

Veterans Counseling

Subcommittee members: Melissa Jackson, Shannon Stanley, Phil Gottlieb, Mike Goodrich, Patrick McQuaid, Virginia Richards, Liz Abril; Kris Ragnerby was unable to attend the meetings.

Qualities desirable in a Veteran's Counselor Brainstorming session:

Counselor qualities:

- Counselor who knows the system of community college, VA, DOR
- Knowledge of agencies working with vets such as: DAV (Disabled American Veterans), VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), American legion, DOR (Department of Rehabilitation), VA (Veterans Administration), Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office, Cal Vet(California Veterans)
- Collaboration with vet center coordinator, DSP&S, and other student services
- Counseling knowledge of transfer and career development
- Knowledge of military culture and transitioning from military to civilian life including accreditation of military experience and transferable skills/credits
- Transitioning and orientation to college experience/knowledge
- Ability to create clear roadmaps and networking for student veterans
- Coordination with other campus support services – one stop information center in Vet Center
- Experience with service-related injuries and disabilities such as ptsd, acquired brain injuries
- Written communication skills to develop materials such as getting started packet/handbook for vets
- Personal counseling skills in addition to academic counseling skills; ability to lead group counseling/therapy sessions
- Crisis intervention training
- Ability to mentor and train individuals for personal development, peer tutoring/counseling
- Outreach to campus community about veterans related issues

Additional areas of concern:

- Availability of tutoring resources
- Counselor located in vet center rather than counseling area (everything in one place)
- Offices in vet center for speakers, VA/DOR/other reps to vet center to meet
- Guidance on VA benefits including pensions
- Peer counseling availability
- County resources also available in vet center
- Counseling schedule should be day, night, weekend, more than 1 full-time counselor desired
- Vet center should host social gatherings to make vets feel comfortable
- First contact (reception desk) should be well trained to direct students to resources. Perhaps vet peer counselor/student worker.
- Flexible & nimble

Recommendation from subcommittee: pursue hiring a full-time veterans counselor

Minimum Qualifications and Desirables from group submitted on Box 2a

Minimum Qualifications (Please list the MQs as prescribed by the CCCCCO), be sure to list all sets of MQs if seeking more than one Faculty Service Area (FSA):

1. Master's Degree in rehabilitation counseling; or
2. Master's Degree in special education with completion of 24 or more semester units of upper division or graduate level in counseling, guidance, student personnel, psychology or social work; or
3. Master's Degree in counseling, guidance, student personnel, psychology, career development, or social welfare, with either 12 or more semester units in upper division or graduate level coursework specifically in the counseling or rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities or two years of full-time experience or the equivalent, in counseling or guidance for students with disabilities or counseling and/or guidance for persons with disabilities in industry, government, public agencies, military or private social welfare organizations; or
4. The equivalent. (If you believe that you meet the minimum qualifications via equivalency, please fill out the equivalency petition form in the application packet.)

Desirable Qualifications:

1. Demonstrated sensitivity to and ability to motivate and counsel community college students of diverse ethnic backgrounds, cultures, preparation, learning styles, military experience and/or disabilities.
2. Commitment to professional growth and development, to innovation and improvement of counseling, and to assuming faculty responsibilities in a shared governance environment.
3. Experience in programs serving veterans including community college Veteran's program, Veteran's Administration, Department of Rehabilitation, or other programs serving military service personnel.
4. Experience in planning or implementation of a crisis center or crisis team.
5. Demonstrated proficiency to provide online, group, crisis and career counseling.
6. Verifiable experience with teaching career planning, college orientation, college success, or other courses and workshops designed for veterans and/or individuals with disabilities.
7. Knowledge in developing, planning and implementing Student Learning Outcomes (SLO).
8. Effective leadership skills and qualities.