MILITARY to Civilian
This course is designed to guide you through the variety of decisions involved in choosing a degree program, college institution, and funding considerations as well completing the admissions process.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”
Nelson Mandela
CAREER READINESS STANDARDS

- Complete Application Package to Admissions Department
- Keep Copy (digital/paper) of Application Package and Date Submitted (if applicable)
- Update ITP
- Show Evidence of Completed Individual Assessment (assessment may vary by Service)
K - Capstone
Service members participate in Capstone to validate and verify that they are prepared to be successful following military service by producing documentation that they meet all Career Readiness Standards (CRS).

J - Entrepreneurship Track
Service members pursuing self-employment in the private or non-profit sectors learn about the challenges faced by entrepreneurs; the benefits and realities of entrepreneurship, and the steps toward business ownership.

I - Career Technical Training Track
Guides and assists Service members pursuing career technical training with preparing for researching and selecting institutions and technical fields.

H - Accessing Higher Education Track
Guides and assists Service members pursuing college education with preparation for the college application process. Topics covered include: identifying educational goals, finding education funding, and researching and comparing institutions.

G - DOL Employment Workshop
Informs and assists transitioning Service members with preparation of the tools and steps required for a successful transition to civilian employment.

F - VA Benefits Briefings I & II
Informs transitioning Service members of their Veterans entitlements.

E - MOC Crosswalk
Translates military skills, training, and experience into civilian skills, education, and credentialing appropriate for civilian jobs.

D - Financial Planning for Transition
Provides information and tools needed to identify post-transition financial responsibilities, obligations, and goals.

C - Continuum of Military Service Opportunity Counseling
Informs Service members of the opportunity to continue their military service by joining a Reserve Component.

B - E-Benefits Registration
Provides web-based information to Service members, Veterans, and their family members on how to access Veterans benefits, resources, services, and support.

A - Pre-Separation Counseling
Introduces Service Members to the full range of transition programs and services available.
Section 1: Personal and Career Goals
Section 2: Selecting an Institution
Section 3: Funding Factors
Section 4: Admission Requirements
ICE BREAKER

- What is your name?
- Where are you from?
- What do you want to do after you finish college?
SECTION 1: PERSONAL AND CAREER GOALS

Competency
- Evaluate personal goals and career goals
- Leverage the evaluation of personal/career goals to make informed decisions regarding potential institution selection

Learning Objectives
- Incorporate personal goals and career goals into the institution selection matrix
CAREER GOALS AND REQUIREMENTS

Career Goals

Career Interest Inventory Results
MOC Crosswalk (GAP Analysis)
Employment Workshop (Change Management Plan)

Attach these results to the Career Goals Worksheet at Appendix A
PERSONAL GOALS AND REQUIREMENTS

Personal Goals Activity

Location Preference Activity
Family Requirements Activity
Personal Finance (Budget) Activity

Please prioritize from 1-5 and log results on Appendix B
Remedial classes required
Current pursuit of degree program
Graduate level pursuit

NOTE: Record any remedial requirements on your ITP and Appendix A
SECTION 2: INSTITUTION SELECTION

- **Competency**
  - Evaluation of higher education institutions and degree programs
  - Make informed decisions regarding degree programs

- **Learning Objectives**
  - Compare and contrast types of institutions and degree programs
  - Identify degree programs to transfer recommended military credit
SELECTION FACTORS

- Transfer of Recommended Military Credit
- Degree Program
- Service Members Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium
- Graduation/Retention Rates
- Accreditation
- Culture
- Methods of Instruction
- Guard & Reserve Mobilization
- Veterans Support
OTHER SELECTION FACTORS

- Public vs. Private
- 2-Year vs. 4-Year
- For-Profit vs. Not-for-Profit
- Additional information referencing factors to consider can be found at:

Factors to Consider When Choosing a School

Using your GI Bill benefits successfully means more than just filling out a few forms. Making informed decisions about how to use your benefits, and how they can best meet your needs, means doing a little homework before classes start.

The following information will walk you through some of the basic information you should consider before you decide on a career, and by extension, a school.

How much will I earn with a degree?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education pays</th>
<th>Unemployment rate in 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Median weekly earnings in 2009: $1,532,
$1,529
Where to Find Your Military Credit Recommendations:

DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Important nuances between degree programs
- A prescribed set of courses set by the college or university to complete a specific degree program
- Core Courses vs. Electives
- Review all courses in your field of study
  - Do they cover your interests/career goals?
SAMPLE: UNDERGRADUATE SOCIOLOGY DEGREE PLAN

- **Lower Division Requirements (9 SH)**
  - SO 200 - Introduction to Sociology (3 SH)
  - SO 203 - Social Problems (3 SH)
  - SO 204 - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3 SH)

- **Upper Division Requirements (24 SH)**
  - SO 403 - Sociology Theory (3 SH)
  - SO404 - Methods of Social Research (3 SH)
  - SO499 - Majors Seminar (3 SH)
  - Upper Division Sociology Electives (15 SH)
ACTIVITY: INSTITUTIONS TO RESEARCH

- Identify Institutions to Research
  1. Login to College Navigator
     http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/
  2. Select state
  3. Browse for Programs>Select Program/Major>Select Category>Add Specific
  4. Select level of Award - Certificate, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Advanced Degree
  5. Search Results include Institution names
  6. Select one
  7. General information>school website
  8. Link to school website
  9. Find degree program and enter information into the degree comparison worksheet (Appendix B).
2. “How do I research and understand transfer policies?”
3. Use Internet resources to compare higher education universities
4. Continue to complete the Institution Selection Matrix (Appendix B)
SOC Consortium members commit to the following criteria:

- Reasonable Transfer of Credit
- Reduced Academic Residency
- Credit for Military Training and Experience
- Credit for Nationally-Recognized Testing Programs
1. Logon to: http://www.soc.aascu.org/
2. Select “SOC Consortium”
3. Select “SOC Consortium Member Institutions” PDF file
4. Search by State for those colleges and universities that are members of SOC
5. Annotate on Appendix B if the educational institutions you selected are SOC members
ACTIVITY: GRADUATION/RETENTION RATES

1. Login to College Navigator
   http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

2. Find Retention and Graduation Rates for the educational institutions you selected
   - Note Results in Appendix B
**Definition:** Recognition that an institution maintains standards requisite for its graduates to gain admission to other reputable institutions of higher learning

**Goal:** Ensure the education provided meets acceptable levels of quality

**Types of Accreditation**
- Regional
- National
ACTIVITY: RESEARCH ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS

2. Input name of specific institution
3. Choose FAQ at top menu for specific information about accreditation & use of website
4. Log results on Appendix B

CAUTION: Be aware that credits don’t easily transfer between institutions. Always check with your educational institution to see how many credits will transfer before making your final decision.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors to consider</th>
<th>Methods to explore college culture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ideology of faculty</td>
<td>Open house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of student body</td>
<td>Campus tours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Size of town, city</td>
<td>Sit in on a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of veteran students</td>
<td>Meet with a faculty member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission and vision</td>
<td>Student orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation and history</td>
<td>Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student activities</td>
<td>Talk to other students</td>
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NOTE: This is a basic structure.
Be aware that some offices may have different titles.
Important to learn about all available resources
Research veterans support groups:
http://www.studentveterans.org/
Ask questions when looking for veteran-friendly schools
- What veteran services are provided?
- How many veterans attend your school?
- What is the graduation rate of your veterans?
ACTIVITY: RESEARCH INSTITUTION STUDENT SERVICES

- Identify student services available at selected Institutions
  1. Login to College Navigator http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/
  2. Select state
  3. Browse for Programs>Select Program/Major>Select Category>Add Specific
  4. Select level of Award - Certificate, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Advanced Degree
  5. Select show results
  6. Select specific institution
  7. General information>school website
  8. Link to school website for additional information
  9. Log results on Appendix A
Methods of Instructional Delivery

- Classroom (traditional)
- On-line (eLearning)
- Hybrid (Combination)
- Guided independent study

Benefits and Challenges on Online Learning

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<th>BENEFITS</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
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Useful tool to assess readiness for distance learning:

http://www.dantescatalogs.com/DlDemo/dlDemoIntro.aspx
GUARD AND RESERVE MOBILIZATION

- Does school offer flexibility?
- Can degree be completed online?
- Can you be readmitted if you have to suspend your studies for military duty?
- How does mobilization effect VA benefits?
Veteran’s Service Office
- Referrals to community resources
- Provide information on VA benefits
- Assistance navigating the campus

VA Certifying Official (Financial Aid)
- Liaison between college and Department of Veterans Affairs
**VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS**

- **Veterans Success on Campus**
  - Resource for veterans & family members to ensure successful transition to college life
  - [http://www.vetsuccess.gov/vetsuccess_on_campus](http://www.vetsuccess.gov/vetsuccess_on_campus)

- **Student Veterans of America**
  - Peer-to-peer network
  - [www.studentveterans.org](http://www.studentveterans.org)

- **Centers of Excellence**
  - [http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&z=4&msid=100225427964936134608.000491cf67e5f1342b238](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&z=4&msid=100225427964936134608.000491cf67e5f1342b238)
ACTIVITY: FIND VETERANS SUPPORT SERVICES

- Identify veterans support services at your selected institutions

1. Using the websites discussed in the previous slides:
   - http://www.vetsuccess.gov/vetsuccess_on_campus
   - www.studentveterans.org
   - http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

2. Find all veterans organizations on campus and list contact information on Appendix A

3. Identify all medical and physical support services and annotate results on Appendix A (Can be found on institution website through collegenavigator)

4. Identify veterans support organizations in the community