

VETERAN STUDENT CHALLENGES

Below are responses from students regarding the challenges of transfer and award of credit for military training/experience:

1. Joint Services Transcript (JST) not being honored by colleges and/or universities
 - At a minimum, our credits should be taken from our JST; for instance, my university required me to take medical terminology again when it is very plainly shown on my JST.
 - There are many areas of the JST that are looked over. There are many hundreds of hours in a 20 year career that go into training. That training, when it comes to some schools, seems null and void. Does the military not meet and/or exceed the expectations set forth by the college? It prides itself on how well its veterans are treated. Treat them better and give them credit where credit is due.
 - My JST transferred 27 upper level credits, but without a course syllabus none of them can be applied. It's almost more a slap in the face to say that we acknowledge you have this experience and we'd give you these 27 credits - but actually we won't. And there's no available recourse.
 - I don't believe the JST is as accurate as it should be, especially since the military training changes frequently. I would also like to see an option for discussion or providing additional proof that credit should be given when a service member feels they have the experience.
2. Students receiving credit for military training or courses, but not for military "experience"
 - A lot of the on the job training and skills we learned need to be evaluated better. When I was deployed to Iraq, I worked opposite of my Flight Surgeon who was a credentialed Medical Doctor and saw patients on my own, performed medical procedures and directed medical responses to trauma that is far above the level of an EMT. I can't even get credit for my EMT experience.
 - As a US Navy Hospital Corpsman First Class with 20 years of experience and training, I had to fight to get my Anatomy and Physiology course to be accepted for credit. None of my other medical training was taken.
 - Students at the various colleges are required to take a global/cultural course (i.e. Global Context/Global Diversity course). It could be argued that courses that explore global cultures and diversity should be waived for many military members due to their experience being deployed/or stationed in various locations across the world.
3. GI Bill guidelines (schools not being able to use the JST; must have official transcript)
4. In some cases, transfer credit is not calculated in GPA, which can possibly keep a student from being eligible for limited access programs (GPA required)
5. Credits being awarded as elective hours, running the risk of excess hours and having to pay more
6. Some of my credits counted at one school for my AA but the university did not take them for my bachelors.
7. Many like me receive certifications that are the same as civilians that require earned college credits to receive these certificates (i.e. Paramedic). The military pays for programs that train individuals and award these certificates however do not award college credits. Having a CCAF in practical nursing didn't seem to add much to my list of completed credits towards my Bio-Med science program either.
8. I was told that the college would only offer 4 credit hours total, despite having 30+ military credits available; therefore, I had to re-evaluate the plan I had in place for moving and career choices because I wasn't where I should have been for degree completion.
9. As a Law Enforcement Specialist in the USAF, I attended many training courses associated to that field, however hardly any received credit at the University. I feel any standardized training courses in a specified career field should be acknowledged for credit.

10. Being able to challenge course exams, professional exams or have demonstrate interviews/oral boards would help recognize professional achievement and demonstrate knowledge levels for course equivalency.
11. The classes that translate to college courses is dependent on your Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) for the army. It would be nice to know how each MOS would translate into different college courses, so I could plan accordingly.
12. It literally doesn't matter how many or what kind of credits you have, hardly any schools accept them, and when they do they're mostly "free electives".

What types of courses do you feel you should you have received credit for but did not?

Environmental Health or Health Science, Emergency Medicine and/or basic nursing

IT and Networking classes

AIT (Advanced Individual Training)--Advanced individual training is where you will learn the skills needed to perform a specific Army job, such as artillery or engineering. At your AIT school, you'll receive hands-on training and field instruction to make you an expert in that career field.

Intro to Electronics

Circuits, electronic circuits, digital logic, communication systems, solid state electronic devices, basic electric energy engineering,

Foreign language and cultural credits

More credits for leadership and problem solving, especially since I completed combat deployments

Management/Leadership credit for our professional military development courses such as Non-commissioned officer (NCO) academy—An NCO is a military officer who has not earned a commission. Because they have not received the document appointing them to a high office, NCOs usually obtain their position of authority by promotion through the enlisted ranks.

Leadership School/Academy (for example, Airman Leadership School)

Police Academy