



Veterans Services

THE COD VET REPORT



Degree Requirement Changes for 2017

There are significant changes to the Life Science requirement for the Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Fine Arts and Associate in Teaching degrees beginning with the 2017 Summer semester. It is important to be aware of the changes and to know if they will impact your education program. You are encouraged to consult with a Student Success Counselor to ensure the completion of your educational program and the Life Sciences Requirement. Please feel free to contact the Counseling and Advising Office, Student Services Center (SSC), Room 3200, (630) 942-2259.

Veterans Services Webpage: Visit Often!

The Veterans Services website has been updated to include two new pages.

- **Employment and Internships** - lists opportunities specifically for student Veterans.
- **Veterans Association** – dedicated to the student-led Veterans club at COD.

There is still time to apply for Fall 2017 scholarships! Visit the **Veterans Scholarships page** to find funding for your educational dreams.

Visit **Veterans Services on-line** for access to certifying forms, details on military education benefits, news, updates and events.

Veterans Services Student Tips

Best wishes for a terrific Spring 2017 term! The Office of Veterans Services works hard to ensure that it's easy, convenient and efficient to use your education benefits at College of DuPage. We would like to give you some tips to keep in mind if you are utilizing said benefits:

- Allow four to six weeks to obtain your Certificate of Eligibility from the VA.
- Take advantage of registering as early as possible to ensure that you have a wide selection of class options and sufficient time for your certification request to be processed. All required forms are now automated and can be submitted electronically from the **Veterans Services** website or from computers in our office.
- Consider consulting with your professor or a student counselor before dropping a class and take advantage of free academic resources such as The Learning Commons, Center for Access and Accommodations and professors' office hours.

Our staff is here to help you succeed with your educational goals – please visit the office, send us an email or call with your questions or needs. Veterans Services is located in the Student Services Center (SSC), Room 2225. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday

The COD Vet Report Spring 2017 Edition

Veterans Important Dates

Feb. 7: Roll Call: Employment Networking & Support for Veterans, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Westwood Tavern, Schaumburg

Feb. 8: Veterans Association Meeting, 10 a.m., Veterans Lounge, SSC 3260

Feb. 22: Veterans Association Meeting, 4 p.m. Veterans Lounge, SSC 3260

Feb. 27: Aspiring Veteran Entrepreneurs, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., College of DuPage Naperville Center

Mar. 1: Veterans Association Service Event, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Feed My Starving Children, Aurora

Mar. 8: Veterans Association Meeting, 10 a.m., Veterans Lounge, SSC 3260

Mar. 22: Veterans Association Meeting, 4 p.m., Veterans Lounge, SSC 3260

Mar. 29: Bridges to Employment, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL

Apr. 12: Veterans Association Meeting, 10 a.m., Veterans Lounge, SSC 3260

Apr. 26: Veterans Association Meeting, 4 p.m., Veterans Lounge, SSC 3260

May 10: Veterans Association Meeting, 10 a.m., Veterans Lounge, SSC 3260

May 19: 2nd Annual Veterans Award Reception, COD Main Campus

May 20: Armed Forces Day

May 20 - 27: Armed Forces Week

May 20 - 27: Applications accepted for VET Scholarships to Canyonlands, Utah

May 24: Veterans Association Celebration – CODVA Fun Day!, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Dave & Busters, Addison

June 14: Happy Birthday Army!

June 27: National PTSD Awareness Day

July 22: Rockin' For The

through Friday, (630) 942-3814, veterans@cod.edu

Veterans Rock the Rockies

Ever wished you could just find a creative way of completing a general education requirement? This past summer, nine Veteran students did just that – they embarked on a six day, forty mile hiking adventure in the Colorado Rockies to fulfill the Contemporary Life Skills or Speech requirement for the AAS degree. The first of its kind for Veteran students at College of DuPage, the course is designed to bring Veterans together in a positive, communal experience to explore leadership, teamwork, roles, conflict management, ecological awareness and personal development.

Participant Jessica Ouellette, Co-President of College of DuPage Veterans Association attended the Rockies encounter and regarded it as a very rewarding experience. Ouellette: "The most rewarding part about the Colorado hiking trip was the sense of accomplishment that I had when I finished. I would absolutely recommend this opportunity to others. [It] was refreshing for my soul to go on this journey with a group of great veterans. It was most definitely a life changing experience."

The Veterans Rockies Encounter field study class was possible due to a Resources for Excellence Grant from the College of DuPage Foundation. The RFE Grant covered all course fees like airfare, supplies, and lodging. Veterans eligible for veteran education benefits used said benefits to cover the tuition for the class. Manager of Veterans Services, Jose Alferez and Speech Communication Faculty member, Marco Benassi developed the exciting field study curriculum with Veterans in mind. [Read a full-feature, in-depth article on this successful and adventurous field study.](#)

The Veterans Encounter for Summer 2017 will take place in Canyonlands, Utah. Applications for scholarships open in May. Check the [Veterans Services website](#) for updates.

New Services for Student Veterans

Veterans have two new options when it comes to facing the challenges of getting started with classes and staying in classes.

Textbook Loan Program

Veterans Services has partnered with College of DuPage Library to establish a Veterans Textbook Program which allows Veterans utilizing military education benefits to check out required textbooks for a few weeks as they wait for textbook stipends or for other military funding to arrive. To check out a textbook, Veteran students simply tell the library staff that they would like to borrow a textbook from the Veterans Collection. The library's Veterans Collection has been acquired from textbook donations to Veterans Services. Currently there are 204 textbooks in the Veterans Collection and it continues to grow. Textbook donations are accepted all year at Follett's Bookstore or Veterans Services. [View the Veterans Collection.](#)

Peer to Peer Mentoring

Student Veterans in need of academic mentoring have the option to participate in a new, peer to peer mentoring program. The Student Veteran Academic Mentor Program strives to strengthen the academic success of Veteran students with peer Veteran mentorship and collaborative resources both on and off campus. Manager of Veterans Services, Jose Alferez states: "Simply put, it is an option for Veteran students to see a clear line of support that they can reach out to if they are having an issue identifying resources that can help them be successful at College of DuPage."

This new service is up and running in its pilot phase with five Veteran mentors from different academic fields and military branches prepared to assist their armed forces brothers and sisters to succeed with their educational goals. The mentoring program is designed for Veteran

troops

Aug. 4: Happy Birthday Coast Guard!

Veteran Student Spotlight



[Brian MacArtney](#)

Air Force, 2009 to present
Security Forces and Air Force Reserves

COD program of study:

Associate of Arts, Spring 2016
Associate in Applied Sciences, Fall 2016
Bachelor of Arts 3+1 Program

Graduation Date: Spring 2018

Best advice to a VET student:

Get involved in your education and build a network with faculty and Veterans and use all resources to your advantage. Visit the Veterans Lounge, it's a great place for networking and making friends on campus. If you have a group of friends doing the same thing, it helps to continue forward versus going it alone.

Scholarship Recipient:

Betty and Ron Krupp
Scholarship for Fall 2015 and Spring 2016.

Learn more about [Brian MacArtney](#) / Air Force Reserves, Security Forces

students to work with a mentor that can assist them to create a plan for success that includes utilizing one or more student resources that College of DuPage offers such as Learning Commons, Center for Access and Accommodations, and Counseling and Advising. If necessary, the success plan can also include referrals to specialized Veteran resources off campus such as Veterans Assistance Commission of DuPage County.

Veteran Peer Mentors are trouble shooters, listening ears and friends with the goal of academic success for their peer Veterans. Students participating in the mentoring program can be assured of privacy and confidentiality. Cathy Britt, coordinator of the mentoring program, welcomes interested students and mentees to contact her at (630) 942-3851 or brittc16@cod.edu

Navigating COD

Student life is an enormous opportunity to practice leadership, business and organizational skills outside of the classroom. Your participation can also enhance your life and career goals and your marketability to employers. College of DuPage has over 80 student clubs and organizations. Here are two student life opportunities to consider:

Living Leadership Program

The Living Leadership Program is designed for students interested in building their leadership skills and confidence while actively participating in the College of DuPage vibrant campus community. The Living Leadership Program is a free, non-transcript certificate program at College of DuPage focused on developing students into active leaders and positive change-makers. The program is divided into two phases to meet the diverse needs of College of DuPage students. You may begin at any time and completion of the requirements is self-paced. [View detailed information on the Living Leadership Program and profiles of Living Leadership Alumni.](#)

College of DuPage Entrepreneurship Club (CODEC)
Guided by Army Veteran faculty, Peter James, this club involves guest speakers who are entrepreneurs from successful small business owners ranging up to corporate level roles. The club also takes field trips to businesses/companies to gain knowledge of their products/services, getting to know how to start a business as well as the networking aspect of it. Following the week after the meeting or field trip with the business owner or company, a discussion/reflection takes place to recollect what each member learned and how each can benefit from the experience in their own business careers.

Advisor: [Peter James](#), Berg Instructional Center (BIC), Room 1729d, (630) 942-2618

[COD Entrepreneurship Club Facebook page](#)

[COD Entrepreneurship Club Instagram page](#)

[COD Entrepreneurship Club Video](#)

Office of Veterans Services

Student Services Center (SSC), Room 2225
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: (630) 942-3814
Fax: (630) 942-4991

veterans@cod.edu

[Veterans Services website](#)

Veterans Lounge

Student Services Center (SSC), Room 3260

www.cod.edu

