



MILITARY

to

Civilian

HIGHER EDUCATION OVERVIEW

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.

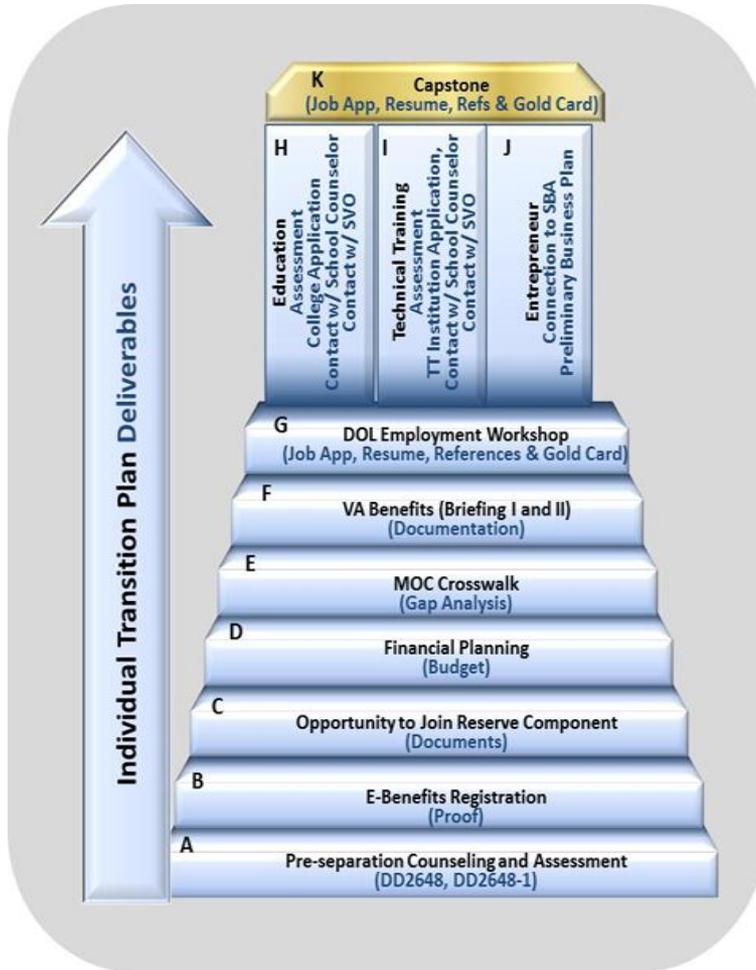
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

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)

ITP ROADMAP



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.

COURSE OVERVIEW

- 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



ACADEMIC READINESS

- ⦿ 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:
 - http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/Choosing_a_School.pdf

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?

Education pays

Category	Value
Unemployment rate in 2009	2.5
Unemployment rate in 2009	2.3
Median weekly earnings in 2009 (Doctoral degree)	\$1,532
Median weekly earnings in 2009 (Professional degree)	1,529

TRANSFER OF RECOMMENDED MILITARY CREDIT

Where to Find Your Military Credit
Recommendations:

<http://jointserVICetranscript.com/> or
<http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/>

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)

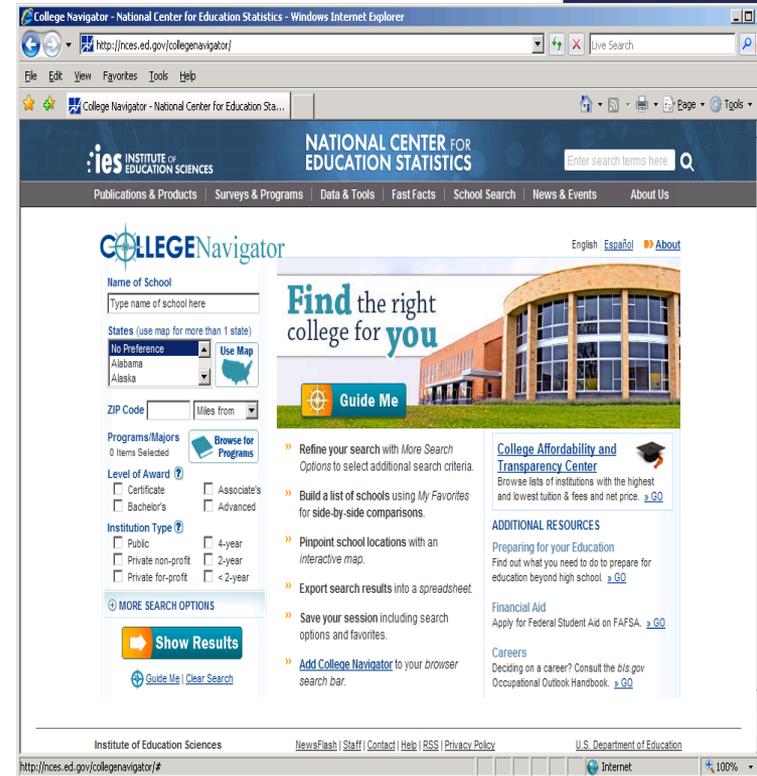
- SO 200 - Introduction to Sociology (3 SH)
- SO 203 - Social Problems (3 SH)
- SO 204 - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3 SH)

⦿ 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).



ACTIVITY: INSTITUTIONS TO RESEARCH (TRANSFER CREDITS)

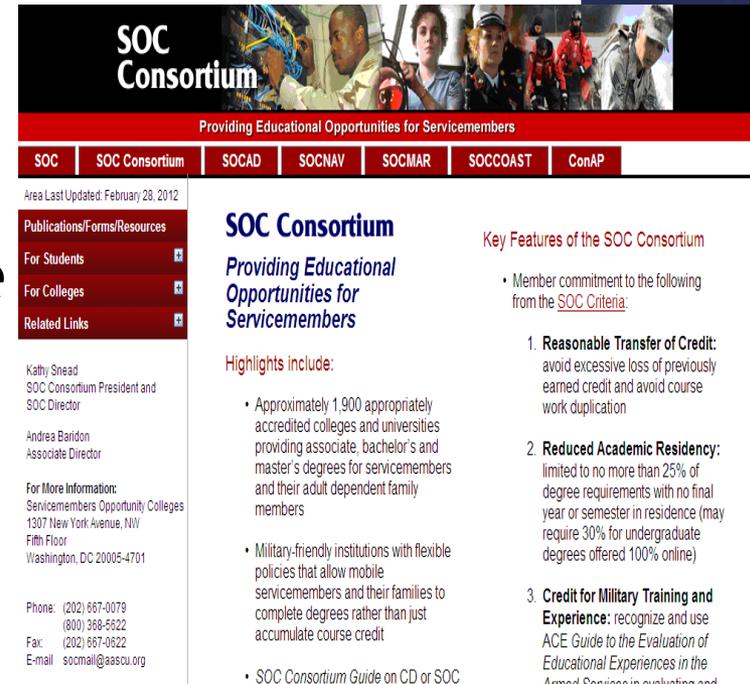
1. Logon to:
http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/Choosing_a_School.pdf
2. “How do I research and understand transfer policies?”
3. Use Internet resources to compare higher education universities
4. Continue to complete the Institution Selection Matrix (Appendix B)

SERVICEMEMBERS OPPORTUNITY COLLEGES (SOC) CONSORTIUM

- ◎ **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

ACTIVITY: RESEARCH SOC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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



The screenshot shows the homepage of the SOC Consortium. At the top, there is a banner with the text "SOC Consortium" and "Providing Educational Opportunities for Servicemembers" over a background image of military personnel. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links for SOC, SOC Consortium, SOCAD, SOCNV, SOCMAR, SOCCOAST, and ConAP. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Area Last Updated:** February 28, 2012
- Publications/Forms/Resources:** A sidebar menu with links for "For Students", "For Colleges", and "Related Links".
- SOC Consortium:** The main heading, followed by the tagline "Providing Educational Opportunities for Servicemembers".
- Key Features of the SOC Consortium:** A list of features including:
 - 1. **Reasonable Transfer of Credit:** avoid excessive loss of previously earned credit and avoid course work duplication
 - 2. **Reduced Academic Residency:** limited to no more than 25% of degree requirements with no final year or semester in residence (may require 30% for undergraduate degrees offered 100% online)
 - 3. **Credit for Military Training and Experience:** recognize and use ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services in evaluation and
- Highlights include:**
 - Approximately 1,900 appropriately accredited colleges and universities providing associate, bachelor's and master's degrees for servicemembers and their adult dependent family members
 - Military-friendly institutions with flexible policies that allow mobile servicemembers and their families to complete degrees rather than just accumulate course credit
 - SOC Consortium Guide on CD or SOC
- Contact Information:**
 - Kathy Sneed, SOC Consortium President and SOC Director
 - Andrea Bairdon, Associate Director
 - For More Information: Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, 1307 New York Avenue, NW, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20005-4701
 - Phone: (202) 667-0079, (800) 368-5922
 - Fax: (202) 667-0922
 - E-mail: socmail@aascu.org

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

The screenshot displays the College Navigator website within a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar shows the URL <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>. The website header includes the logo for the Institute of Education Sciences and the National Center for Education Statistics, along with a search bar and navigation links such as "Publications & Products", "Surveys & Programs", "Data & Tools", "Fast Facts", "School Search", "News & Events", and "About Us".

The main content area features the "COLLEGE Navigator" logo and a search interface. The search form includes fields for "Name of School", "States" (with a dropdown menu set to "No Preference" and a "Use Map" button), "ZIP Code", and "Miles from". Below these are filters for "Programs/Majors" (0 items selected) and "Level of Award" (Certificate, Bachelor's, Associate's, Advanced). The "Institution Type" filter is set to "Public" and includes options for "4-year", "2-year", and "< 2-year". A "Show Results" button is prominently displayed.

To the right of the search form is a large banner with the text "Find the right college for you" and a "Guide Me" button. Below the banner is a list of search tips and additional resources, including links to the "College Affordability and Transparency Center" and "Financial Aid" resources.

The footer of the page contains the text "Institute of Education Sciences", "NewsFlash | Staff | Contact | Help | RSS | Privacy Policy", and "U.S. Department of Education". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows the URL <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/#> and the system tray area includes the "Internet" icon and a "21" indicator.

ACCREDITATION

- ◎ **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

1. Login to <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>
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

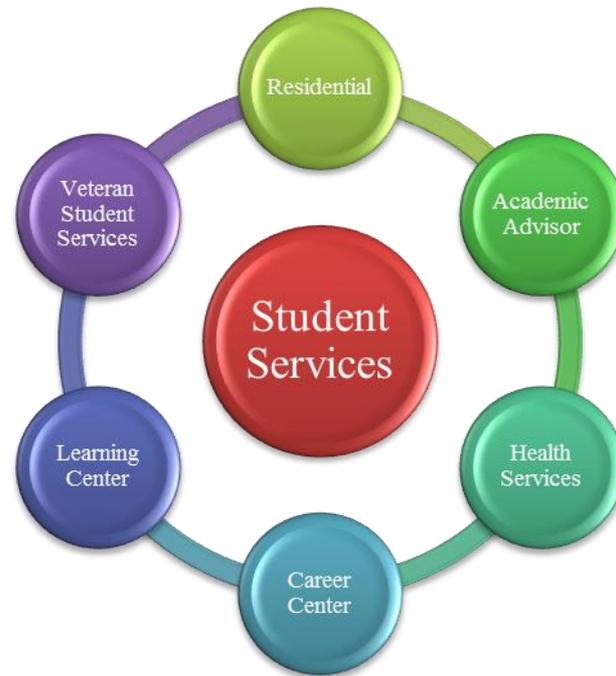
The screenshot shows the website interface for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education. The page title is "The Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs". The navigation menu includes "Home", "FAQ about Accreditation", "FAQ about this website", "Glossary", and "Help". The main heading is "Accreditation > Institution Search". Below this, there is a search form with two tabs: "SEARCH BY INSTITUTION" (selected) and "SEARCH BY ACCREDITING AGENCY". The form includes fields for "Name of Institution", "Address", "City", and "State or Outlying Area". The "State or Outlying Area" field is a dropdown menu with options: Any..., Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, and Connecticut. There are "Search" and "Reset" buttons at the bottom of the form.

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.

INSTITUTION CULTURE

Factors to consider	Methods to explore college culture
Ideology of faculty	Open house
Size of student body	Campus tours
Size of town, city	Sit in on a class
Number of veteran students	Meet with a faculty member
Mission and vision	Student orientation
Reputation and history	Video
Student activities	Talk to other students

HIGHER EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT & STRUCTURE



NOTE: This is a basic structure.
Be aware that some offices may
have different titles.

SERVICE MEMBER INTERACTIONS IN A HIGHER EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT

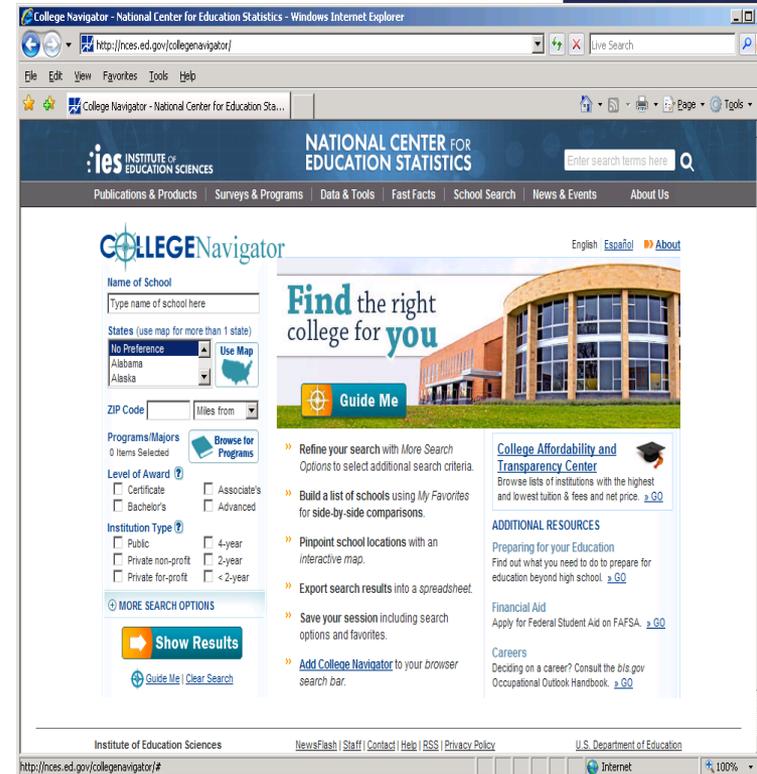


- Important to learn about all available resources
- Research veterans support groups:
<http://www.studentveterans.org/>
- Ask questions when looking for veteran-friendly schools
 - What veteran services are provided?
 - How many veterans attend your school?
 - What is the graduation rate of your veterans?

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



FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN SELECTION OF AN INSTITUTION

○ Methods of Instructional Delivery

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

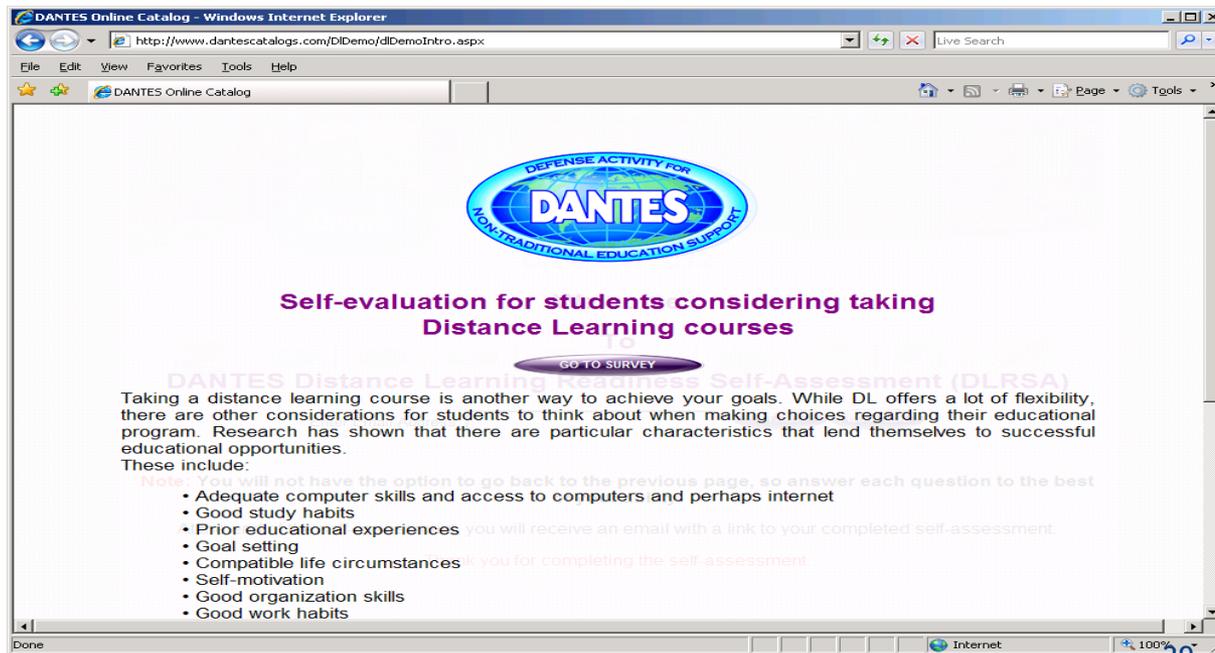
○ Benefits and Challenges on Online Learning

BENEFITS	CHALLENGES

DANTES DISTANCE LEARNING READINESS SELF-ASSESSMENT

- Useful tool to assess readiness for distance learning:

<http://www.dantescatalogs.com/DIDemo/dlDemoIntro.aspx>



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "DANTES Online Catalog - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar displays the URL <http://www.dantescatalogs.com/DIDemo/dlDemoIntro.aspx>. The page content includes the DANTES logo, which is a blue globe with the text "DEFENSE ACTIVITY FOR DANTES NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORT". Below the logo, the heading reads "Self-evaluation for students considering taking Distance Learning courses". A button labeled "GO TO SURVEY" is visible. The main text states: "Taking a distance learning course is another way to achieve your goals. While DL offers a lot of flexibility, there are other considerations for students to think about when making choices regarding their educational program. Research has shown that there are particular characteristics that lend themselves to successful educational opportunities. These include:" followed by a bulleted list of requirements. A note at the bottom of the list states: "Note: You will not have the option to go back to the previous page, so answer each question to the best of your ability." The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and "Internet" with a 100% zoom level.

DANTES
DEFENSE ACTIVITY FOR
NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORT

**Self-evaluation for students considering taking
Distance Learning courses**

GO TO SURVEY

DANTES Distance Learning Readiness Self-Assessment (DLRSA)

Taking a distance learning course is another way to achieve your goals. While DL offers a lot of flexibility, there are other considerations for students to think about when making choices regarding their educational program. Research has shown that there are particular characteristics that lend themselves to successful educational opportunities. These include:

Note: You will not have the option to go back to the previous page, so answer each question to the best of your ability.

- Adequate computer skills and access to computers and perhaps internet
- Good study habits
- Prior educational experiences you will receive an email with a link to your completed self-assessment
- Goal setting
- Compatible life circumstances you for completing the self-assessment
- Self-motivation
- Good organization skills
- Good work habits

Done Internet 100%

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?

VETERANS SUPPORT

- **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

○ Student Veterans of America

- Peer-to-peer network
- www.studentveterans.org

○ Centers of Excellence

- <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&z=4&msid=100225427964936134608.000491cf67e5f1342b238>

The image shows two screenshots of websites. The top screenshot is a browser window displaying the 'VetSuccess on Campus' website. The page header includes the 'UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' logo and a search bar. The main content area features a banner with a soldier's face and the 'VETSUCCESS.GOV' logo. Below the banner, there are navigation links for 'Home', 'Jobs', 'Military Skills Translators', 'VetSuccess', 'Additional Resources', 'VA, VR&E, and VetSuccess', 'News', and 'For Employers'. The main heading is 'VetSuccess on Campus', followed by a paragraph of text and a 'SUBMIT COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS' button. A map is visible at the bottom of the page.

The bottom screenshot is a browser window displaying the 'Student Veterans of America' website. The page header includes the 'SVA' logo and a 'Support SVA' button. The main content area features a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'About Us', 'Program Services', and 'Media & News'. Below the navigation bar, there are three articles: 'General George W. Casey', 'Student Veterans Organization', and '#66793'. Each article has a 'Read More' link. An 'Email News Sign Up' form is located at the bottom right of the page.

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