



South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
Military Academic Recognition Program

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SC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS



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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.

SC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS Application Period

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

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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, April 1 of the given calendar 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. a centralized place for students who are Veterans to meet or find assistance and information (Veteran Resource Center)
2. The school has specific internships/apprenticeship opportunities for Veterans, and give credit for military training and education in accordance with the American Council on Education (ACE);
3. Provides professional and career placement, to ensure meaningful employment is secured after earning their degree or certificate.
4. The school is a member of the South Carolina Coalition.
5. The school supports holistic wellbeing of Veteran and Military-affiliated students through faculty/staff training to address Military-specific cultural competency.
6. Administers a Veterans need assessment bi-annually.
7. School reduces tuition/fees to match the Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 allowable payments.
8. The school has a chartered Student Veterans Association Chapter or other Veterans support groups. Support groups may include Women and Minority Veterans.
9. A system to evaluate and award academic credit based on Military training and experience in use by the school and recommended by the American Council on Education.
10. The school has specific staff members dedicated to Veterans and Military-affiliated students (at a ratio of 1:250); the school has dedicated military friendly contacts for Veteran students in every major department.
11. An established and effective process for identifying Veterans and Military-affiliated students within the student population. To include: Reserve Officer Training Cadets, Active Duty Service Members, members of the National Guard and Reserve, Veterans, Military and Veteran Family Members, and Military Dependent Children.
12. School website includes Veteran and Military-affiliated student specific information that address admissions process, priority registration guidelines, military specific

scholarships, how to apply for USDVA and other Military benefits, and contact information 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 75% and 89%.
- Bronze-Level Awardees receive an overall evaluation score between 60% and 74%.

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 59% 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 Operations 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 Operations for final review for evaluation of quality of each item addressed in the Institution's application.
- The Deputy Director will then forward application to the Director of Operations for approval and signatures. Applications are referred to Director of Operations no later than May 15 of the given year.
- The Senior Operations Coordinator or any other member of the operations 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 will be notified of the need for additional clarifying information no later than May 30 of the given year. 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 reapply again during the next open application window the following year.
- All awardees will be notified and recognized no later than June 30 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 Operations Coordinator:

803-683-1195 or alford.taylor@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:

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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. Do you have a centralized place for students who are Veterans to meet or find assistance and information (Veteran Resource Center)? Yes No
2. Do you have specific internships/apprenticeship opportunities for Veterans, and give credit for military training and education in accordance with the American Council on Education (ACE)?
Yes No
3. Do you provide professional and career placement, to ensure meaningful employment is secured after earning their degree or certificate? Yes No
4. Are you a member of the South Carolina Coalition? Yes No
5. Do you support the holistic wellbeing of Veteran and Military-affiliated students through faculty/staff training to address Military-specific cultural competency?
Yes No
6. Do you administer a Veterans need assessment bi-annually? Yes No
7. Do you reduce tuition/fees to match the Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 allowable payments?
Yes No
8. Do you have a chartered Student Veterans Association Chapter or other Veterans support groups? Support groups may include Women and Minority Veterans. Yes No
9. Do you have a system to evaluate and award academic credit based on Military training and experience in use by the school and recommended by the American Council on Education? Yes No
10. Do you have specific staff members dedicated to Veterans and Military-affiliated students (at a ratio of 1:250); the school has dedicated military friendly contacts for Veteran students in every major department?
Yes No
11. Do you have an established and effective process for identifying Veterans and Military-affiliated students within the student population? To include: Reserve Officer Training Cadets, Active-Duty Service Members, members of the National Guard and Reserve, Veterans, Military and Veteran Family Members, and Military Dependent Children?
Yes No
12. Does your school website include Veteran and Military-affiliated student specific information that address admissions process, priority registration guidelines, military specific scholarships, how to apply for USDVA and other Military benefits, and contact information 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.

