UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SYSTEM

REGULATION*

✓USF System ☐ USF ☐ USFSP ☐ USFSM

Number: 6.0025
Title: Veteran Students' Services and Award of Academic Credit
Responsible Office: Student Affairs and Student Success

Date of Origin: 3-9-17 **Date Last Amended:** **Date Last Reviewed:**

*Regulation 6.0025 formerly known as USF System Policy 34-001: Veterans Services for Students

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I. PURPOSE & INTENT:

To provide specialized services to veterans, eligible dependents, active duty servicepersons, and members of the Selected Reserve; to assist students in initiating or continuing their education, and to assist students in using their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) educational benefits.

The University of South Florida System ("USF System") member institutions have veterans' service centers and administrative offices coordinating VA education benefits and other VA related services. Students, faculty and staff must check with their individual campuses and apply policies in conjunction and consistent with the specific characteristics and guidelines applicable to those campuses.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY:

Services for student veterans may include on-campus liaison with the VA and other USF departments, guidance regarding educational benefits eligibility, enrollment in VA Health Care assistance with forms and forwarding of documentation to the VA, and specialized academic guidance services and support programs support services for veterans suffering from war related trauma, and other support programs. The Office of Veteran Success will also provide individualize services for veterans struggling to integrate into college life. To learn more about the services available, link to http://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/veterans or contact the appropriate student VA office of the USF System.

III. AUTHORITY:

Pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 6.013: Military Veterans and Active Duty, students who are or were eligible members of the United States Armed Forces may earn appropriate academic college credit for college-level training and education acquired in the military.

IV. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

A. Academic Credits for Military Training & Education:

1. College credit will be granted to students with military training or coursework that is recognized by the American Council on Education (ACE) subject to institution transfer practices and limitations on amount and level of transfer credit. Military training or coursework will be subject to the same treatment as any other transfer credit evaluated, with utilization of the ACE *Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services* for determining equivalency and alignment of military coursework with appropriate University courses. If the coursework fulfills a general education or major course or degree requirement, the credit will be granted for meeting that requirement towards graduation. Appropriate course credit may include free elective course credit toward the degree.

2. Credit that was previously evaluated and awarded by another college degree granting institution and that is appropriate to the transfer student's major will be accepted subject to institution transfer limitations. Credit awarded for military education and training will be noted on the transcript and documentation of the credit equivalency evaluation will be maintained. Credit awarded for military education and training shall not be counted in the excess hours fee per Board of Governors Regulation 7.003: Fees, Fines and Penalties due to the credit being based on work accomplished while serving on active-duty. Priority course registration will be provided for each veteran of the United States Armed Forces who is receiving (from the) GI bill.

3. Additional internal and operating procedures may be established by each member institution and academic unit to facilitate this process.

B. Academic and Financial Penalties:

1. Any student enrolled in a college credit course shall not incur academic or financial penalties by virtue of performing military service on behalf of our country. Except in cases where the student and faculty member agree that completion is imminent and possible, the USF System encourages withdrawal and possible eligible refund without academic penalty when a student is performing military service. If the course is no longer offered when the student seeks to resume study, an equivalent course may be selected. If the student chooses to withdraw, the student's record shall reflect that the withdrawal is due to active military service.

2. The provisions of this section shall apply to:

   a. Students who are currently on active duty with any unit of the United States Armed Forces who receive orders that require reassignment to a different duty station or

absence from class for an extended period of time during the semester in which they are enrolled; and

b. Students who are members of a National Guard, Air National Guard, or other military reserve unit who receive orders calling them to active duty for operational or training purposes during the semester in which they are enrolled, excluding any regularly scheduled weekend and annual training duty; and

c. Students who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and who are recalled to active duty during the semester in which they are enrolled; and

d. Students who enlist in any branch of the United States Armed Forces and whose induction date falls within the semester in which they are enrolled.

V. RELATED INFORMATION:

- USF System Policy 10-065: Credit Hours
- USF Regulation 4.0108: Waiver and Exemption of Tuition and Fees

Regulation 6.0025 formerly known as Policy 34-001: Veterans Services for Students

Authority: Art. IX, Sec. 7, Fla. Const.; FL Board of Governors Regulation 6.013 and 7.002; 1004.07, F.S.

History – New (BOT approval) 3-9-17.

Certification: The USF System certifies that it has followed the Florida Board of Governors Regulation Development Procedure and has a record of written notices, comments, summaries and responses as required.