



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FALL TERM

Fall term, which begins August 23, brings the biggest batch of new students to Polk State College each year. The freshmen, most straight out of high school, often start life on campus together and essentially start college as a collective.

For another group of new students, the transition or return to college is entirely different. Navigating the Post 9/11 GI Bill, VA health care, VetED grants, and more, while balancing the weight of the semester's course work, is a heavy load.

Sandy Banker, your VA Certifying Officer, tells me that student veterans can help themselves before their first visit to Financial Aid Office by:

- Applying online for education benefits at www.qibill.va.gov.
- Bringing to Financial Aid a copy of the application submitted online along with a degree audit from an Academic Advisor after registering for classes.
- Completing a request for certification that can be obtained from Financial Aid and providing a copy of the DD-214.
- Post 9/11 GI Bill applicants need to submit a certificate of eligibility from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans under the Post 9/11 GI Bill program are entitled to receive a Veterans Deferment equal to the percentage of benefits payable from VA for tuition only.

Camaraderie sometimes is difficult to find, but not at the Polk State College. Mark Culver, a Petty Officer 3rd class USN (crusty old sea dog) and Academic Advisor, tell us that he looks forward to working with veterans because they are a pleasure to work with. Mark would like to remind you to give a copy of your DD-214 to the Registrar's Office to get credit for the Wellness class, and when you have a moment, stop by and visit him so he can look over your degree audit. All questions will be answered.

In the classroom there are a number of veterans teaching. David Broxterman, Lt. Colonel USA (snake eater) and Professor of Business, has this to say:

I am teaching 4 courses attended by student veterans. Here is what my students have in common: They are always on time (15 minutes early), only one explanation of a concept is needed, and assignments are posted before the deadline (hybrid classes).



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FALL TERM CONTINUED...

The reports are brief and to the point; they are never shy about asking questions that have depth to them and are always willing to explain their positions. Veterans are smart, tough, and they reflect well on all branches of the services. They are always welcome in my classes.

At Student Services you will always find a friendly ear. Charles Lyle, our Dean of Students Services, would like you to remember to schedule and attend the New Student Orientation. Orientation sessions are available the following days and times:

- Monday-Thursday: 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Friday: 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of Orientation is to familiarize new students with services and people who will be supporting them, what degrees are available, course information, how to select a term's load, how to access financial aid and the many other things that you need to know to navigate this new academic environment. Dean Lyle especially wants you to know that you are valued students who are all appreciated for your service to the country and that his door is always open.

Lastly, I am proud of you. You are everything I anticipated you to be and more. You are A and B students, you display every leadership quality that is expected of you, you are an example to your classmates, and you are easy to work with.

One more thing—I need your help, your fellow veterans need your help, and Polk State College is looking to you for comments about how we can make your stay here more positive. Show the front and center attitude that I told them you would bring with you. We also need you to get involved with the Student Veterans Association. The Student Veterans Association is the voice of the veterans and right now is not at its strongest. If you would like to join us, give me a call at 863-292-3757 or send me an e-mail oram@polk.edu

Semper Fi
Gunny Ramer
Senior Academic Advisor