



South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
Military Academic Recognition Program

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Introduction

The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs Military Academic Recognition Program (MARP) highlights South Carolina Technical Colleges, Colleges, and Universities that support Service members, Veterans, Reserve, National Guard members, and their family members in achieving their academic and professional Goals.

Institutions of higher education selected for an award will have their school's name and logo displayed on the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs' website for one (1) academic school year, a printed certificate and recognition letter will be forwarded to the institution for their display.

Institutions wishing to be recognized for the Veteran Services they provide should review eligibility criteria provided within this document; complete the self-nomination application form (application); and submit the application with supporting documentation before the close of the annual application period.

Application Period

- Institutions of higher education may apply for recognition under the Military Academic Recognition (MARP) Award, by completing and submitting the required self-nomination application form (application) and supporting materials
- The application period opens annually on 1 April and closes on 30 June of the following academic year. Applicants can apply for recognition each year the MARP award is offered by the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Application Submission

- All applications must include: Application Form; Narrative Impact Statement; Supporting Documents; (Refer to appropriate sections of the application).
- All applications must be received by the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs no later than 5 p.m. EST, 30 June of the given academic year.
- **Applications can be sent to:** va@scdva.sc.gov

Eligibility Criteria

1. All applicants must be an institution of higher learning located in South Carolina.
2. Be in good standing with the State Education Board and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

Evaluation Criteria

The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs evaluates applications on a variety of criteria that highlight the various education and Veteran services offered by an institution, and which contribute greatly to the overall success of Veteran students and their families. Each application is evaluated as to the existence and quality of:

1. The school provides diverse flexible learning opportunities, such as online, hybrid, self-paced, accelerated, and certificate programs, to address the specific needs of military-affiliated individuals.
2. The school waives the admission application fee for Veterans and Military students.
3. There is a Veteran Resource Center for student Veterans to gather or seek support and information.
4. The school offers tailored internships and apprenticeship programs for Veterans, along with a framework to recognize military training and education in line with the standards set by the American Council on Education (ACE).
5. The institution awards academic credit for military training and experience based on the recommendations of the American Council on Education (ACE), including credits documented through the Joint Services Transcript (JST) and the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)?

Please select the option that best reflects your institutional policy:

- ACE recommendations (including JST and CCAF transcripts) are recognized; credit is awarded only for designated degree programs where military training directly aligns with program outcomes.
- Up to **15 credits** may be awarded based on ACE recommendations, including applicable JST and CCAF coursework.
- **16–25 credits** may be awarded based on ACE recommendations, including applicable JST and CCAF coursework.
- **26–45 credits** may be awarded based on ACE recommendations, contingent upon relevance to the student's program of study.

- **46–60 credits** may be awarded based on ACE recommendations, subject to institutional review and approval.
 - ACE-recommended credit (including JST and CCAF) is awarded without a maximum limit, restricted to designated degree programs.
 - ACE-recommended credit (including JST and CCAF) is accepted without a specified maximum limit.
6. Provides professional and career placement, to ensure meaningful employment is secured after earning their degree or certificate.
 7. The institution demonstrates a commitment to the holistic well-being of Veteran and military-affiliated students by providing faculty and staff training in military cultural competency, such as Green Zone Training.
 8. Administers a Veterans' needs assessment every two years.
 9. The school reduces tuition/fees to match the Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 allowable payments.
 10. The school participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program.
 11. The school has a chartered Student Veterans Association Chapter or other Veterans support groups. Support groups may include Women and Minority Veterans.
 12. The school has specific staff members dedicated to Veterans and Military-affiliated Students (at a ratio of 1:200); the school has dedicated military-friendly contacts for Veteran students in every major department.
 13. An established and effective process for identifying Veterans and Military-affiliated students among the student body. To include: Reserve Officer Training Cadets, Active-duty service members, members of the National Guard and Reserve, Veterans, Veteran family members and military dependent children.
 14. The school website features information tailored for Veteran and Military-affiliated students. It covers the admissions process, guidelines for priority registration, scholarships specifically for military personnel, instructions on applying for United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and other military benefits, as well as contact details for staff members.

Award Levels

The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs provides three levels of Recognition intended to highlight the commitment and services provided to Veteran students and their families. The SCDVA will provide an overall score related to the institution's services, and as provided within the application package. This overall score will determine the award level for the selected awardees.

- Gold-Level Awardees receive a minimum overall evaluation score of 90% and above.
- Silver-Level Awardees receive an overall evaluation score between 80% and 89%.
- Bronze-Level Awardees receive an overall evaluation score between 70% and 79%.

The Veteran Military Academic Recognition Program is non-competitive and may be awarded to one or more qualified institutions of higher education. Applicants receiving an overall evaluation score of 69% or lower will not be selected for an award but can reapply during the next application window.

Award Process

At the close of the application period, the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs' (SCDVA) team will review all submissions.

- The Senior Workforce Coordinator reviews all applications to determine an institution's eligibility as defined by the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (refer to Eligibility Criteria).
- All applications from qualified academic institutions are forwarded to the Deputy Director of Workforce Enhancement for final review for evaluations of quality of each item addressed in the institution's application.
- The Deputy Director will then forward application to the Director of Workforce Enhancement for approval and signatures. Applications are referred to Director of Workforce Enhancement no later than 15 July of the given year.
- The Senior Workforce Coordinator or any other member of the Workforce Enhancement Management Team may request applicants to provide additional clarifying information related to the application materials submitted. Applicants will be allowed ten (10) business days to submit the additional information. Institutions that do not meet submission window or request deadline for additional information will not be considered for an award during given year submitted. However, Institutions may reapply again during the next open application window the following year.
- All awardees will be notified and recognized no later than 30 July of the given year.

- All decisions of the award by the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs are final for the given year.
- Awards and recipient's Institution logo will be posted on SCDVA's website for one (1) calendar year.

Note: The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs reserves the right to withdraw fraudulent application at any time during the award process and throughout the awarded year.

Information and Assistance

Institutions may contact the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs for information and assistance regarding the Military Academic Recognition Program.

Contact us at:

Senior Workforce Coordinator:

839.238.0481 or erika.jones@scdva.sc.gov



SCDVA Military Academic Recognition Application

Section 1: Applicant Information

Complete the following section, ensuring all fields are completed. Enter “N/A” for fields that do not apply or for which there isn’t any available information.

Institution Name:

Mailing Address:

Physical Address:

Phone Number:

Website Address:

Number of students enrolled at the end of the Academic Year:

Provide the following information for at least two individuals who may be contacted regarding this application. These individuals should serve as the points of contact for the awards committee during the evaluation period.

Primary Point of Contact

Alternate Point of Contact

Name:

Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Email Address:

Application Certification Statement

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the information contained in this application and supporting documents are true and correct in content and representation.

Authorized Representative/Submitter: Position

Title:

Date:

Signature of Authorized Representative/Submitter:

Military Academic Recognition Application

Section 2: Student Veteran and Military Connected Population

1. The school provides diverse flexible learning opportunities, such as online, hybrid, self-paced, accelerated, and certificate programs, to address the specific needs of military-affiliated individuals.
Yes No
2. The school waives the admission application fee for Veterans and Military students. Yes No
3. There is a Veteran Resource Center for student Veterans to gather or seek support and information.
Yes No
4. The school offers tailored internships and apprenticeship programs for Veterans, along with a framework to recognize military training and education in line with the standards set by the American Council on Education (ACE). Yes No
5. The institution awards academic credit for military training and experience based on the recommendations of the **American Council on Education (ACE)**, including credits documented through the **Joint Services Transcript (JST)** and the **Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)**?
Yes No

Please select the option that best reflects your institutional policy:

- ACE recommendations (including JST and CCAF transcripts) are recognized; credit is awarded only for designated degree programs where military training directly aligns with program outcomes.
- Up to **15 credits** may be awarded based on ACE recommendations, including applicable JST and CCAF coursework.
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- 46–60 credits** may be awarded based on ACE recommendations, subject to institutional review and approval.
- ACE-recommended credit (including JST and CCAF) is awarded without a maximum limit, restricted to designated degree programs.
- ACE-recommended credit (including JST and CCAF) is accepted without a specified maximum limit.

6. Provides professional and career placement, to ensure meaningful employment is secured after earning their degree or certificate. Yes No

7. The institution demonstrates a commitment to the holistic well-being of Veteran and military-affiliated students by providing faculty and staff training in military cultural competency, such as Green Zone Training Yes No

8. Administers a Veterans' needs assessment every two years. Yes No

9. The school reduces tuition/fees to match the Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 allowable payments. Yes No

10. The school participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Yes No

11. The school has a chartered Student Veterans Association Chapter or other Veterans support groups. Support groups may include Women and Minority Veterans. Yes No

12. The school has specific staff members dedicated to Veterans and Military-affiliated Students (at a ratio of 1:200); the school has dedicated military-friendly contacts for Veteran students in every major department. Yes No

13. An established and effective process for identifying Veterans and Military-affiliated students among the student body. To include: Reserve Officer Training Cadets, Active-duty service members, members of the National Guard and Reserve, Veterans, Veteran family members and military dependent children. Yes No

14. The school website features information tailored for Veteran and Military-affiliated students. It covers the admissions process, guidelines for priority registration, scholarships specifically for military personnel, instructions on applying for United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and other military benefits, as well as contact for staff members. Yes No

Provide supportive narrative for all items selected indicated in Section 2. The summary should adequately describe and communicate the purpose and function of each space, service, amenity, staff services (institutional employees and work study participants), and assistance provided to student Veterans.

SC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

