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BOARD OF REGENTS

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24 October 2022

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor, State of Louisiana
State Capitol, 4th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Governor Edwards:

Pursuant to R.S. 17:3138.5 and 3165.2 (Act 232 of the 2015 Legislative Session and Act 429 of the 2021 Legislative Session) and regarding the Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus (GMVFC, or Friendly Campus) designation, the Board of Regents has reviewed annual reports and determined that, for the third consecutive year, all 28 public institutions are eligible for continued designation as Friendly Campuses:

Continued Designation:

- *Baton Rouge CC*
- *Bossier Parish CC*
- *Central Louisiana TCC*
- *Delgado CC*
- *Fletcher TCC*
- *Louisiana Delta CC*
- *Northshore TCC*
- *Northwest Louisiana TCC*
- *Nunez CC*
- *River Parishes CC*
- *South Louisiana CC*
- *SOWELA TCC*
- *LSU A&M*
- *LSU Alexandria*
- *LSU Eunice*
- *LSU Shreveport*
- *Southern University A&M*
- *Southern University, New Orleans*
- *Southern University, Shreveport*
- *Grambling State University*
- *Louisiana Tech University*
- *McNeese State University*
- *Nicholls State University*
- *Northwestern State University*
- *Southeastern Louisiana University*
- *University of Louisiana, Lafayette*
- *University of Louisiana, Monroe*
- *University of New Orleans*

In accordance with the law, the Friendly Campus designation provides formal recognition of state public postsecondary institutions that create and maintain a supportive environment for military service people by offering veterans waivers of application fees, special orientation sessions, priority class scheduling, deployment readmission policies, and transfer and articulation support. Friendly Campuses also provide free tutoring, offer specifically designed courses each semester; hold career workshops; and/or host Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs. Additionally, many campuses now offer special recognition ceremonies for their Veteran and Military graduates. Increasingly, LaVetCorps Navigators are working with individual institutions to provide support to Friendly Campus programs.

Act 429 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session (R.S.:3138.5) amended Act 232 to extend participation in the Friendly Campus Program to *nonpublic* education institutions and provide additional metrics on completion rates of veterans and their spouses/dependents.

The Board of Regents continues to expand its collaboration with LaVetCorps and will sponsor training sessions for Campus Navigators beginning in November 2022.

Each campus understands that it must identify, and report transfer and articulation data for both veterans and their spouses/dependents. Collectively, in 2021-2022 public postsecondary institutions identified 2,014 veteran transfer students bringing a total of 43,112 transfer credits, and 6,012 spouses/dependents transferring 49,362 credits.

System	Veterans	Transfer Credits	Spouses/ Dependents	Transfer Credits	Vet. Graduates*	Sp./Dep. Graduates
LCTCS	934	10,858	1,668	19,072	421	471
LSU	649	12,456	3,974	18,209	310	637
SUS	45	1,348	19	689	31	13
ULS	386	18,449.7	351	11,391.5	262	171
TOTALS	2,014	43,111.7	6,012	49,361.5	1,024	1,292

*New reporting item for this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these results. Please address questions or requests for additional information to myself or to Deputy Commissioner Dr. Susannah Craig (susannah.craig@laregents.edu).

Sincerely,



Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education

AY 2022-2023 Report for Designation as a "Governor's Military & Veteran Friendly Campus"

Background Information

Act 232 of the 2015 Legislative Session enacted R.S. 17:3138.5 to address the need for comprehensive, statewide support to aid military veterans transitioning from military service to enrollment in postsecondary education. Targeting the need for faculty and staff awareness of "veterans' culture" and for orientation and mentoring programs designed specifically for veterans, the law required the Board of Regents (BoR) to establish a process for designating an institution as a *Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus* (GMVFC, or Friendly Campus), beginning in Fall 2015. It specifies nine criteria for the designation—five mandatory and at least three of four additional required criteria.

With advice from the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council and Faculty General Education Committee (SATC-GE), the BoR developed an application process for institutions interested in receiving the designation. In Fall 2015, 28 of the 29 public colleges and universities were submitted to the Governor for initial designation. The law specifies that the designation is to be renewed on an annual basis, with an institution's renewal application to include a report containing a series of prescribed data elements from the previous year about veterans' participation in campus offerings. Any institution that fails to maintain Friendly Campus status must complete the application for initial designation if or when the campus chooses to seek it again.

Act 429 of the 2021 Legislative session (R.S.:31385) amended Act 232 to extend participation in the Governor's Military Friendly Campus Program to *nonpublic* education institutions, including the colleges and universities of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges & Universities (LAICU). This mandate also includes reporting completion rates of veterans, their spouses, and their children and becomes effective with this year's 2021-2022 academic reporting year.

For the third consecutive year, all 28 campuses were approved for continued *Friendly Campus* designation for AY 2021-22. This represents 100% participation in this program by public postsecondary institutions in the state.

Last summer, the LaVetCorps¹ and the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with each public postsecondary institution to expand the presence of the LaVetCorps on their campuses. BoR continues to partner with LaVetCorps and will sponsor training sessions for their campus Navigators beginning in November 2022.

Staff Summary

BoR staff reviewed each application to determine whether the institution met the requirements for initial or continued designation as a Friendly Campus, with a particular focus on the specific data required by law:

- the number of veterans granted application fee waivers;
- the number who attended the specialized orientation program;
- the number who participated in the priority class registration; and
- the number of students (veterans and dependents) who benefitted from the articulation & transfer process, including the number of credits accepted and a list of the courses credited and
- the number of veteran graduates as well as spouse and dependent graduates.

¹ LaVetCorps is a cooperative program between the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs and AmeriCorps. The mission of LaVetCorps is to empower veterans' families and campus communities to help veterans returning from active military service transition home to college and their local community successfully.

Most institutions have adjusted their student record systems and established business processes to identify veterans (and spouses/dependents of veterans) and provided all the data required for the 2021-2022 year.

As with previous reporting cycles, the most common concern involved transfer/articulation data. This is the only provision that includes identification of the veteran's spouse, a student classification that is singularly unique, which continues to be a challenge for institutions to flag, and that also requires a listing of transfer courses that runs into the thousands for some institutions. In the upcoming year, the Board of Regents will work with campuses to establish coding for these populations to automate as much of this reporting as possible.

It should be noted that AY 2021-2022 reporting for the Governor's Friendly Campus designation was again impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and two major hurricanes. As such, campus engagement with their veteran and military populations decreased in numbers from last year.

Mandatory Criteria for Continued Designation as a GMVFC:

- Waive Application Fees for Veterans. Among the participating institutions, 3,556 application fee waivers were reported, more than double the amount from last year. As the LCTCS Board had voted in 2015 to no longer charge an application fee at any of its member institutions, application fees were waived for all LCTCS students, regardless of whether they were identified as veterans.
- Veterans' Orientation. Several campuses have developed online orientation programs for veterans, usually in addition to the regular orientation session for entering students. Online orientations were particularly helpful to students during the pandemic and in hurricane-impacted areas. Institutions reported 2,902 students participating in the special sessions in AY 2021-22.
- Priority Class Scheduling. Institutions reported that 6,005 students participated in priority scheduling for the fall, winter, spring, or summer semesters/terms of AY2021-22.
- Military Articulation & Transfer Process. Outside of the specific attention to the recognition of military education, training, or experience, the requirements for the military articulation and transfer process mirror the services sought for every transfer student (e.g., to assist students in pursuing their educational goals by providing expedited transcript analysis, prior learning assessment, advising and testing). Friendly Campuses reported serving a combined total of 8,026 veteran or dependent transfer students transferring 92,473-course credits in AY 2021-22.
- In AY 2021-22, these numbers decreased across the board, 2,014 veterans were identified as transferring 41,111.7 credit hours, and their 6,012 spouses/dependents transferred 49,361.5 credits (refer to charts below). While there was no singular event that can explain the decrease in student numbers, residual pandemic issues as well as two major hurricanes impacted student enrollment in the state.
- The 2021-22 System counts (see below 2020-2021 for comparison) of the total number of transfer veteran students and course articulation as well as the new reporting requirement for number of graduates reported for veterans and their spouses/dependents is shown below:

2021-22	Veterans	Transfer Credits	Spouse/Dep	Transfer Credits	Number of Vet. Graduates*	Number of Sp/Dep Graduates*
LCTCS	934	10,858	1,668	19,072	421	471
LSU	649	12,456	3,974	18,209	310	637
SUS	45	1,348	19	689	31	13
ULS	386	18,449.7	351	11,391.5	262	171
TOTALS	2,014	43,111.7	6,012	49,361.5	1,024	1,292

*Act 429 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature amended R.S. 17:3138.5 and 3165.2 to include additional reporting requirements for the [completion rates of veterans, their spouses, and their children](#) to be recognized as a Military and Veteran Friendly Campus effective 2022.

2020-21	Veterans	Transfer Credits	Spouse/Dep	Transfer Credits
LCTCS	4,583	18,541	7,515	24,161
LSU	642	13,841	971	14,091
SUS	287	1,073	41	533
ULS	1,283	17,678	513	12,135
TOTALS	6,795	51,133	9,040	50,920

Staff Analysis

Over the past six years, the bulk of the workload demands on campuses seeking the GMVFC designation has involved revising student record systems and devising means to count and track the many elements needed to meet the annual reporting requirements. Though every campus has a Veterans Affairs function to assist eligible students with enrollment verification and related support for benefits such as Title 29, the GI Bill or survivors' benefits, few were initially set up to flag all veterans throughout the system, and nonidentified and flagged spouses/dependents – a requirement for *Friendly Campus* status. This continues to be a significant challenge for campuses. In the past seven years since the law's passage, campuses have reported issues with identifying the spouse/dependent population.

With the addition of the LaVetCorps program, the area of Veterans' services has expanded statewide, now going beyond the scope of the initial requirements of the law. The past seven years have shown significant gains by the institutions in the number, quality, and variety of program offerings targeting Veteran students and their families. The Office of Veterans Affairs' LaVetCorps program now posts representatives (called Navigators) on all campuses statewide to help advise and provide additional resources for these students. BoR is partnering with LaVetCorps to conduct targeted training to assist the Navigators in their campus roles.

Due to the pandemic, almost all campuses reported pivoting to online programming to support their military and veteran students over the last couple of years. The military student community is very engaged and prefers in-person participation on campus; with the pandemic, most campuses reported a reduction in participation numbers. However, campuses continue to provide innovative and high-quality programming for their veteran and military students. Additionally, BoR further supports campuses by developing policies such as A.A. Policy 2.23 Prior Learning Assessment to ensure that all credits earned by military students can be reviewed and applied for their degree programs. Specifically, Board of Regents is 1) partnering with the American Council on Education (ACE) to increase the institutional engagement list with ACE to include all public postsecondary institutions and 2) to work with ACE and campus representatives to include ACE military articulations as a guide for the awarding of transfer and military credit.

Based upon the applications received, staff, have determined that the 28 institutions listed below meet the requirements specified in R.S. 17:3138.5 and R.S. 3165.2 for designation as a "*Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus*" for the 2021-22 academic year. This represents 100% participation by statewide institutions in this program for the third consecutive year in a row.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends **approval** to forward the following 28 institutions to the Governor with an endorsement as having met requirements for continued designation as **Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus**:

Louisiana Community and Technical College System

- **Baton Rouge CC**
- **Bossier Parish CC**
- **Central Louisiana TCC**
- **Delgado CC**
- **Fletcher Technical CC**
- **Louisiana Delta CC**
- **Northshore TCC**
- **Northwest Louisiana TCC**
- **Nunez CC**
- **River Parishes CC**
- **South Louisiana CC**
- **SOWELA CC**

Louisiana State University System

- **LSU A&M**
- **LSU Alexandria**
- **LSU Eunice**
- **LSU Shreveport**

Southern University System

- **Southern University A&M**
- **Southern University New Orleans**
- **Southern University Shreveport**

University of Louisiana System

- **Grambling State University**
- **Louisiana Tech University**
- **McNeese State University**
- **Nicholls State University**
- **Northwestern State University**
- **Southeastern Louisiana University**
- **University of Louisiana Lafayette**
- **University of Louisiana Monroe**
- **University of New Orleans**

Attachment – GMVFC Requirements & Checklist

Louisiana Board of Regents
APPLICATION for INITIAL/CONTINUED DESIGNATION
GOVERNOR'S MILITARY & VETERAN FRIENDLY CAMPUS

Due: **16 August 2022**

Institution:	Date:
Primary Contact Person (& Contact Info) for this application:	

INITIAL/CONTINUED Designation as a *Governor's Military & Veteran Friendly Campus*

To be designated as a *Governor's Military & Veteran Friendly Campus*, an applicant institution must be able to demonstrate or affirm that it currently meets the 5 Mandatory criteria listed below, at least 3 of the required Additional criteria.

Institutions that fail to renew the designation each year must reapply addressing all required criteria below.

CRITERIA [ACT 232, 2015 Legislative Session]

-- ALL the following Mandatory Criteria:

1. Adopt and fully implement a process to:
 - a. Recognize & align military education/training/experience with appropriate coursework.
 - b. Provide for transfer of academic credit hours, earned by veterans and their spouses from regionally accredited institution, that are aligned w/ receiving institution's course & program requirements.
2. Offer waivers of application fees for veterans.
3. Offer special veterans orientation programs providing detailed information on available programs, services, and accommodations.
4. Maintain deployment readmission policies that provide for the prompt readmission of veterans with the same academic status that they had when last attending or admitted.
5. Offer priority class scheduling to veterans:
 - a. at least as early as honors college, athletes, disabled &/or spring invitational students, or
 - b. at least a day prior to general undergraduate class registration, if the campus does not offer other priority scheduling to any of the groups listed above.

-- AT LEAST 3 of the following Additional Criteria:

6. Offer at least one course each semester (Fall, Spring) in History, Political Science, English, or Mathematics or a Credit Course introducing the college experience, covering transition, leveraging benefits, & disability issues – either course to be **specifically designed for and exclusively available to veterans**.
7. Offer free tutoring to veterans
8. Host a workshop at least twice/year to provide instruction on career opportunities, interviewing skills, resume writing, and networking.
9. Host an ROTC program affiliated with any branch of the armed services.

R.S. 13:5364 defines "veteran" for purposes of this law as a *former or current member of the U.S. Armed Forces or organized militia of the several states and territories, including but not limited to a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, Air National Guard, Reserves, State Guard, or a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.*

Institutions must have a method in place to identify and verify military members/ veterans and their spouses (or dependents, which would include the spouse) in the student record system.

MVFC Checklist per CRITERIA [ACT 232, 2015 Legislative Session]

Institution:	
MANDATORY. [Must have ALL IN PLACE (implemented).]	
STATUS	CRITERIA
In Place	
	1- Waive Application Fees for veterans. Process in place to verify veteran status and waive or refund admission application fee. Be able to track numbers of waivers granted.
	2- Veterans' Orientation. Offer special orientation program or session to provide detailed information on available programs, services, and accommodations for veterans. It could be an online program, but campus must be able to track number of veterans attending.
	3- Priority Class Scheduling. Offer priority scheduling for veterans that is either (a) at least a day prior to general undergraduate class registration, or (b) at least as early as athletes, disability services, honors college, and spring invitational (early freshman orientation) students. Be able to track veterans using the priority access.
	4- Military Articulation & Transfer Process. Adopt and fully implement process to recognize & align military education, training, and experience with appropriate coursework. Be able to track number and rubric/subject of courses transferred or credited.
	5- Deployment/Readmission Policy. Campus policy and process providing for prompt readmission of veterans whose enrollment was interrupted by mobilization or active duty.
Must Have At Least 3 of the Following in Place.	
	A- Course Designed For & Exclusively Available to Veterans. Offer at least one <u>credit-bearing</u> course/section <u>each semester</u> that is <i>specifically designed for and exclusively available to veterans</i> . The course must be in History, Political Science, English, Mathematics, or an introduction to the college experience, including transition, leveraging benefits, and disability issues. Describe the course.
	B- Free Tutoring for Veterans. Describe free tutoring services offered and made available to veterans, including how they know about it, and what measures of participation are in place.
	C- Veterans' Career Placement Workshop. Host workshop for veterans at least twice a year to provide instruction regarding career opportunities, interviewing skills, resume writing, and networking. Need not be exclusive to veterans, but invitations and content must clearly target veteran participation.
	D- Host an ROTC Program. Describe the campus- hosted ROTC program(s), e.g., branch; office space; class offerings; enrollment in the last three semesters/terms; number of students on contract; name/contact of detachment commander(s).

NEW REPORTING ITEM

Act 429 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature amended R.S. 17:3138.5 and 3165.2 to include additional reporting requirements for the **completion rates of veterans, their spouses, and their children** to be recognized as a Military and Veteran Friendly Campus effective 2022.

Louisiana Board of Regents
Military & Veteran Friendly Campus Designation – Application Detail

Referencing the checklist description, summarize the process *in place* and report participation. All required criteria must be in place. Applications for Continuing or Initial designation are due **16 August 2022**.

Submit to L.A. Board of Regents: lupe.lamadrid@laregents.edu

Mandatory (1-5 for Continuing Applicants Only):

1. Waive Application Fees for veterans.

Fee Waivers per 2021-2022 Semester/Term.		
# Veterans Granted Admission Application Fee Waivers.		
Check here if your institution does not charge an application fee: <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Semester/Term	Total # of Veterans receiving waivers
2021	Fall	
2022	Winter	
	Spring	
	Summer	
TOTAL AY 21-22		TOTAL for AY 21-22:
NARRATIVE: In the space below, briefly describe how the application fee waiver process works.		

2. Veterans' Orientation

Attendance per 2021-2022 Semester/Term.		
	Semester/Term	Total # of Attendees
2021	Fall	
2022	Winter	
	Spring	
	Summer	
TOTAL AY 21-22		TOTAL for AY 21-22:
NARRATIVE: In the space below, describe orientation activities and programs.		

3. Priority Class Scheduling

# Veterans Using Priority Registration per AY 2021-2022 Semester/Term.		
	Semester/Term	Total # of Veterans
2021	Fall	
2022	Winter	
	Spring	
	Summer	
TOTAL AY 21-22		TOTAL for AY 21-22:
NARRATIVE: In the space below, describe the process by which Veterans are informed of priority registration and whether the process is programmatic or manual.		

4. Military Articulation & Transfer Process

ENTER # of Transfers (Students) & sum of Credit Hours in the chart below.

Courses Accepted in Transfer – for Veterans, and for Spouses

	Semester/Term	Veterans	Veteran # of Credit Hrs.	Spouse &/or Dependents	Spouse/Dependent # of Credit Hrs.
2021	Fall				
2022	Winter				
	Spring				
	Summer				
TOTAL AY 21-22		TOTAL:	TOTAL:	TOTAL:	TOTAL:

Attach a separate list of Courses Accepted in Transfer. See example below – for Veterans, Dependents

******EXAMPLE OF EXCEL SPREADSHEET with list & TOTAL HOURS of Courses credited in transfer ******

<i>Students</i>	<i>Courses</i>	<i>Transfer Credit Hours</i>
<i>15 registrants</i>	<i>ENGL 101, Engl Composition I (3Cr)</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>10 registrants</i>	<i>HIST 204, U.S. History I (3Cr)</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>TOTAL: 25</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>75</i>

NARRATIVE: In the space below, provide an explanation and observations regarding effectiveness of Veteran services on your campus.

5. Number of Graduates: veterans, their spouses, and their children

of graduating veterans and their dependents per AY 2021-2022 Semester/Term.

	Semester/Term	Total # of Veterans
2021	Fall	
2022	Winter	
	Spring	
	Summer	
TOTAL AY 21-22		TOTAL for AY 21-22:

	Semester/Term	Total # of Dependents (Spouses & Children)
2021	Fall	
2022	Winter	
	Spring	
	Summer	
TOTAL AY 21-22		TOTAL for AY 21-22:

Initial Classification Applicants ONLY - Complete this page.

6. Deployment/Readmission Policy

AcAf 2.21 or System/Campus policy

Attach copy or provide web reference.

**** Must have at least 3 of the following Additional Criteria: ****

A. Course Designed For & Exclusively Available to Veterans

Course Rubric, # & Title; Schedule of Offerings for 2021-2022 Semester/Term

Veterans enrolling in special course offering.

	Course	Veterans Enrolled	Total Enrolled
Fall 2021			
Spring 2022			

NARRATIVE: Course description, student response (enrollments, completions).

B. Free Tutoring for Veterans.

Veterans Using Free Tutoring per 2021-2022 Semester/Term.

	Semester/Term	# of Veterans
2021	Fall	
2022	Winter	
	Spring	
	Summer	
TOTAL AY 21-22		

NARRATIVE/Notes: In the space below, provide other measures of participation.

C. Veterans' Career Placement Workshop.

of Veterans Attending Workshops, and Dates Offered in 2021-2022.

	Semester/Term	Veterans
2021	Fall	
2022	Winter	
	Spring	
	Summer	
TOTAL AY 21-22		

NARRATIVE: In the space below, include description of how invitations & content target Veterans.

D. Host an ROTC Program.

BRANCH	Headcount →	Total Students Enrolled	Contract Students	Commissioned
	Fall 2021			
	Winter 2021			
	Spring 2022			
	Summer 2022			

NARRATIVE/Notes: In the space below, include description of program.

CERTIFICATIONS:

Provost/Chief Academic Officer

Date

Management Board/System Office

Date