Council, ASGC, Academic Senate, Budget Committee and Board of Trustees (300 words or less).

The Veterans Resource Center has strict and complex minimum standards required for compliance with both the California state approving agency and the federal VA department. These requirements have changed in recent years, adding additional requirements for school certifying officials.

In 2021, Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act was signed into law. The requirements for a veterans resource center increased with the introduction of a two-step certification process for all certifications, requiring the SCO to complete a monthly verification of enrollment for all VA students. At the same time, this new law requires all institutions to provide a personalized shopping sheet for VA students.

Veterans and the VRC could benefit from a full-time SCO who can operationally support the VRC and have it open to students 5 days per week whereas it is currently open only 3 days per week with a part-time SCO. The recent addition of VA work study students has been a key component of the veteran student community feeling a sense belonging at Gavilan. It is the desire of the VRC to continue utilizing VA work study students to increase peer-to-peer support for veterans.

Please see the attachment that outlines the minimum requirements for Veteran Resource Centers.

Attach Files

If there is any additional information regarding your program that you will like to have uploaded, please attach it here.

Attached File

ESLEI 24-09 Veterans Resource Center Minimum Standards (2).pdf
(/Form/Module/_DownloadFile/488/45138?fileId=392)