Presentation Overview

• Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC) Background
• Goals for Success
• Challenges to Success
• Who We Are
• The Evolution of SVRC Services
• Our Programs
• Student Veterans Association
Emergence of UGA Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC)

- Visioning for SVRC extended from fall 2011 through spring 2013; student veterans were an integral part of the process from the beginning
- April 2013 – SVRC opens in Tate Student Center; moved to a larger space in 2015 and expanded again in 2019 when the student veteran lounge was established
- First six months, the Center was led by an assistant director from the ODOS and a graduate assistant - a second-year Terry College MBA student/Navy veteran
- Full-time director onboard in September 2013
- Assistant director hired in July 2019
- Center leverages campus, community, and corporate partnerships to support the student veterans journey from matriculation through graduation and beyond
- Today we have a director, assistant director, four student workers funded by the VA, and one student worker funded by a local grant
Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC)

Our goals which drive success for Student Veterans

1. Ease the Transition
2. Improve the Student Experience
3. Facilitate Career Readiness
Veterans: A National Context

- There are 1.3 million active duty service members and 1 million reserve component service members
- Each year about 200,000 service members separate
  - 90% enlisted
  - 10% officers

College Pursuits
- 35% associate degrees, 34% bachelor’s degrees, 11% graduate degrees
- The remaining 20% pursue technical certifications and professional training

- Roughly 100,000 graduate each year

- 100% rate of the Post-9/11 GI Bill pays:
  - Full tuition at UGA and $500 for books each semester
  - Cost of living allowance based on local zip code ($1250)
  - Duration: 36 academic months or 4 years with summers off
  - Forever GI Bill eliminates 15 year expiration of benefits

US Department of Veterans Affairs, 2019
Nationwide Challenges

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES
- “Fragile” best describes the financial health of many student veterans

GENERAL CHALLENGES
- 61% have competing obligations (personal, family, academics and/or work)
- 50% attend college while working full-time
- 25% report their VA educational benefits expired
- 23% report health-related issues
- 20% identify as single parents

ENGAGEMENT CHALLENGES
- Less likely to engage in co-curricular activities

IMPACT: Student Veterans are more isolated and less likely to seek help than other students

1. Institute for Veterans & Military Families, 2019
2. American Council on Education, 2019
Who are the Student Veterans of UGA?

Veteran – “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.” US Code Title 38

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### Total population:
* Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves
* Plus spouses and children of veterans

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information as of 1/6/22</th>
<th>UGA Student Veterans Spring 2022</th>
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</thead>
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- **Veterans to Active Duty, NG, and Reserve Personnel**: 211 plus another 405 military service-connected students
- **Undergraduate Studies**: 37%
- **Graduate Studies**: 46%
- **Professional Studies**: 17%
- **Average Age**: 32
- **Male to Female**: 78% to 22%
- **Athens Campus**: 76%
- **Satellite Locations – Primarily Graduate Students**: 12%
- **Online – Graduate Students**: 12%

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Student Veterans Resource Center
Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
### Current Certified Service Members at UGA (211)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Study</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business (most are MBA students)</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family and Consumer Sciences</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law (all are Juris Doctor candidates)</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public and International Affairs</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other factors to consider</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Military (current)</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve Component</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reside in UGA housing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age range</td>
<td>18 - 67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer students</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use VA healthcare</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athens Campus</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwinnett</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Griffin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Attributes do our Student Veterans generally share?

- Are older and believe themselves to be more self reliant than their non-veterans peers
- Have global experiences that differ than those of other students
- Often required to balance a complex mix of family-work-school-medical-financial issues
- Mixed perceptions of their potential for academic success
- Are frequently first-generation college students
- Very few have co-curricular interests

- Are predominantly transfer students
- Are almost always commuters

American Council on Education, 2019
Veterans Administration College Toolkit, 2020
UGA Certified Service Member Data, January 2022
Military Installations in Georgia

Camp Frank D. Merrill, Dahlonega
Fort Benning, Columbus
Fort Gillem, Forest Park
Fort Gordon, Augusta*
Fort McPherson, East Point
Fort Stewart, Hinesville
Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah
Kings Bay Submarine Base
Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany
Moody Air Force Base, Valdosta
Naval Air Station Atlanta, Marietta
Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins
U.S. Army Cadet Command 6th Brigade, Savannah
U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Atlanta

Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center – Augusta
Veterans Field Service Office – Athens
VA Outpatient Clinics
  Athens
  Oakwood
  Lawrenceville
  Covington
  Anderson, SC
Transformational approach of the SVRC

Proactive engagement beginning with orientation

Continuous process

Outcome-based

Data Driven

Comprehensive just-in-case strategies connect students to relation-based pathways that mitigate risks and facilitate long-term success
Ease the Transition

- **Veterans Orientation**: reduces Transfer Shock by helping students prepare for the often unexpected rigor of a Tier 1 Research University.

- **VETConnect**: Systematically connects our student veterans to an SVRC staff member w/ the option for additional Peer-to-Peer engagements.

- **Transition Coach**: eases the transition of incoming veterans by pairing them with a senior faculty or staff member with similar academic, career and/or personal interests.
Improve the Student Experience

• **Liaison Network**
  - Career Services
  - Health Services
  - Tutoring Services
  - Financial Aid

• **Precision Assistance**
  - Awards and Scholarships
  - Priority Registration
  - Readiness Coaching
  - SVRC Work Study

• **Outreach**
  - Newsletter and Social Media
  - Corporate Connect
  - Oral History Program
  - UGA and SVA Gatherings
Facilitate Readiness

Persistent Coaching Checklist

✔ Target Audience:
  - Undergraduate student veterans
  - Graduate-level student veterans
  - Spouses of student veterans

✔ Goal Setting framed by a Readiness Checklist

✔ Resume Development
  - First Look Resume VMock Score
  - Second Look Resume VMock Score
Facilitate Career Readiness

- Invite a Second Look at the Resume
- Secure a SVRC Professional Photo for LinkedIn
- Attend Career Fairs & Employer Visits (Quick Looks)
- Apply for DAWGs Suit-Up Award
- Join a Professional Club or Association
- Engage in Two Mentoring-Networking Programs
  - Connect to a UGA Alumni Mentor
  - Participate in specific college connection opportunities
  - Rebrand through Experiential Learning
  - Study Abroad, Internships, and CURO Research
- SVRC Scholarships and Readiness-Related Awards
Student Veterans Association at UGA