

New Policy Proposal

Credit for Military Educational Experiences

Credit for Military Educational Experiences

UMSL encourages current servicemembers or military veterans with honorable service to request transfer of their military educational experiences or coursework where that coursework has been reviewed by the American Council of Education (ACE). Servicemembers or veterans must submit their Joint Services Transcript (JST), Community College of the Air Force Transcript (CCAF), Sailor-Marine ACE Registry Transcript (SMART), or Army/ACE Registry Transcript System (AARTS) transcript to receive consideration for transfer credit. The American Council of Education's recommendations in "A Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services" serve as a general guideline for granting such credit.

To have military educational credit evaluated, the University must receive an official transcript from ACE (or from CCAF). Joint Service Transcripts can be obtained directly from the JST Operation Center at <https://jst.doded.mil> or by calling 877-838-1659. Like all transfer credit reviews, a preliminary review of credit will be conducted by a transfer credit specialist. Individual courses may be sent to the academic departments for further evaluation by appropriate faculty. If an enrolled veteran student believes that his/her education experiences warrant academic credit but that experience has not been reviewed by the ACE, that student can petition the appropriate department chair for credit. No transfer credit will be awarded for Military Basic Training.

Credit will also be granted for most Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) education programs, including CLEP and DTSS tests. In accordance with UMSL advanced standing policies, veterans should submit appropriate verification documents to the Office of Admissions before their first semester at UMSL.

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges

UMSL is a long standing member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), a consortium of over 1900 military-friendly institutions with flexible policies that allow mobile servicemembers and their families to complete degrees rather than just accumulate course credit. Because servicemembers and their families may be stationed in several locations during their military career, SOC member institutions commit to transfer practices for servicemembers that minimize loss of credit and avoid duplication of coursework, while simultaneously maintaining the integrity of its programs.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale

This proposal clarifies UMSL credit transfer policy related to military educational experiences. It also brings UMSL in compliance with current state law (SB106) and MDHE veteran-credit policies. Key provisions: *A specific mention of "educational experiences or coursework," not training. *Educational experiences must be documented on the "Joint Services Transcript." This provision confirms that the education has been reviewed by a valid, external accreditation agency (America Council on Education) *No specific mention of a limit on transfer credits – all educational work is eligible for review. Standard residency and transfer policies remain. * A reminder that UMSL is a member of the SOC Consortium and, therefore, agrees to accept transfer credits from other SOC schools and to provide academic and financial relief programs for servicemembers who are unexpectedly ordered to move or deploy.