

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGEHTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 9 – O

DATE: June 28-30, 2016

SUBJECT: Multistate Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC) Update

South Dakota is a member of the Multistate Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC), a program supported by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) with funding provided by the Lumina Foundation. The MCMC consists of thirteen Midwestern states (state agencies, university systems, college campuses, and other organizations) seeking to improve the timely completion of postsecondary credentials by military service members, veterans, and their families through addressing barriers to access, participation, and completion.

The attached document provides an overview of MCMC activities and recommendations, as well as opportunities for South Dakota to further assist veterans and service members with educational opportunities. Institutions are encouraged to review this document, share it with relevant staff on campuses, and consult with Board staff on ideas that can benefit veteran students.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM



South Dakota MCMC Update June 2016

Background

In late 2014, South Dakota joined the Multistate Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC), a program supported by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) with funding provided by the Lumina Foundation. The MCMC consists of thirteen Midwestern states (state agencies, university systems, college campuses, and other organizations) seeking to improve the timely completion of postsecondary credentials by military service members, veterans, and their families through addressing barriers to access, participation, and completion.

The mission of the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC) is to facilitate an interstate partnership of 13 states, and to translate competencies acquired by veterans through military training and experiences toward college credentials. States will exchange information and share best practices in the areas of articulation of credit, certification and licensure, communication, and data and technology. The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) provides operational and administrative support for the MCMC. The potential of this collaboration is recognized by Lumina Foundation through a \$900,000 grant to support the work of MCMC over a three-year period and by USA Funds through a one-year grant of \$200,000.

The work of the MCMC includes four work groups: Articulation of Academic Credit, Licensure and Certification, Communication and Outreach, and Data, Systems, and Technology. MCMC partners include the American Council on Education (ACE), the Council on Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), the Lumina Foundation, Solutions for Information Design (SOLID), and USA Funds.

Goals

To assist student veterans with completing postsecondary education and the transition into civilian employment, MCMC has established the following three goals:

- Assist with critical life transitions from the military to postsecondary education and then from postsecondary education to civilian employment.
- Increase postsecondary education completion rates by creating models for the consistent, transparent, and effective awarding of credit for military training and experience that can be scaled regionally and nationally, thereby lowering the cost of education and reducing the time to completion.
- Establish a strong network of support, communication, documentation, and data collection among institutions and organizations for the purpose of promoting shared interests and tracking the efficacy of efforts to enhance Service member's educational success.

MCMC Developments and Recommendations

1. Website Updates

The MCMC Communication and Outreach workgroup has prepared recommendations for links available on university web pages aimed at veteran students. Regental institutions are strongly encouraged to review their current websites to ensure the recommended links are available for students' reference:

Recommendations for Institutional Websites

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| 1. A checklist for veterans | 14. Bookstore information |
| 2. Information on how to get a Joint Services Transcript (JST) | 15. Important News/Updates |
| 3. Military credit transfer policy (PLA, ACE, articulations) | 16. External Resources (VA, VFW, Legion, etc.) |
| 4. GI Bill Chapters and how to apply | 17. Academic Advising (advising and degree audit) |
| 5. Financial Aid/ Scholarships/ Tuition rates | 18. Orientation (possibly geared specifically towards veterans/ non- traditional students) |
| 6. Military credit assessment | 19. Student Orgs (highlight any campus veteran groups) |
| 7. Veteran coordinator contact info | 20. Connecting student veterans to institutional and community resources |
| 8. Veteran Center on campus (if applicable) | 21. Career planning/networking/mentoring opportunities |
| 9. How to apply to the institution | 22. Link to ACE Veteran-friendly toolkit |
| 10. Registration | 23. Tips for a successful Military to College transition |
| 11. Parking information | 24. Education benefits guide |
| 12. Counseling services | 25. Links to institutional policies directed at veteran students |
| 13. Tutoring resources | |

2. Bridge Programs

The MCMC is emphasizing the creation of bridge programs that recognize military education and training in specific areas and accelerate program completion for veterans. A list of [existing bridge programs in MCMC States](#) is hyperlinked for review. Examples of currently existing bridge programs are listed below as a reference:

Military Occupation	Program
Medic	to LPN
Medical Corpsman	to LPN
Dental Specialist/HM Corpsman	to Dental Assisting/Dental Hygiene
Patient Administration Specialist	to Health Information Technology
Radiology Specialist to Cardiac Sonography	to Radiologic Technician/Respiratory Care
Human Services Technician/Hospital Corpsman	to Medical Assisting
Health Care Specialist	to Paramedic Science
Operating Room Specialist	to Surgical Technology
Mortuary Affairs Specialist	to Funeral Services Education
Patient Administration Specialist	to Health Information Management
Pharmacy Specialist	to Pharmacy Technician
Military Police	to Criminal Justice
Physical Therapy Assistant	to Physical Therapy Assistant

While bridge programs are encouraged in any discipline, the MCMC is emphasizing programs in health care and information technology & security. Regental institutions are encouraged to explore bridge program options at their own institutions by examining their existing programs and military occupational specialties (MOS). In addition, many military occupations translate more closely to programs offered at South Dakota technical institutes, potentially providing opportunities to establish articulation agreements to Regental institutions for technical institute bridge programs.

One potential avenue for Regental institutions to consider is to align bridge programs with popular occupations in the South Dakota National Guard. A list of examples is presented below with additional information about the skills, training, and civilian occupation equivalencies provided by hyperlink.

South Dakota National Guard, Popular Military Occupational Specialties

(Source: South Dakota National Guard)

MOS	TITLE
31B	MILITARY POLICE
12N	HORIZONTAL CONSTRUCTION
91B	WHEELED VEHICLE MECHANIC
12C	BRIDGE CREWMEMBER
12B	COMBAT ENGINEER
68W	HEALTH CARE SPECIALIST
92A	AUTOMATED LOGISTICAL SPECIALIST
42A	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST
92Y	UNIT SUPPLY SPECIALIST
92G	FOOD SERVICE SPECIALIST
13P	MULTIPLE LAUNCH ROCKET
25U	SIGNAL SUPPORT SYSTEM
92F	PETROLEUM SUPPLY SPEC

Institutions interested in creating a bridge program should contact the Board office for additional information.

3. American Council on Education (ACE) Military Credit Recommendations

One of the key recommendations of the MCMC is for states to better utilize the credit recommendations for military training/education provided by ACE. [ACE military credit recommendations](#) include recommendations for formal courses and occupations offered by all branches of the military. These credit recommendations appear on the service member's [Joint Services Transcript \(JST\)](#). All recommendations are based on ACE reviews conducted by college and university faculty members who are actively teaching in the areas they review. To better familiarize Regental institutions with the ACE credit recommendations, South Dakota will host ACE representatives and campus representatives this summer for a one-day conference. Final details will be forthcoming to each campus in the near future. The intent is to bring academic affairs representatives, transfer coordinators, registrars, veteran services representatives, and faculty representatives from the system discipline councils together to learn about ACE military credit recommendations and recruit faculty to serve as ACE reviewers. The end goal is to establish a master list of credit/course equivalencies between military training/experiences and the Regental catalog; we would like to have the list of equivalencies posted to our websites so students and institutions can make informed decisions.

4. Army University

[Army University](#) is a new initiative with the intent of developing agile, adaptive, and innovative Soldiers and Army Civilians. As part of the Army University initiative, the Army is developing systems so that their learning programs match the expectations of higher education institutions. Partnerships with postsecondary institutions and accrediting bodies are already underway to facilitate soldier-friendly and veteran-friendly educational opportunities. Army University will become fully operational by November of 2017. In practical terms, this means that many Army training/educational training programs will articulate to academic credit at accredited partner institutions.

5. MCMC Webinars

The MCMC has conducted several webinars to inform states and campuses about continuing developments. The webinars are posted to the internet and can be accessed for viewing at any time. Links to the webinars conducted thus far are included below:

April 19, 2016

Exploring Healthcare Bridge Programs for Veterans, featuring Lansing Community College
[Slides](#) | [Webcast](#)

December 14, 2015

Prior Learning Assessment: An Overview of Relevant Criteria and Assumed Practices
[Slides](#) | [Webcast](#)

November 10, 2015
State Data Capture for Veterans and Service Members
[Slides](#) | [Webcast](#)

6. Additional Links

[MCMC One Page Handout](#)

[ACE Faculty Evaluator Handout](#)