



INTRODUCTIONS

When servicemen/servicewomen return home after finishing their military service, wishing to continue their education, they may ask, "What can Polk State College do for me?"

The first step to start your college career is to apply for admission; Student Services is always available for assistance. Once you identify yourself as a veteran, you will be referred to me for guidance. My name is Oscar Ramer, and I am the Senior Academic Advisor in Winter Haven and a Marine. I have been with the College for thirteen years, and I like to think that I am a pretty easy fellow to work with. The purpose for the referral is that an informed student makes better decisions, and we view veterans' support as a cohesive effort to provide for this very special group of students.

In my experience, we veterans do best when we are in the company of other veterans. It is good to be surrounded by people who have been there and done that. We are experienced, so you would be more likely to take direction from one of us that knows the lay of the land. Our culture is different; we are accustomed to living by rules, being organized, and looking after each other. Here at Polk State College we can provide you with the structure you are accustomed to and many ways of supporting you. The long and short of it is that we understand you.

I can say to our student veterans with all certainty that I have never been, nor am I, nor will I be tomorrow the sharpest knife in the drawer, yet I have been able to complete an MBA. I can tell you that what is required to obtain a degree is heart, an open mind, and willingness to work. We can lay out a time-tested academic process that will serve you in all manner of classes, helping you to earn A's and B's to assure your success and providing the tools that will contribute to your growth during your stay at Polk State College.

Speaking to a prospective student veteran the other day, I learned that the reason he was not pursuing his education was because he had a disability: attention deficit disorder. One of the things that I do is to work with veterans to help them qualify for academic accommodations. I will explain what type of documentation is required to qualify for these accommodations. I am the keeper of the files, and everything we do is based on need to know.

I can tell you that in the years I served in the Marines during the Vietnam War I did not hear of many post traumatic stress disorder cases, but I am sure they existed. While making such disclosures may not be good for a military career, here at the college, we offer our veterans short-term assistance when needed from our mental health counselors. Help comes in many forms!



Student Veterans are invited to join the Student Veteran Association; there is strength in numbers. The Association is the voice of Student Veterans. Students may bring up issues, concerns, and possible solutions for consideration to Polk State College administration. There is great institutional commitment to provide support for all Polk State College students.

We are presently working on a number of projects. For Veterans Day, we have a student veterans committee supported by staff that is deciding how they want to celebrate that day, and we have a Veteran Memorial committee also supported by staff, researching and discussing what would make a fitting tribute to those who gave their all.

I am an old guy who has seen a lot. I know that this country needs leaders, and that leaders need education. What better group of students than veterans to nurture and support? Veterans have developed core values, work ethics, and possess many attributes specific to them that will enhance their contributions in many fields benefitting us all.

Can Polk State College help? Veterans were promised an education for their service, it's the College's mission to make your transition as easy as possible and to support you all the way to graduation.

Semper Fi

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"I shall pass this way but, once; any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer, not neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again" -Unknown