

# **BRIEFING ON KAPLAN UNIVERSITY MILITARY**

# Overview

As part of Kaplan University's focus on adapting and providing solutions for adult, nontraditional learners, the military community became a key area of focus given the difficulties facing these deserving students. Each year education benefits are cited as the top benefit for enlistment and the number three overall reason for enlistment behind patriotism and employment. However, given the importance of these benefits only a small percentage of military members and veterans obtain a degree; in fact, less than 5% achieve this objective before they transition to the civilian world.\*

**The Path to a Degree** — The Department of Defense (DoD) reports, on average, members of the military take 7 years to complete an associate's degree and 15 to complete a bachelor's degree.\* They also revealed in 2015 that the average graduate accumulates 28% more credits than are needed when all sources of learning are identified. This is a key area of focus as servicemembers undergo some of the most rigorous training in the world yet must complete more college-level training than those with only a high school diploma. The answer must balance our commitment to the satisfaction of our learning outcomes while awarding credit for skills learned in the military. This can only be done through a comprehensive and ongoing review of military curriculum versus our program requirements.

Through our PME2Degree program, we have evaluated many of the key occupations within the military with valuable results. In many cases, servicemembers in combat arms, medical professions, or military police are only six courses from completion of an associate's degree, a 67% reduction (50% for combat arms personnel). We recently announced we now have a minimum credit award for every skill level for every occupation in the U.S. Army. On average, Kaplan University military-affiliated graduates are awarded 50% of the credit needed for an associate's degree and 33% for a bachelor's degree. In 2015, the award of credit attributed to military training saved the DoD, servicemembers, and taxpayers \$8,665,200 in tuition avoidance and countless hours of redundant study.†

Today, the University is proud that ongoing innovation and support have led to more than 30% of our students having a military affiliation. Our ongoing efforts continue to evolve as servicemembers engage in the longest protracted wars in U.S. history. Key information about these issues and our solutions are provided below.

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\* Source: U.S. Department of Defense DoD Voluntary Education Program Update, March 2017, on the Internet at [https://www.dodmou.com/Documents/LatestNews/Documents/CCME2017\\_VolEdUpdate\\_3Mar17\\_final.pdf](https://www.dodmou.com/Documents/LatestNews/Documents/CCME2017_VolEdUpdate_3Mar17_final.pdf). Bachelor's degree time to completion was noted during comments at a CCME briefing introducing the report.

† Savings calculated as tuition reduction of \$206 = \$4,811,404 + 23,356 credits awarded = \$3,853,795 = \$8,665,200 total savings.

## Key Military Student Issues

**Affordability** — While the cost of education has continued to increase, the active-duty tuition assistance cap of \$250 a semester credit, capped at \$4,500 per year, has remained constant for more than 20 years. In addition, until the launch of the Post-9/11 GI Bill in 2009, veteran benefits also lagged. Kaplan University reduced both active-duty and veteran undergraduate tuition rates by 55% and 38%, respectively, so a member's service would cover their education, a promise made to them upon enlistment.

**Support for Military Spouses and Families, the Backbone of Our Armed Forces** — The sacrifices made by military families and specifically those of military spouses are far too often overlooked. Unfortunately, among those sacrifices are often career and educational aspirations. The DoD reports higher unemployment and lower wages for military spouses due to their mobile lifestyle and single-parent households during deployments. The DoD reported at the Council of Colleges and Military Educators annual symposium it is also estimated a military household loses 2% of its income upon each relocation. Yet, few educational benefits are offered to military spouses. To assist, we created the Kaplan University Military Scholarship Program, which covers 47% of tuition costs for eligible military spouses with a 2.75 GPA. The military spouses enrolled at Kaplan University are extremely successful, making up almost 12% of our military students and boasting a collective GPA of 3.80.

**Special Programs** — Kaplan University identified that approximately 70% of senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) do not hold an associate's degree. Clearly, the expansive and rigorous training along with years of command experience is commensurate to a higher education credential. Our Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies is a key option to bridge this gap. The program provides the flexibility to allow customization based on civilian aspirations or continued military goals. It also has been vetted against their extensive training, and those at a skill level 5 are 67% complete toward this 4-year credential. Other examples of special military programs include our participation in the Air Force's General Education Mobile program, where airmen can take just five online courses to earn their associate's degree at the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). We also participate in the Air University's AUABC Program, providing bachelor's degree completion plans for CCAF graduates. As needed, Kaplan University has also offered hybrid programs on select bases that allow servicemembers to attend weekly seminars as part of their duty schedule.

**Transition, Credentials, and Careers** — We are also proud to provide opportunities for our military students and spouses to successfully transition from education to career by partnering with organizations such as the Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Partnership, U.S. Department of Labor, Association of the U.S. Army, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes program, Armed Services YMCA, ThanksUSA, and National Military Family Association. Kaplan University is focused on providing military families with access to the top programs associated with the armed forces that have direct connections with employers that seek to hire the military's top talent.

# Certifications/Programs

Through certain degree programs, we also offer the opportunity for our military students to prepare for needed industry credentials. Below, we have listed those degree programs and the corresponding industry credentials:

- **BS in Business Administration**

- **Supply Chain Concentration**

- Certified Supply Chain Professional
- Certified Supply Chain Professional — SCPro
- Certified Supply Chain Associate
- Certified Supply Chain Specialist
- Certified Procurement Professional
- Certified Professional in Supply Management (CPSM)
- Certified Supply Chain Manager (CSCM)

- **Human Resources Concentration**

- Professional in Human Resources
- Senior Professional in Human Resources
- Global Professional in Human Resources
- Professional in Human Resources — International

- **BS in Early Childhood Administration**

- Child Development Associate

- **BS in Psychology in Addictions**

- National Certified Addiction Counselor

- **AS in Health Science**

- Certified Rhythm Analysis Technician
- Certified Surgical Technologist
- Certified Cardiographic Technician

- **BS in Health and Wellness**

- ACE Certified Personal Trainers
- ACE Certified Health Coaches

- **BS in Nutrition**

- ServSafe Manager Training
- Certified Dietary Manager

- **BS in Cybersecurity**

- A+
- Network+
- Security+
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)
- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)
- CCNA Routing and Switching

- **BS in Information Technology**

- A+
- Network+
- Security+

- **AAS in Accounting**

- ACAT Accredited Business Accountant

- **BS in Finance**

- Certified Government Financial Manager

# Current Military Status

## Current Military Census

<b>Active duty</b>	40%
<b>Veterans</b>	48%
<b>Spouses</b>	12%

## Branch Breakdown

<b>Army</b>	59%
<b>Air Force</b>	13.2%
<b>Navy</b>	14.5%
<b>Coast Guard</b>	1%
<b>Marine Corps</b>	7.6%
<b>No branch given</b>	4.7%

## Programs of Study

<b>Health Sciences and Nursing</b>	34%
<b>Business</b>	20%
<b>Criminal Justice</b>	17%
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences</b>	12%
<b>IT and Cybersecurity</b>	10%
<b>Legal Studies</b>	3%
<b>Fire Science and Emergency Management</b>	2%
<b>Other</b>	1%