

VETERANS VOICE

APRIL 2024

VOLUME 24

Highlights:

- VETERAN BENEFITS INFORMATION
- Comments from the Coordinator
- Advisors Corner
- Resources
- SVA Upcoming Events
- Spring Semester Dates
- CPR/First Aid/AED Class
- Upcoming Veterans Events
- Month of the Military Child
- Earth Month
- April Fools Day Apr 1st
- National Find a Rainbow Day Apr 3rd
- Gold Star Spouses Day Apr 5th
- Army Day Apr 6th
- National Unicorn Day Apr 9th
- Air Force Reserve Birthday Apr 14th
- Purple Up Day Apr 15th
- Earth Day Apr 22nd
- Army Reserve Birthday Apr 23rd
- Administrative Professionals Day Apr 24th
- National Arbor Day Apr 26th



PENSACOLA
STATE COLLEGE

COMMENTS FROM THE COORDINATOR

I hope everyone enjoyed their Spring Break and as we move into Spring events at PSC will speeding up. We are currently enrolling students for Summer and Fall sessions. The Spring Commencement Ceremony will be held on Friday 10 May and that following Monday, the Summer Session starts.

We are changing up the format of the Veteran's Voice. The Coordinator's Comments and Advisor's Corner will not change, but we are going to have a resource page and try to highlight information from various websites and publications that are pertinent to our Military Affiliated students. We have provided the links to these organizations, some of which have monthly newsletters that anyone can subscribe to receive via email.

Our Advisors Corner will again emphasize the importance of getting all of your transcripts (High School/GED, College and Military) sent to PSC along with how steps needed to complete the process.

If you are Military Affiliated PSC student and in need of your PSC transcript being sent to another college, please contact me at kkropp@pensacolastate.edu so I can work with the PSC Registrar's office and there will be no charge to the student.

Kevin Kropp
VSSC Coordinator

ADVISORS CORNER

Summer and Fall registration are currently under way, as always, we recommend you make an appointment with an advisor as summer classes fill up quickly. For VA benefits in summer, you only require 8+ credit hours to be considered full time (3 classes most cases). If you are completing your degree for Spring Graduation you will need to apply via your WorkDay create request (see below). Our advisors are here to let you know what we have to offer our veteran population about Pensacola State College and class registrations.

If you are using VA benefits and a college program advisor or self-registration always follow up with one of our Veteran Student Advisors to confirm proper eligibility. As a reminder for NEW and current students if you have not requested your prior academic transcripts i.e., other colleges or institutions to include high school you can do so through your MyPSC apps Parchment. Students should check their Workday and student email accounts daily. We are looking forward to helping you with registration needs.

Transcript Requests: Visit Parchment by clicking the Parchment tile on MyPSC or Parchment's website and entering your email to set up your Learner Account. If there is an issue with your order, such as a hold, Parchment will email resolution instructions.

Military Joint Service Transcripts Request: <https://jst.doded.mil/official.html> send all official transcripts to studentrecords@pensacolastate.edu

Graduation Application Request Information: <https://www.pensacolastate.edu/current-students/graduation/>

Brian Spears, VSSC Advisor
Tilden Whitfield, VSSS Advisor

SPRING SEMESTER DATES

SPRING SESSION C: February 2nd - May 10th

- **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW: Apr 15th**
- **LAST DAY OF TERM: May 10th**

SPRING SESSION D: March 11 - May 10

- **MIDTERM: Apr 12th**
- **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW: Apr 24th**
- **LAST DAY OF TERM: May 10th**

Pensacola State College *is providing an opportunity for Florida Resident Military Veterans, Spouse of a Veteran, Child of a Veteran, and Military Dependents (17+ years old)*

You qualify for a: **Free** CPR/First Aid/AED Certification



April 24th, 2024

Class Time: 9am-1pm

Class will be held on campus at the
Chadbourn Library, Building 20, Room 2051.

An application & documentation is
required prior to attending class. Call
or email to begin the process. Last day
to enroll is **April 18th.**

Plus you qualify for a Free online OSHA10 certification!

* This certification requires 10 hours of online training

* You can work at this at your own speed and at any time

* Great certification to add to your resume whether studying, employed or have an established career



Application & documentation required to participate. To get started call: 850-517-6542 or email: myfuture@hbi.org

Your contact is Brenda Smith. To participate you must be eligible for the program. This program is being offered to you by the Home Builders Institute and Florida Dept of Commerce. Three free certifications are offered. CPR/First Aid/AED, OSHA10 and a Building Maintenance PACT cert.



IMPORTANT VA HEALTH CARE UPDATE!

VA is expanding health care eligibility to millions of Veterans — including all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11 — years earlier than called for by the PACT Act.

VA announced that all Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military — at home or abroad — will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care beginning March 5, 2024. This means that all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll.

For more information, please click on the link below

https://news.va.gov/press-room/veteran-toxins-hazards-serving-eligible-va/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG)

Helping you reach your education and career goals



What is PCPG?

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is here to support you as you face education and career decisions or transition from military to civilian life.

The Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG) program is a critical VA benefit that provides career counseling, assessment, education planning and guidance resources unique to your needs, and can help you set and achieve personal, career and education goals. It provides you with one-on-one support whenever you need it – putting you in the driver's seat of your education or career plan.

How can PCPG help you?

Counselors can provide tailored career planning and guidance to include:

- **Career choice assistance** to understand the best career options based on your interests and skills.
- **Education/career counseling** and a tailored training, education or employment plan.
- **Academic and adjustment counseling** to help you find solutions and ways to overcome any obstacles to your success.
- **Benefits coaching** to help you use other VA benefits and resources effectively, including your VA education benefits.
- Assistance with resume writing, interview skills, and more!

When should you access PCPG?

Consider using PCPG when:

- Considering job or career options or going through employment changes
- Facing obstacles in accessing education and employment opportunities
- Ensuring your education benefits are used in the best way possible
- Interested in, or currently pursuing, higher education
- Transitioning from military to civilian life

You may benefit from using PCPG benefits more than once when making important education and career choices. Follow up sessions are available for as long as you remain eligible for the benefit.

Eligible participants can get support in a variety of ways – through in-person counseling or remotely by use of tele-counseling.

Who is Eligible for PCPG?



Transitioning Service members six months prior to separation



Veterans who have transitioned from active duty service in the last year



Any Veterans or beneficiaries eligible to utilize a VA educational benefit

How can you access PCPG resources?

APPLY ONLINE – Visit [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) to complete and submit your application.

APPLY BY MAIL – Fill out the application located at <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-25-8832-ARE.pdf> and mail it to your local VA Regional Office.

APPLY IN PERSON at your local VA Regional Office or by visiting a VetSuccess On Campus (VSOC) office.

A representative will contact you once your application is received and you will be assigned a time to meet with a counselor.

How can you find out more?

For more information about the PCPG program or to access the eligibility wizard, hover your phone's camera over the QR code:



Or visit: <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/education-and-career-counseling/>

SPECIFIC FINANCIAL RELATED RESOURCES

How to Maximize Your Retirement and Benefits From the Military –

<https://www.moneygeek.com/financial-planning/resources/maximize-military-benefits/>

Housing Support for Veterans –

<https://www.moneygeek.com/mortgage/resources/veterans-benefits-for-housing-guide/>

Connecting Veterans to Transportation Programs, Benefits & Support –

<https://www.moneygeek.com/insurance/auto/resources/veterans-transportation-support/>

Resource for VA Home Loans – <https://www.moneygeek.com/mortgage/va-home-loan/>

GENERAL RESOURCES

Florida America Legion: <https://www.floridalegion.org/>

Florida American Legion is a department of the American Legion. With 130,000 members and more than 300 legion posts across the state, it is a great place for veterans and their families to socialize and find numerous resources. Florida Legion has 27 programs for family, youth, community, and national affairs.

Veterans Of foreign Wars: <https://www.vfw.org/>

The VFW is a national organization for veterans who have served in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Escambia County has 1 VFW Post and Santa Rosa County has 2 VFW Posts. The VFW assists, advocates, provides media, and hosts events. The VFW also can assist with VA claims and separation benefits as well.

Student Veterans of America: <https://studentveterans.org/>

Student Veterans of America (SVA) is an organization that specializes in research, programs, and advocacy for veterans in higher education. There are nearly 1,600 chapters on campuses across all 50 states representing more than 750,000 students. The organization engages with policy makers in Washington DC and on college campuses to represent military veterans.

National Association of Veterans Upward Bound:

<https://nrd.gov/resource/detail/12742741/National+Association+of+Veterans+Upward+Bound>

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) motivates and helps veterans in developing academic and other skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of post-secondary education.

GENERAL RESOURCES (CONT.)

Florida America Legion: <https://www.floridalegion.org/>

Florida American Legion is a department of the American Legion. With 130,000 members and more than 300 legion posts across the state, it is a great place for veterans and their families to socialize and find numerous resources. Florida Legion has 27 programs for family, youth, community, and national affairs.

Florida Veterans Support Line: <https://www.myflvet.com/>

MyFLVet is a 24/7 hotline that connects veterans to community resources with trained specialist. All calls are confidential and most of the specialists are veterans themselves. The phone number is 1-844-MYFLVET (693-5838) and veterans can also be referred to both VA and non-VA resources, including non-profit organizations, community programs, and local government services in the veterans home state.

Florida department of Veterans Affairs: Floridavets.org

Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, FDVA the state of Florida has 1.5 million veterans and is the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. The FDVA website provides a benefits guide, career services, benefits and services, state veteran's homes, public records requests, veteran's preference. Also, the website provides information on the Florida Governor's Challenge.

Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Council: <https://www.gcvacflalms.org/home.html>

Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Council is a non-profit organization serving veterans that works with the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, elected federal, state, and local government officials, families, community service organizations, and veterans. They work to end homelessness among veterans, help with mental and physical care, and reintegrate veterans back into the community. Also provide information about numerous programs in the local area that assist veterans.



See you in
May!