VETS Center Welcome Packet



Dear SNU Veteran, Military Service Member, and Military Family Member/Dependent,

Southern Nazarene University recognizes the sacrifice that has been made by our nation's active military service members, veterans, and their families. SNU is a Post-9/11 GI Bill® Yellow Ribbon Program Participant and has also been named a "Military Support College of Distinction" in 2023-2024.

SNU's Office of Veterans Services is located inside the Veterans Educational Transitions Success (VETS) Center, located on campus at the NE corner of the N Peniel Avenue/NW 41st Street intersection, directly across from the east entrances of the Beaver Science Building. The VETS Center serves as a single point of contact to coordinate veteran student support services on campus. The VETS Center serves traditional, professional studies, and graduate studies student veterans as well as military dependents, DoW civilian employees, and Army ROTC cadets. Our center is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.

As part of our commitment to your success, we have put together this Welcome Packet to help consolidate critical information we believe new students would like at their fingertips. Sections in our Welcome Packet include - Frequently Asked Questions, Education Benefits Overview, and Resources (both on and off campus). If you think we are missing any information in our packet, please share your thoughts with us. This Welcome Packet is a living document and we are always updating it, striving to make our products better.

We understand you have a number of university, professional, and family commitments to honor as you pursue your educational goals while at SNU. Our goals are to listen, keep you informed, and keep our processes customer friendly where you can easily find the information and resources you want or need.

Our aim is to serve you well and we look forward to visiting with you. Welcome to Crimson Storm Country and our VETS Center!

Blessings,

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'm a new student, what do I need to do to use my GI Bill®?

New Veteran students who would like to enroll in classes at SNU and have never applied to use their education benefits in the past, will need to Apply for their VA Educational Benefits at: https://www.vets.gov/education/
REMEMBER - provide any necessary documentation to the VA in support of your application, i.e. DD Form 214, etc.

What paperwork do I need to submit to use my GI Bill® at SNU?

Once you have applied for your VA education benefits and receive your award letter in the mail, please bring, email or fax a copy of your VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to the SNU VETS Center. Email: veterans@snu.edu.

How do I apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill®?

If you have never used VA Education Benefits before and you are interested in education and training opportunities, go to the application website at https://www.vets.gov/education/apply/ , scroll down the page, and click on "Select Correct Form" then on "Applying for a New Benefit." Continue to follow the prompts in filling out the application.

If you have received VA Education Benefits before and will be transferring from another school or changing programs, go to the application website at https://www.vets.gov/education/apply/ , scroll down the page, and click on "Select Correct Form" then on "Updating my current benefit." Continue to follow the prompts in filling out the application.

Once you have applied for your VA education benefits and receive your award letter in the mail, please bring, email or fax a copy of your VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to the SNU VETS Center. Email: veterans@snu.edu.

How can I transfer my Post-9/11 GI Bill® to a dependent or spouse?

First, determine if you're eligible to transfer this benefit by clicking here https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_transfer.asp .
Next, the dependent or spouse must go to the application website at https://www.vets.gov/education/apply/ , scroll down the page, and click on "Select Correct Form" then on "Applying for a New Benefit." Continue to follow the prompts in filling out the VA online application form.

What do I do if my schedule changes?

Students must inform the SNU Office of Veterans Services when a change in your schedule occurs. Changes to your schedule must be made through your academic advisor who will properly administer and process the appropriate paperwork. It is YOUR responsibility to notify us of:

- Adds
- Drops
- Degree/major change
- Withdrawals

Any changes in enrollment status must be reported **IMMEDIATELY to our VETS Center**. This will help prevent any **DEBTS** to you as the student.

Where can I access my military transcripts?

Here is the link to order your JST Transcript (SMART Transcript) **you may have to click on "continue to this website-not recommended" for the correct website*: https://jst.doded.mil/official.html

Here is the link to order Air Force Transcripts:
https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Registrar/Transcript-Requests/

**Note: Any transcripts that are hand delivered must be sealed.*

I am failing a class and it's after the drop class deadline, what should I do?

You should continue to attend the remaining classes and take the final exam even if you think you will get an "F." To not be required to repay tuition to the VA, your attendance must be through the last day of the class.

What do I do if I am switching VA educational benefit programs?

If you are switching your VA Education Benefits, i.e. MGIB to Post-9/11 GI Bill®, and to prevent a possible loss of entitlement, please talk with a VA representative at the VA Education Benefits Hotline at 1-888-442-4551or your SNU School Certifying Official before making the switch**.**

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OVERVIEW

Post-9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33)

Funds for tuition and fees are awarded directly to the school. Eligibility requires at least 3yrs of active duty service after 9/10/2001 for a 100% eligibility rate. Delimiting date is 15 years from the last date of active duty service, unless a veteran qualifies for the Forever GI Bill®, which applies to service members and dependents discharged on or after January 1, 2013.

Veteran Readiness & Employment (Chapter 31)

Money for tuition & fees is awarded directly to the school. This Chapter is for disabled veterans & pays most expenses incurred throughout enrollment. For disabled veterans, a Veteran Readiness & Employment (VRE) Counselor is assigned. This is considered an employment benefit, not an educational benefit.

Montgomery GI Bill® (Chapter 30)

All funds from this Chapter go directly to the student. Students must set up a payment plan through the SNU business office, or through SNU's Tuition Management System (TMS). Delimiting date is 10 years from the last date of active duty service. Students must verify their attendance on the last day of every month.

Montgomery GI Bill® Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)

MGIB-SR program provides education and training benefits to eligible members of the Selected Reserve. All funds from this Chapter go directly to the student. Students must set up a payment plan through the SNU business office, or through SNU's Tuition Management System (TMS). Students must verify their attendance on the last day of every month.

Dependent Education Assistance Program (Chapter 35)

All funds from this Chapter are awarded directly to the student. Students must set up a payment plan through the SNU business office. Dependents of veterans who have passed away due to a service connected disability, or are determined to be 100% disabled due to a service connected disability may be eligible for this Chapter. Delimiting date is dependent upon the sponsor's date of death or the date 100% disability was determined by the VA.

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship)

For children and surviving spouses of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001. If you are eligible for both Fry Scholarship and DEA (Dependents Educational Assistance), you will be required to make an irrevocable election between the two programs when you apply. A child of a parent who died prior to August 1, 2011 may still be eligible for both benefits but he/she may only use one benefit at a time.

Tuition Assistance/TOP UP

Service members (Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard) using DoW Military Tuition Assistance or DoW civilian employees using any DoW CTAP funding are required to provide copies of your TA approval letters to the Veterans Services Office at: veterans@mail.snu.edu. Military service members must first talk with their educational service officers at their local military installations and apply for their DoW Military TA funding through their respective military installation education office. DoW civilian employees must first talk with their DoW Civilian Employer's Education Liaison and apply for their DoW Civilian Tuition Assistance through their respective civilian occupational specialty portal. This step must be done by both the military service member and the DoW civilian employee before enrolling in a class. All military service members must apply for DoW Military TA through their respective military education portal websites (i.e. AI, AIMS). When applying for TA, make sure you are providing the correct course numbers (i.e. BIOL-3274), costs, and class dates (dates should be listed as per course/module and not by semester). This will help us with processing paperwork in a timely manner.

TOP UP. A predetermined amount of Tuition Assistance (TA) is subtracted from tuition and the remaining balance is covered by Veterans Affairs Educational Benefits (Top-Up).TA, in conjunction with Chapter 30 (MGIB) as Top-Up, is beneficial to students who are not eligible under the Chapter 33 Post/9-11 GI Bill® at the 100% rate. All military service members must contact their branch education office.

RESOURCES

On SNU Campus

Financial Aid Offices

The Financial Aid Offices help with determining total school costs, secondary/hidden costs to consider (i.e. childcare, transportation, etc.), filling out and submitting the FAFSA, understanding federal financial aid programs, and payment plans.

For Professional Studies/Graduate Studies Students - contact email PGSfinancialservices@mail.snu.edu or phone (405) 491-8105.

For traditional/residential Undergraduate Studies Students - contact email finaid@mail.snu.edu or phone (405) 491-6310.

Registrar Office

The SNU Registrar's Office can assist students with academic record services, name changes, transcript requests, AP credit information, and CLEP credit information. For more information use this link here: Registrar Services. Contact the office by phone 405-491-6386 or email registrar@snu.edu.

Disability Services Office

The SNU Disability Services is located on the first floor of the R.T. Williams Library in the Center for Student Success Office Suite. The Academic Team coordinates and provides academic support for all students, but also works with students with documented disabilities to ensure access, inclusivity and accommodations in and out of the classroom. Additional information can be found at this link here: SNU Disability Services. The Disability Services Advisor can be reached at email disabilityservices@mail.snu.edu or calling 405-717-6272.

Career Education Office

The SNU Career Education Office supports students in their career transition efforts with connections to companies and organizations, networking opportunities, professional internships, and interview/resume training workshops. Additional information can be found at this link here: SNU Career Education Office. Interested students can contact Ms. Thokozani Houston, Director of the Education Office, at 405-717-6226 or email thouston67@mail.snu.edu.

RENEW Counseling Center

RENEW is a comprehensive counseling center open to all students, faculty, staff, and the community. It is staffed by over 20 licensed therapists and graduate interns. RENEW is located on the SNU campus in the Imel B Building at 6710 NW 43d Street on the north side of campus. Additional information can be found at this link here: RENEW Counseling Center or call the main contact number at 405-717-6200.

SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society

SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society is an honors society that recognizes the academic achievements of active military service members (Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard) and veteran students. Membership provides both formal recognition of academic achievements and service to our country. If interested in learning more, contact our VETS Center at 405-717-6299 or email Veterans@mail.snu.edu.

Student Veterans Association of America - SNU Chapter

SNU has a local chapter of the Student Veterans Association of America (SVA). SVA is a student organization made up of veterans that advocate for the student veteran in higher education and serves as a catalyst for student veteran success by providing resources and network support while in school. The SNU VETS Center serves as the contact for any veteran interested in joining the SNU chapter of SVA. If you are interested in learning more about SVA visit this link here = SVA or contact the SNU VETS Center at 405-717-6299 or email at Veterans@mail.snu.edu.

Off Campus Veteran Service Organizations

VA OKC VET Center

This VA organization provides a wealth of services for active duty servicemen and women, veterans, and their family members. These services are provided free of charge regardless of discharge status or whether or not the member has a service connected disability.

Contact information:
Phone: 405-456-5184
Address: 6804 N. Robinson Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73116
Website: www.vetcenter.va.gov
Veteran Crisis Line: 800-273-8255 option 1 or text 838255
Veteran Crisis Online Chat: https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/chat

Warriors For Freedom Foundation (Greater OKC Area)

This organization specializes in service member, veteran, and family programming by connecting servicemen and women with other veterans. They host numerous recreational outdoor events including: hunting, fishing, shooting, scuba, ice hockey, softball, golf, and more.

Contact information:
Phone: (405) 286-9920
Address: 730 W. Wilshire Blvd., Suite 114, Oklahoma City, OK 73116
Email: info@warriorsforfreedom.org
Website: www.warriorsforfreedom.org

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

The DAV is one of the largest and best known organizations dedicated to helping disabled veterans and their families with a variety of services and benefits that they have earned by serving our country. These services include" health care, disability, employment, education, financial benefits, and more. There are multiple DAV locations around the country and multiple in the Oklahoma City area. Below is the contact information for just one of the local offices.

Contact information:
Phone: (918) 781-7764
Address: 5300 NW 23rd St. Oklahoma City, OK 73127
Email: ch29@okdav.org
Website: dav.org

The Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation (Greater OKC Area)

This organization assists veterans and their families with understanding and applying for benefits through the VA, including disability claims, burial services, and more.

Contact information:
Phone: (405) 550-8806
Address: 1233 W. Lindsey St., Norman, OK 73069
Email: info@dalekgrahamveteransfoundation.org
Website: https://www.dalekgrahamveteransfoundation.org/

Eagle Ops Foundation (Greater Tulsa Area)

This organization's mission is to transform the lives of veterans through compassion, camaraderie, and community. They seek to connect veterans with other veterans, as well as other veteran service organizations to foster a healthy community.

Contact information:
Phone: (918) 600-1911
Address: 302 E. 5th Ave. Unit D, Owasso, OK 74055
Website: eagleops.org

The Coffee Bunker (Greater Tulsa Area)

This organization seeks to fully support veterans in the successful transition from military to civilian life by providing a number of services ranging from employment, education, skills training, networking, VA claims assistance, chaplain services, and more.

Contact information:
Phone: (918) 637-3878 ext 103.
Address: 6365 East 41st Street, Tulsa, OK 74135
Website: https://coffeebunker.org/

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Red Rock (Greater Lawton/Fort Sill area)

This organization provides personalized therapy for servicemen and women, and their families. They provide therapy for a variety of mental health concerns, including but not limited to: PTSD, depression, anxiety, transition challenges, relationship and family difficulties, anger, and more. They also connect clients with other services including finances, legal, employment, education, and housing.

Contact information:
Phone: (580) 771-2662
Address: 4202 S.W. Lee Blvd., Bldg. B, Lawton, OK 73505
Email: cvn@red-rock.com
Website: https://www.red-rock.com/cohen_clinic_lawton/

Oklahoma Veterans Calender

The OKVeteranscalendar.com is a website formed by the Eagle OPS Foundation. It is a one-stop calendar to create a centralized platform for all events and happenings related to service members, veterans, and their families in Oklahoma. Veterans, service members, and their families can find information about support services, job fairs, training, and other events that are relevant to their needs.

Contact information:
Email: info@eagleops.org
Website: https://www.okveteranscalendar.com/

Waggoner-Trimble American Legion Post 12 Bethany-Warr Acres

American Legion Post 12 Waggoner-Trimble serves as a patriotic veterans' organization committed to mutual helpfulness. It focuses on mentoring youth and supporting wholesome community programs, while advocating patriotism in the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization.

Contact information:
Phone: (405) 818-1607
Address: 6101 NW 50th St., Warr Acres, OK 73122
Website: https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost12BethanyWarrAcresOklahoma

Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs

The ODVA is a great resource for a wide range of comprehensive services for veterans living in the State of Oklahoma Visit their website to learn more about all of the services provided through this organization.

Contact information:
Phone: (405) 523-4000
Address: 2132 NE 36th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73111
Website: https://oklahoma.gov/veterans.htm

Honoring America's Warriors

This non-profit organization provides direct support for veterans and their families by providing outdoor sporting activities, adaptive sports, mental health and wellness care, family and couple gatherings, assistance dog placement and training, employment services, as well as mental health prevention services.

Contact information:
Phone: (405) 948-4376
Address: 4149 Highline Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73108
Website: https://honoringamericaswarriors.org/

Veterans Employment Services - Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

These services are provided by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission and help transitioning service members and veterans with access to one-on-one, personalized assistance to achieve their employment goals.

Contact information:
Phone: (405) 426-8850
Address: 5005 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Website: https://oklahoma.gov/oesc/individuals/veteran-services.html

Hope Community Services Inc. Veterans Program

This program specializes in providing a variety of mental health services including but not limited to: Outpatient behavioral health, outpatient addiction counseling, youth and family therapy, opioid treatment, psychiatric rehab, and more.

Contact information:
Phone: (405) 634-4400
Address: 6100 S. Walker Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73139
Website: https://www.hopecsi.org/additional-resources/

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