



APPLICATION

*Applications due **October 24th, 2025***

Below are the criteria necessary to be considered for the Collegiate Purple Star designation. After each item, please include a succinct statement that explains how your institution meets that criterion. When applicable, please include any web links that can also verify your statements. If you have any questions, please contact CollegiatePurpleStar@highered.ohio.gov.

Criteria

As referenced in the criteria below, service members, veterans, their spouses, and dependents are all part of the military-connected student population. The following criteria are minimally required for an institution to receive the Collegiate Purple Star designation:

1. House Bill 488 Compliance – A commitment to the policies and procedures outlined therein to include the completion of the required student survey.

a. Establish a dedicated point of contact and/or military/veteran center or office. Tasks can include but are not limited to processing of VA Educational Benefits, development of mentoring programs, provision for a student veteran organization, provision of graduation honor cords, single point of contact for information on campus resources. The dedicated point of contact needs to be someone other than your primary SCO. The institution must have a representative on the Ohio Veterans Education Council (OVEC) and participate in regular OVEC meetings. (OVEC members are generally the person designated as the single point of contact for their institution.)

If applicant is a public institution, please verify your contact information found at <https://highered.ohio.gov/initiatives/campus-initiatives/education-for-veterans/vet-services-ohio-campuses>.

Enter contact information here:

If applicant is an independent college or university, please provide contacts for your institutions based on <https://highered.ohio.gov/initiatives/campus-initiatives/education-for-veterans/vet-services-ohio-campuses>

Enter contact information here:

b. Establish priority registration for veterans and service members.

Show evidence or explain your process of priority registration. Veterans and service members must have some type of priority registration. Please provide a link that can verify this information.

c. Establish a process for the acceptance and evaluation of military credit and MTAGS per legislative and Chancellor guidelines. Non-public institutions that do not participate in statewide transfer agreements

such as MTAGs are not expected to guarantee that coursework but are expected to evaluate it for potential use in their academic programs.

Briefly explain your institution's process for awarding credit based on military training. Public institutions should mention how MTAGs are processed as well.

d. Integrate existing career services to create and encourage meaningful collaborative relationships between student service members, veterans, and alumni of the institution that link student service members and veterans with prospective employers. Student service members and veterans are to be provided social opportunities and, if the institution has career services programs, encourage the responsible office to seek and promote partnership opportunities for internships and employment of student service members and veterans with state, local, national, and international employers.

Briefly describe what your career services office does to promote military-connected students.

e. Survey student service members, veterans, spouses, and dependents to identify their needs and challenges and make the survey available to faculty and staff at the respective institution or general public. Periodically conduct follow-up surveys, at a frequency determined by the board of trustees, to gauge the institution's progress toward meeting identified needs and challenges.

Describe your survey process and the frequency at which you have or plan to conduct future surveys. Also, briefly explain how your institution tracks military-connected students.

f. Allow for the establishment of a student-led group on campus for student service members and veterans and encourage other service member- and veteran-friendly organizations.

Verify that there are no prohibitions to creating a student-led, military-connected group on campus and note any military-connected student group(s) on your campus. A student-led group does not have to currently exist on your campus.

g. No state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, shall charge a student who is a veteran or a service member any fee for the evaluation of, transcription of, or application for college credit for military experience. Non-public institutions should strive for little to no cost as part of the evaluation and transcription process for service members and veterans.

Public institutions, please affirm that you are not charging a veteran or service member any fee for the evaluation, transcription, and application of military coursework, training, and experience. Independent colleges and universities, please note what your fee structure is and if you have considered waiving it for veterans and service members.

2. Institution has implemented the current Keys to Veteran Success and can verify each element.

Keys to Veteran Success can be found at <https://www.ed.gov/veterans-and-military-families/8-keys-success-sites>. Please summarize your compliance and provide examples.

- 1. How is your institution creating a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans?*
- 2. How is your institution ensuring consistent and sustained support from campus leadership?*

3. *Does your institution have an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming?*

4. *How does your institution coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space for them (even if limited in size)? Please verify that a meeting space would be available upon request by military-connected students.*

5. *How does your institution collaborate with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans?*

6. *Does your institution utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention, and degree completion?*

7. *Does your institution provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans? In the event of a lack of resources, evidence of sharing training between institutions would be acceptable.*

8. *Has your institution developed systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans?*

3. Institution has implemented the current Principles of Excellence and can verify each element.

Principles of Excellence can be found at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/principles_of_excellence.asp. Please summarize your Compliance and provide examples.

- A written personal summary of the total cost of your educational program, including:
 - The costs covered by your benefits.

 - The financial aid for which you may qualify.

 - Your expected student loan debt after you graduate.

 - Other information to help you compare aid packages offered by different schools.

- Give an educational plan with a timeline showing how and when you can fulfill everything required for you to graduate.
- Assign a point of contact who will provide ongoing academic and financial advice (including access to disability counseling).
- Allow for you to be gone for both long and short periods of time due to service obligations (service you must fulfill) for active-duty service members and Reservists.
- Make sure all new programs are accredited (officially approved) before enrolling students.
- Make sure their refund policies follow Title IV rules, which guide federal student financial aid programs.
- End fraudulent (deceitful) and aggressive methods of recruiting.

4. Institutional policies regarding military-connected students that are clearly posted and available (catalog, webpage specifically for veterans) – Policies on deployments, application fees, tutoring, transfer credit, transfer credit appeals process, Veterans Affairs Educational Benefits, tuition assistance, military dependent issues, etc. Information about these policies should be readily available to enrolled students and employed faculty and staff.

Please note where military-connected students can find policies or guidance on the issues noted in this criterion. Provide links to these documents/policies.

5. A written policy to work with off-campus stakeholders such as PreK-12 Purple Star Schools, Ohio Department of Veterans Services, U.S. Veterans Affairs, Ohio Department of Higher Education, Ohio National Guard, and other related community organizations to strengthen resources and policies geared toward military-connected students. Institutions should plan to engage with their regional [PreK-12 Purple Star Schools](#) to develop partnerships, share resources, and potentially pursue student mentorship programs within existing local school districts' guidelines.

The intent is to have a written policy in place but understand that in some cases that takes time. Please discuss your institution's plans to work with various off-campus stakeholders mentioned above as well as what plans you have to sustain those relationships (via a policy or not). Also explain your plan to achieve a written policy.

6. Is the institutions approval through the Ohio State Approving Agency to accept VA Education Benefits under Title 38 current (current catalog on file)? Please provide the last reapproval date.

To locate the last approval date, review the SAA-9 Approval Letter or VA WEAMS report. For questions about the institutions approval status, email OhioSAA@dvs.ohio.gov or visit [State Approving Agency | Department of Veterans Services](#)

Additional Criteria Not Required, But Strongly Recommended

1. Participation in the Department of Defense Memorandum of Understanding for Federal Tuition Assistance (commonly referred to as the DoD MOU).

Proof of DoD MOU participation will be verified at www.dodmou.com/Home/InstitutionList.

2. Participation in the Yellow Ribbon program when applicable (many public institutions' tuition rates are below the need to participate in the Yellow Ribbon program).

Proof of participation in Yellow Ribbon program will be verified via www.va.gov/education/yellow-ribbon-participating-schools.

3. Asking students for military transcripts, including but not limited to the Community College of the Air Force & Joint Service Transcript, Defense Language Institute, etc. should be a required part of an institution's admissions process. However, institutional receipt of those transcripts should not be used to delay an admissions decision.

Verify if your institution requires all military transcripts for evaluation purposes.

President or Provost Electronic Signature/Date

X

Please email your completed application to CollegiatePurpleStar@highered.ohio.gov by the end of day on **October 24th, 2025**.