

# 2021 Emerging Issues and Policies Regarding Military-Connected Students

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*



Resources available on the MHEC website post-event.



Submit questions in the Q&A.



Please complete our survey.

# MCMC Contact



- **Sara Appel**  
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Director for Policy  
Initiatives

# MCMC Overview

The mission of the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC) is to facilitate an interstate partnership of 13 states, and to translate competencies acquired by veterans through military training and experiences toward college credentials. States exchange information and share best practices in the areas of articulation of credit, certification and licensure, communication, and data and technology.

# MCMC Project Goals

1. Assist states and postsecondary institutions in aiding military connected students with critical life transitions from the military to postsecondary education and then from postsecondary education to civilian employment.
2. Increase postsecondary education completion rates by creating models for the consistent, transparent, and effective awarding of credit for military training and experience that can be scaled regionally and nationally, thereby lowering the cost of education and reducing the time to completion.
3. Establish a strong network of support, communication, documentation, and data collection among institutions and organizations for the purpose of promoting shared interests and tracking the efficacy of efforts to enhance military connected students' educational success.

# Today's Presenter



- **Lauren Augustine**  
Vice President of Government  
Affairs  
Student Veterans of America



**2021 EMERGING ISSUES AND POLICIES REGARDING  
MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS**

**JUNE 24, 2021**

# Mission

*Act as a catalyst for student veteran success by providing resources, network support and advocacy to, through, and beyond higher education.*



# Vision

*Empowering student veterans to lead and live their best lives.*



# Who are student veterans?

More than 1 million are receiving G.I. Bill benefits, & 754,000 of them are on campuses with an SVA Chapter.

**31%** are women

**46%** have children

**19%** are single parents

**80%** are between the ages 24-35

**87%** attend a public or private non-profit

**52%** are married

NEARLY  
**75%** work full- or part-time

**90%** were enlisted

## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



**STUDENT VETERANS HAVE HIGHER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE (GPA) COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL STUDENTS**

**3.34** AVERAGE STUDENT VETERAN GPA

**2.94** AVERAGE TRADITIONAL STUDENT GPA

## POST-SECONDARY COMPLETION

**STUDENT VETERANS' COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION AT RATES SIMILAR TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE AND HIGHER THAN OTHER ADULT LEARNERS**

STUDENT VETERAN COMPLETION RATE **54%**

NATIONAL COMPLETION RATE **53%**

ADULT LEARNERS (FIRST ENROLLED AT 25 YEARS OR OLDER) **39%**

**VETERANS USING THE POST-9/11 GI BILL TO EARN HIGH-LEVEL DEGREES**

BACHELOR DEGREES **43%**

ASSOCIATE DEGREES **27%**

GRADUATE DEGREES **20%**

ASSOCIATE DEGREES **10%**

Top 3 Fields of Study: Business, Health, & STEM

# SVA Today

- SVA has over a network of **1,530 student veteran-led chapters** with a footprint covering every U.S. State and territory and 3 countries abroad.
- SVA programs prepare our chapter leaders **to represent 754,000 individual student veterans** on campuses with a registered SVA chapter.
- SVA's National Conference, NatCon, is the largest annual gathering of Post-9/11 veterans in the world, with **more than 5,000 attendees in 2021**.
- SVA analyzed the first **1.8 million** Post 9/11 GI Bill graduates, and we leverage this original research to inform programing and national policy.
- SVA conceived of, and Congress unanimously passed, the first major update to the GI Bill in a decade, known commonly as the Forever GI Bill. This bipartisan legislation impacts the lives of **1.1 million** students, distributing **\$13.5 billion** in benefits annually.



# SVA's Primary Functions



## Programs

As a coordinating element for our chapters, we deliver student-centric tools and training nationwide



## Research

Our peer-reviewed original research informs all of our programs and policy work, providing clear learning and measurement metrics



## Advocacy

As an organization actively engaged with policymakers in DC and on campuses across the country, we shape the national landscape for student veterans

# Recent Government Affairs Work



## 2020 – 7 New Laws

- Veterans in STEM Careers Act
- Pandemic Monthly Housing Allowance Protections
- The Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020
- Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019
- Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act
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- Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020

## 2021 – Work Continues

- Closing the 90-10 loophole
- Protecting VA's Round Out Rule
- Codifying national emergency protections
- GI Bill Comparison Tool updates
- Improving Guard and Reserve protections
- Improving study abroad access
- Increasing childcare options



# ***Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care And Benefit Improvement Act***

- Sweeping legislation, 340-pages, made law in January
- Impacts every aspect of VA care and benefits
- Large portion of bill address lagging needs of women veterans at VA health care centers
- Creates specific MST claims process to better address unique needs of those claims
- Eases grant process for organizations providing homeless services
- Creates an advisory committee on Native American veterans



# Education Provisions

## Expansion of Benefits

Expands Edit Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship to include dual-enrolled degrees and health care clinical training.

Expands Fry Scholarship eligibility for Reservists who die from service-connected disabilities.

Expands GI Bill transferability eligibility to children under legal custody of eligible service members.

Requires in-state tuition at public institutions regardless of time since separation

## Student Verification

Creates a dual-certification process: schools will certify students' enrollment after add/drop date and then students will verify continued status on a monthly basis.

## COVID Protections

Allows VA to pay out benefits to students for 4 weeks if program is cut short or cancelled because of COVID.

No entitlement charge for school closures from COVID.

Ensures OTJ programs unable to fulfill minimum hours requirement are not negatively impacted.

## Student Protections

Creates risk-based surveys for SAAs to conduct and requires VA to notify SAAs to conduct a risk-based review when a punitive action is taken against a school.

Requires accredited institutions to also be eligible for Title IV funding.

Requires law schools be accredited for GI Bill participation.

Codifies the Principles of Excellence Program from Executive Order 13607.

Requires benefit payments made to an institution that create an overpayment be repaid to VA by the institution.

Limits the type of advertising, marketing, and sales institutions can use by aligning the standards with the current Federal Student Aid standards.

Requires a risk-based review for 3 years after an institution converts from for-profit to non-profit status.



# Helpful Resources

## Main Education Website

- <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe.asp>

## SCO FAQs

- <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/covid19faqs.asp>

## Debt-related questions

- [DMCEDU.VBASPL@va.gov](mailto:DMCEDU.VBASPL@va.gov)

## Education hotline

- 1-888-442-4551



# Emerging Issues: GI Bill as the front door to VA

## Student Basic Needs

- Childcare
- Housing
- Food
- Reliable and timely access to benefits

## Reducing Friction

- Codify COVID protections
- Study abroad
- Round Out Rule
- Digital GI Bill

## Overlooked Protections

- Guard and Reserve benefits for mid-term activation
- Emerging trends such as OPM utilization





Q&A





STUDENT VETERANS

**SVA**

OF AMERICA

# Questions



Submit  
questions in  
the Q&A.

# Resources

- Past Webinars

  - <https://www.mhec.org/mcmc-resources>

- Additional Information

  - <http://mhec.org/mcmc>

# MCMC Contact



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# Thank you!

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