Are You Eligible for VPC Services?

The quickest and best way to confirm your eligibility for Veterans' Upward Bound services through the Veterans' Pre-College Program at The University of Tennessee is by using our telephone eligibility pre-screening interview. It only takes approximately five minutes of your time and does not require an interview. It only requires approximately five minutes of your time and extremely lenient income eligibility limits can help you qualify for over $1,800.00 in academic assistance and career awareness programs. Internet users can complete the VPC Online Eligibility Profile, accessible “24/7” on the VPC web site “Front Page” at: http://web.utk.edu/~utkvub/veterans.html

You are eligible if you served a minimum 180 days on active duty in any branch of the U.S. Armed Services, meet income eligibility requirements (e.g., if you have a family of three—you, a spouse, and one child; your taxable income for 2005 could not have exceeded $44,500.00), and/or you are a first-generation prospective college student (meaning neither of your parents or legal guardian(s) completed a 4-year degree). We can also help you obtain your GED if needed and link you with a vast array of veteran, community, and employment assistance organizations.

Most importantly to many, ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE FREE thanks to a grant from the Department of Education. You earned your spot in this program by serving our Nation and now it is our pleasure to serve you! Call us at (865) 974-4466 to discuss your future today; or, call toll free at (877) 656-8387 (VETS).

VPC Graduate Success Story

Daniel Phillips

His polite and unassuming manner will probably make you forget that Dan Phillips is a retiree from the U.S. Air Force but do not be misled! Dan Phillips is a man that had a goal and a plan and it has all gone to his satisfaction.

When Dan retired in 1997, he knew he wanted to use his GI Bill to finish his college degree. He claims that he came to the Veterans' Pre-College Program at UTK to discover his strengths and weaknesses before he pursued his academic interests. Dan worked closely with the program's personnel to ensure that he had the math, English, and writing skills that he would need when he enrolled in the Professional Studies Program at Tusculum College. The good news is that Dan finished his undergraduate degree at Tusculum, as well as his masters degree. As the Warehouse/Quality Supervisor for Wyeth in Vonore, TN, he uses those lessons he learned at VPC and Tusculum everyday.

Dan maintains that VPC helped him in many ways: (1) he had educational specialists in the program who worked with him individually to guarantee his skills were on target; (2) the educational specialists ensured that Dan knew all of his educational options and; (3) his regular weekly attendance of classes and tutorials at VPC helped him in preparation for the extensive scheduling that he would have to do to complete his college coursework.

Increased self-satisfaction and responsibilities are two of the ways that Dan’s education has changed his life. He also admits that VPC provided a firm foundation of skills upon which he was able to build a successful life after his military career.

Dan has the following suggestions for any veterans who may be considering VPC or for those that have not participated fully in its various academic opportunities:

• “If you’re not sure educationally where you are right now, VPC is a great start to determine your educational needs.”
• “The VPC staff will guide and make suggestions concerning your college and educational needs, but the final decisions will all be up to you.”

What's Inside:

• VPC Graduate Success Story - Mark Klinkenberg
• Academic Basic Skills Instruction Cycle
• Top Job Prospects Through 2012

Find us on the Web at http://web.utk.edu/~utkvub/veterans.html
Managing Your Time

Do you know where your time goes? Why do some people seem able to accomplish so much? They usually follow a system of time management.

In order to manage time, you need to know what you usually do. One way to accomplish this is to keep a time log. Briefly jotting down what you are doing every 15-30 minutes for a week will give you important information. Once you have this, ask yourself:

- Did I get everything done?
- Was I rushed for time?
- Did I meet deadlines?
- What habits interfered with reaching my goals?
- Did I accomplish more at a certain time of day?
- At what times of the day did I accomplish the least?

Now, make a list of the activities you have to do. Mark those that are scheduled at definite times and those that can be arranged according to your own time. Then, prioritize the list:

I. The most crucial activities
II. Activities that can wait until after those in group I
III. The least crucial activities

Then, prepare a schedule using the prioritized list. Use your list and schedule daily. Remember to plan for your peak times and your low-energy times.

Effective time management frees you to do your best and to succeed. But the schedule isn’t your master. You control it.

Dr. Ernest W. Brewer, Professor and PhDirector

You Can Prepare for Any Type of Postsecondary Institution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Postsecondary Institution (PSI)</th>
<th>Veteran FSI Enrollments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public 2-yr.</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public 4-yr.</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public/non-profit Voc-Tech.</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private/non-profit 2-yr.</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private/non-profit 4-yr.</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proprietary schools</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Fundamental Academic Preparation At VPC**

Academic services are at the heart of every Veterans' Upward Bound program. Preparing for entry and success in a post-secondary program is rewarding—and even fun—for students in the UTK Veterans’ Upward Bound project. Learning takes place in individual and small-group tutoring sessions, and in small-group workshops. Instruction and workshop activities are conducted live by VUB staff. Self-paced text, videotape, and computer-assisted programs are also available—focused on the specific needs of each individual veteran.

All VUB projects are required by federal regulations to offer mathematics through pre-calculus, lab sciences, literature, and foreign languages. Veteran students can take advantage of these educational opportunities at the UT-Knoxville VPC Program.

Topics offered in individual or small-group sessions include English writing skills, biological sciences, and mathematics skills, diagnostics and placement tests. Also available are writing lab workshops, college life adjustment and study skills workshops, financial aid workshops, career information workshops, and counseling on personal finances.

Media-based instruction includes videotapes on GED preparation as well as computer-assisted individual instruction on keyboard skill, typing speed, introductory foreign languages, word processing, creating a resume, and more.

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**Education: FAFSA Opens the Front Door to College**

Your dream of getting the college degree needed for a successful career can be easily sidetracked when you start to consider the cost of paying for it. Many people like you have given up on their dreams due to bad information and fear of not being able to pay for their education. Here are a few facts that might surprise you:

- Eighty-two percent of college graduates never saved a dime to pay for college.
- For the twelve percent who did, grants, scholarships, loans, and scholarships were still needed.
- Financial aid programs can help virtually every college student, even service members.
- Sixty percent of all aid is in the form of educational loans.

In fact federal regulations now permit virtually all U.S. citizens to receive some form of assistance, including grants, scholarships, educational loans, or work-study opportunities. The Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is your first step toward paying for college. Here are some reasons why you need to fill out the FAFSA.

**The Key to College Admissions**

FAFSA is the key to college admission because it establishes your ability to pay for college. Once completed, the 8 pages and 146 items in a FAFSA application are processed and placed in a federal database that college financial aid administrators can download electronically. Colleges and universities require the FAFSA so they can reliably review financial aid needs and credit worthiness.

**Determines Your Needs**

As a result of more sensitive federal need standards, more people are eligible for need-based types of financial aid than ever before. FAFSA helps establish the basic equation used to determine your financial aid eligibility, or "need," using the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) formula. In the past your assets, including homes, routinely limited access to some financial aid. New federal laws and guidelines have improved every student's chances of getting some form of financial support.

**Tip: Service members are also eligible to use many forms of Federal Student Aid in conjunction with the GI Bill or Tuition Assistance.**

*Source: www.military.com/resources*

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**Education is Key**

In the midst of upheaval in the work world and international marketplaces, there is one constant: Education is the most critical element of success. Governments, schools, and businesses plead with young people to stay in school and with adults to make learning part of their life. The nation depends on it.

The undeniable fact is, however, that the country can only provide the tools for learning. The decision to stay in school, to learn, and to change with the times is up to you.
To qualify for enrollment in the VUB program, a veteran’s academic need for the program must be assessed and demonstrated. The staff must document both academic need and veteran academic progress throughout the period of enrollment.

These requirements are relatively easy to meet through the use of the UTK-VUB Adult Basic Skills curriculum. A chief advantage of the material is its structured cycle of instruction—needs diagnosis and assessment; thoughtful initial academic placement in the ABS program; individualized instructional planning; progressive levels of instruction in Reading/Language Adult Basic Skills (LABS program) and Math and Algebra Skills (MABS). Each includes instructional booklets, review cards, mastery tests, and computer-assisted progress tracking and documentation.

Beginning students take Placement Tests for each academic component. Placement test results confirm the student’s appropriate starting level. Diagnostic Tests for the starting level then confirm competencies already mastered; this makes possible a customized “academic prescription,” which charts the veteran’s course of study by emphasizing true need, with no time wasted on review of things already mastered.

The veteran’s Basic Skills Academic Prescription becomes part of his/her overall Individual Education Plan (IEP) in the Veterans’ Pre-College Program. The total IEP includes goals for academic refresher and skills development, and goals related to career advising, target school selection, computer literacy, study skills workshops, financial aid advising, admissions and application assistance, and cultural enrichment activities.

As the veterans master each level of instruction, they progress to the next level until they have completed the full “criterion referenced” series of self-paced lessons. Computer-assisted tracking of veteran progress through the instructional cycle allows for virtually “automatic” documentation of academic progress, as required by the federal guidelines. Individual Placement Profiles and Individual Achievement Reports allow VUB Education Specialists, tutors, and managers to observe and follow each veteran's progress and to offer assistance and encouragement when needed. To the veteran student, the reports offer clear, no-nonsense feedback on “where I am” at any moment in the academic refresher training program.
**Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)**

- The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program provides a comprehensive program of vocational rehabilitation assessment and services for veterans who have incurred or aggravated a physical or mental disability while in the armed forces of the United States.

- Veterans who have the potential to become employed are assisted in making viable occupational choices, and if necessary, are provided the skills needed to qualify for suitable employment.

- When the veteran reaches the point where he or she is "job ready," VR&E staff assists that person in the employment search process.

- For those persons who do not have the option of employment by virtue of the severity of disabling conditions, VR&E may be able to provide independent living services designed to assist the individual to live in the community as independently as possible.

- Whether the rehabilitation plan calls for a vocational goal or independent living, the VR&E staff work very closely with the veteran and his/her family to assure progress in the program and success in the goals.

- The Department of Veterans Affairs administers a number of educational benefit programs for eligible service members, veterans, and dependents.

- As an integral part of these benefits, educational and vocational counseling is available to help the individual to choose a vocational direction or area of study and select a school or other facility which the person might attend to achieve the chosen goal.

- Counseling is provided by qualified counselors and is offered at no charge.

Source: [http://www.deed.state.mn.us/veterans/chapter31.htm](http://www.deed.state.mn.us/veterans/chapter31.htm)

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**The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB AD)**

The MGIB AD (Active Duty) is available for active duty and veterans to help with education costs. The following is a summary of what you need to know about the MGIB AD:

The Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits for:

- College, Business, Technical, or Vocational Courses
- Distance Learning including Correspondence Courses
- Certification Tests
- Apprenticeship/Job Training (Veterans and Reserve Only)
- Flight Training

If you're a full-time student enrolled in a regionally or nationally accredited college or university, you can get up to $1034 a month (current rates) to cover education benefits, including high-tech or vocational-technical programs. It all adds up to a total benefit of over $37,000 -- and these benefits are increasing every year. But don't delay in using the GI Bill -- these benefits are usually good only up to 10 years after you separate from the military.

Source: [www.military.com](http://www.military.com)

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**Cutting Edge Job Skills**

Vocational/Technical Schools provide you with specific job skills and job training that is on the cutting edge of technology. These schools allow you to jump right in to the specific career field of your choice, giving you control over what you learn and when you learn it.

**The attractive features of vocational and technical schools are:**

- Learning is hands on. You immediately use what you learn.
- Get training and enter into the workforce...FAST!
- Instructors have personal experience in the subjects they teach.

**Items to watch out for when choosing a vocational/technical school:**

- Is the school accredited? ACCST or the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology is recognized as the leader in accrediting these schools. Be sure to visit their site at [http://www.accet.org](http://www.accet.org) and confirm the credentials of any school you are considering.

- Is the school approved to accept veterans benefits? Hot technology courses such as MCSE Certification, A+ Certification may not be eligible to accept veterans benefits. Please inquire with the school you want to attend.

And, take a look at this guide for an analysis of nationally recognized trade schools:

Each school is accredited by the relevant governing body and is approved to accept VETERANS BENEFITS. Also included are hot technology course sequences such as MCSE Certification, Novell Networking, A+ Certification, and more.

When contacting a school, be sure to get information on their placement rate. Also, ask if there are any graduates of the school living in your area.

Source: [http://www.military.com/Education/Content/0,13302,trade_school,00.html](http://www.military.com/Education/Content/0,13302,trade_school,00.html)
Labor Market Information

Accurate labor market information is a vital component of career decision-making. Without it, wise decisions are impossible. The labor market is changing more rapidly than ever. The following projections cover 2002-2012.

- Employment growth will be concentrated in the service-providing sector of the economy. All ten of the fastest-growing industries are in this sector.

- Construction is the only goods-producing sector in which employment is projected to grow.

- Professional occupations and service occupations—two groups at opposite ends of educational and earnings ranges—are projected to increase the fastest and to add the most jobs, accounting for more than half of total job growth over the next decade.

- Office and administrative support occupations, production occupations, and farming, fishing, and forestry occupations are expected to grow much more slowly than average.

- Nine of the ten fastest growing occupations are health or computer occupations.

- An associate or bachelor’s degree is the most significant source of postsecondary education or training for six of the ten fastest growing occupations.

- The United States work force will become even more diverse by 2012.

- About one out of every four new jobs created in the U.S. economy will be either in health care and social assistance or private educational services sector.

- Employment in utilities is projected to decrease by 5.7 percent through 2012. Despite increased output, employment in electric power generation, transmission, and distribution and natural gas distribution is expected to decline through 2012 due to improved technology that increases worker productivity.

Top 10 Job Prospects through 2012!

The United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), recently announced projections for the fastest growing careers through 2012. The specific careers and projected percentage of increase are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
<th>PERCENT INCREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistants</td>
<td>+59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Systems/Data Communications Analysts</td>
<td>+57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistants</td>
<td>+49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Human Service Assistants</td>
<td>+49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aides</td>
<td>+48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Records &amp; Health Information Technicians</td>
<td>+47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapist Aides</td>
<td>+46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Software Engineers (Applications)</td>
<td>+46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Software Engineers (Systems Software)</td>
<td>+45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistants</td>
<td>+45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Tennessee Career Information Delivery System (TCIDS), August 2004; Vol. 5, Issue 1

Education is essential in getting a high-paying job. In fact, for all but one of the 50 highest paying occupations, a college degree or higher is the most significant source of education or training.

Train to Gain

New data tells an old story—education pays. The more you learn, the more you earn and the less likely you are to be unemployed, according to the following data:

Occupational Growth for 2006-07

Occupations in health care, management, education, food preparation, computers and mathematics are projected to grow in Tennessee for 2006 and 2007. The projections of Tennessee employment for 2006 and 2007 show a 1.3 percent annual increase. The rate is derived from employment estimates of industries and occupations along with economic indicators for the state and the nation. The annual percent increase for the state is the same as the increase projected for 2006 and 2007, suggesting some stability in growth. Employment is expected to increase by 75,800 jobs from 2005 to 2007. Industries and occupations grow or decline as they adjust to economic and demographic characteristics of the state, the nation, and the world. The projected gains represent a significant and sustained improvement from the job losses surrounding the recession of 2001, when employment decreased.

Source: www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/lmi/jobforecast.pdf
Horatio Alger Award Recipient
Aaron Ross

The Veterans’ Pre-College Program at UTK is proud to announce that Mr. Aaron Ross is a recipient of this year’s Horatio Alger Award, given to military veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The five-year scholarship assures Aaron of $5,000 over the next five years of his college education. Aaron, who was a CPL in the United States Marine Corp, recently completed his academic program with VPC and is a full-time student at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

While majoring in accounting, Aaron is working for both FEDEX and Home Depot; he asserts that VPC aided him in his transition from military life into civilian mode. Aaron says, “The program has built a strong backbone for me to get my feet back into college life and society. I took full advantage of VPC and would recommend it to anyone who has left the military.”

The VPC staff congratulates Aaron on his recent award and wishes him every success as he works toward his goal of a four-year degree!

VPC Graduate Success Story
Mark Klinkenberg

“TRIO Programs” are educational opportunity and access projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education. At the COE annual conference each year, a select group of TRIO project alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields are honored with presentation of the coveted TRIO Achievers National Award. Mr. Mark Klinkenberg, a UTK-VPC alumnus, received the TRIO Achievers National Award at the annual conference of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, DC.

Mark Klinkenberg entered the Veterans’ Pre-College Program—the Veterans Upward Bound project at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville—during the 1991-92 program year. Although Mark had served in the U.S. Navy as a fast-attack submarine nuclear reactor operator for six years, he came to the VPC project as an under-employed, first-generation potential college graduate. He received writing skills training and mathematics services from the VPC project, as well as the College Life Adjustment and Study Skills Workshop series and other routine services including career advising, financial aid advising, and computer literacy lab experience.

In the Spring of 1992, Mark Klinkenberg achieved his longtime dream of enrolling in a baccalaureate program, which he did at The University of Tennessee-Knoxville College of Business Administration. There he majored in accounting, graduating in 1996 with a B.S. summa cum laude. Mark went on to even higher education at the University of Missouri’s Kansas City School of Law, where he earned a law degree with honors. He then began a distinguished private practice.

Mark Klinkenberg’s current service is to clients such as the Kansas City Economic Development Committee. This work has placed him in an influential position in the ongoing Kansas City downtown redevelopment effort, where his unique talents in the finance and tax elements of urban development have come to the fore.

Klinkenberg was one of only six recipients across the entire U.S. selected for the annual National TRIO Achievers Award. He is the first Veterans Upward Bound alumnus ever to win this award and is in fact the first U.S. military veteran ever to win the award, according to COE representatives.

VPC Programs Help
Open Civilian Doors

The UT Knoxville Veterans’ Pre-College Programs ADVOCATE
National Hire Vets First Campaign

The President’s National Hire Veterans Committee and the Department of Labor (DOL) has launched a national media campaign, entitled “Hire Vets First” targeting employers. The intent of this campaign is to improve employment, training, and placement services furnished to Veterans IAW Public Law 107-288, Jobs for Veterans Act.


The One-Stop Career Centers are the center of the campaign as the location where businesses can go to receive assistance in recruiting and connecting to veterans. However, the Family Support Centers, the Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP), and the local Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), are also major networking organizations helping veteran job seekers to connect with employers.

The “Hire Vets First” media campaign will direct interested parties to the “Hire Veterans First” Web site (www.hirevetsfirst.gov) and the U.S. DOL toll-free help line 1-877-US2-JOBS. The Web page links to America’s Job Bank, America’s Service Locator, state workforce agencies, various vendor job search sites, and veterans’ related informational sites. The help line will direct callers to the supporting local One-Stop Career Centers and available Internet resources.

While the media effort promotes veterans, the focal point for the success of this effort is the existing workforce network and local One-Stop Career Centers. Please note that the new Web site: www.hirevets-first.gov, an access portal for both employers and veterans, is currently pending and will be available.

Source: Ms. Jerry L. Shiflet
Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) Colorado Dept. of Labor and Employment (CDLE) Pikes Peak Workforce Center (PPWFC) 2306 E. Pikes Peak Ave. Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909
Phone: 719-667-3716; E-mail “shifletj@ppwfc.org

Home Depot wants to hire Vets

The Home Depot has unveiled a new program to hire U.S. military retirees, veterans, and military spouses. The Home improvement retailing giant has 1,800 stores, including 1,586 in the United States.

The Home Depot hired nearly 10,000 veterans in 2003 and expected to surpass that number by a wide margin in 2004. The Home Depot pledged to work with its military associates to provide transfers in the cases of reassignment of duty stations, retirement, or separation, depending on store and job availability.

The Home Depot launched its first national hiring partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor in June of 2002. In February, the Home Depot also announced a hiring partnership with the AARP.

Source: www.careers.homedepot.com
September 28, 2004
(Source: www.military.com)