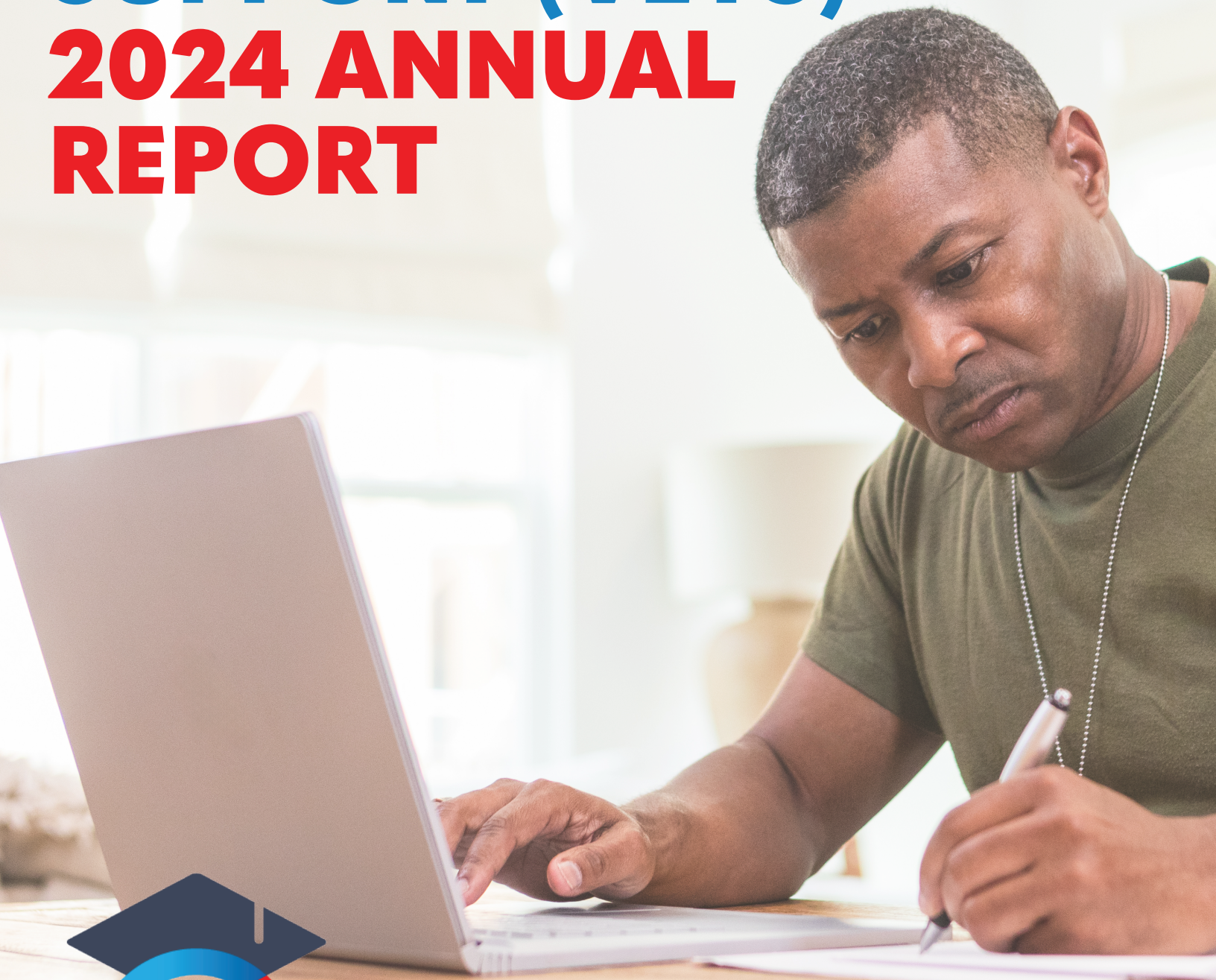
VETERANS EDUCATION TRANSITION SUPPORT (VETS) 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



REVISED: APRIL 4, 2024

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2022-23 Commission Members

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Introduction

The Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Act,[1] passed in 2014, established a program of recognition for higher education institutions that strategically support veterans' transition from military service to college and on to gainful employment. These institutions are designated as VETS Campuses for providing dedicated outreach and services necessary to create a supportive environment for student veterans' academic success. VETS Campus designation requirements can be found in Appendix A.

VETS Campuses then provide annual data on military-connected students to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to highlight enrollment at each institution, the programs of study by degree sought, and how many credentials were attained. Military-connected students are the combination of *student veterans* (those who have served in uniform: veterans, members of the Reserve or National Guard, active-duty service-members) and *military dependents* (the family members). More detailed definitions can be found in Appendix B.

This was the first year VETS Campus data was reported as an academic year. A benefit of switching to academic, rather than calendar, year is the ability to compare military-connected student data to the general student population in Tennessee. The challenge of switching to academic year from calendar year, is the possibility of collecting data from a semester twice or skipping a semester. Therefore, portions of this 2024 VETS Campus Report summarized the latest data on military-connected students from academic year 2022-23 with the inclusion of Spring 2022. Those portions will indicate the additional semester.

As of November 2023, there were 36 VETS designated campuses (listed in Appendix C). This report provides information from 30 VETS Campuses across Tennessee. An additional six new institutions (Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCAT) Crossville, TCAT McMinnville, TCAT Jackson, TCAT Nashville, Carson-Newman University, and Belmont University) received the VETS Campus designation in 2023 and will be reporting data in 2024.

[1] Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-7-13.

Student Enrollment at VETS Campuses

There were 18,121military-connected students enrolled at Tennessee's VETS Campuses in academic year (AY) 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included). Military-connected students made up 16,187 of the undergraduate student body at VETS Campuses (**Table 1**) and 1,934 in graduate study at Tennessee's VETS Campuses.

Table 1: Enrollment of Military-Connected Students in AY 2022-23 *with Spring 2022 included* at Tennessee's VETS Campuses.[2]

Type of Institution	Undergraduate		Graduate	
	Student Veterans	Military Dependents	Student Veterans	Military Dependents
Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology	724	374	-	-
Community Colleges	2,198	1,145	-	-
Private Not-for-Profit Colleges and Universities	150	243	122	103
Locally Governed Institutions	5,168	3,312	725	334
University of Tennessee System	1,090	1,783	400	250
Total	**9,330**	**6,857**	**1,247**	**687**

Source: VETS Campus Data

Student Veterans

The term *student veteran* includes previously serving veterans, active-duty service-members, and members of the National Guard or reserves. In AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included), more than half (58 percent) of the military-connected students at Tennessee's VETS Campuses were student veterans. There were 9,330 undergraduate student veterans and 1,247 graduate student veterans (**Table 1**). Student veterans in AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included) at Tennessee's VETS Campuses was as follows: 8,660 previously serving veterans, 1,195 active-duty, and 722 members of the National Guard or reserve. Including those at community colleges, 78 percent of undergraduate and 58 percent of graduate student veterans at VETS Campuses enrolled full-time in fall and spring semesters.

Looking at enrollment semester by semester in this reporting period, Fall 2022 saw the most undergraduate student veterans on Tennessee's VETS Campuses with a total of 5,216 (**Table 2**); more than a quarter of them (27 percent) being at a community college and more than half of them (55 percent) being at a locally governed institution.

[2] Private, not-for-profit higher education institutions were not included in Table 1, because comparable data for total student enrollment at these institutions is not submitted to THEC.

Table 2: Enrollment of Undergraduate Student Veterans at VETS Campuses by Semester

Type of Institution	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology	180	194	188	162
Community Colleges	1,320	549	1,386	1,322
Private Not-for-Profit Colleges and Universities	86	31	73	72
Locally Governed Institutions	2,596	1,090	2,861	2,652
University of Tennessee System	595	247	708	667
Total	**4,777**	**2,111**	**5,216**	**4,875**

In this reporting period, Fall 2022 also saw the most graduate student veterans on Tennessee's VETS Campuses with a total of 710 (**Table 3**); more than half of them (55 percent) being at a locally governed institution.

Table 3: Enrollment of Graduate Student Veterans at VETS Campuses by Semester

Type of Institution	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Private Not-for Profit Colleges and Universities	74	68	80	76
Locally Governed Institutions	353	202	394	384
University of Tennessee System	227	123	236	222
Total	**654**	**393**	**710**	**682**

Veteran No Benefit

In AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included), 13 percent of the undergraduate veteran category and a fourth of the graduate veteran category reported by VETS Campuses (compiled in **Table 4**) were identified as *Veteran No Benefit.* These veterans may have exhausted their veterans' education benefits, the benefits may have expired, or the earned benefit was being saved for a later degree. Veterans attending while not using benefits was more prevalent for those attending a University of Tennessee campus or graduate school.[3]

Table 4: Percentage of Veterans identified as *Veteran No Benefit* at VETS Campuses in AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included).

Students	LGIs	UT	Private	Overall
Veterans No Benefit (UG)	11%	24%	5%	13%
Veterans No Benefit (GR)	16%	37%	64%	25%

[3] Data on Veterans No Benefits were not reported by community colleges or TCATs.

Military Dependents

Military dependents make up 42 percent of the military-connected students at Tennessee's VETS Campuses with 6,857 being undergraduate students and 687 being graduate students (**Table 1**). Fall 2022 saw the most enrollment of undergraduate military dependents during this reporting period with 4,445 students; more than a quarter (27 percent) attending a University of Tennessee campus and almost half (49 percent) attending a locally governed institution (**Table 5**).

Table 5: Enrollment of Undergraduate Military Dependents at VETS Campuses by Semester

Type of Institution	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology	85	84	116	89
Community Colleges	750	227	756	703
Private Not-for-Profit Colleges and Universities	144	42	173	158
Locally Governed Institutions	2,157	723	2,179	1,883
University of Tennessee System	1,099	248	1,221	1,095
Total	**4,235**	**1,324**	**4,445**	**3,928**

There were 438 graduate military dependents in Spring 2022, the highest number enrolled on Tennessee's VETS Campuses in this reporting period (**Table 6**); most of them (84 percent) at public universities and 16 percent attending a private not-for-profit college or university.

Table 6: Enrollment of Graduate Military Dependents at VETS Campuses by Semester

Type of Institution	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Private Not-for Profit Colleges and Universities	68	51	55	55
Locally Governed Institutions	188	100	200	182
University of Tennessee System	182	84	174	151
Total	**438**	**235**	**429**	**388**

VETS Campus Programs of Study

The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistic's (NCES) provides a list of Classifications of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes which establishes a taxonomy of programs. VETS Campuses reported the programs of study for both student veterans and military dependents during AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included). In previous years, campuses were only required to report programs at the top two-digit CIP code. However, this year, campuses were required to report the entire six-digit CIP code.

As an example, in prior years, the CIP category 51 – Health Professions and Related Support Services may have been the second most studied category of programs among graduate programs. Whereas in AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included), using the six-digit CIP code along with the degree level allowed THEC to determine those within that 51 - Health Professions category as having multiple fields appear on the top ten programs of study for either student veterans or military dependents in doctoral study (**Tables 15 and 16**).

The tables below (**Table 7 through 16**) highlight the top 10 programs of study by student veterans or military dependents enrollment at each degree level. Instructional programs are accompanied by the six-digit CIP code and share of students in each.

Not listed in the tables are those non-degree seeking students. There were 278 student veterans and 127 military dependents that were enrolled as non-degree seeking students, either in undergraduate or graduate study, with another 68 student veterans enrolled in graduate certificates such as Education Specialists or Data Science.

Table 7: Top TCAT Certificate and Diploma Programs of Student Veterans at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
47.0303	Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology/Technician.	15%
48.0508	Welding Technology/Welder.	13%
11.1006	Computer Support Specialist.	10%
47.0201	Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation & Refrigeration Maint.	9%
46.0415	Building Construction Technology/Technician.	9%
51.3901	Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training.	8%
47.0604	Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician.	7%
12.0401	Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General.	6%
48.0501	Machine Tool Technology/Machinist.	5%
47.0605	Diesel Mechanics Technology/Technician.	4%

Table 8: Top TCAT Certificate and Diploma Programs of Military Dependents at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
51.3901	Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training.	15%
48.0508	Welding Technology/Welder.	13%
12.0401	Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General.	12%
47.0303	Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology/Technician.	11%
47.0201	Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation & Refrigeration Maint.	8%
47.0604	Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician.	8%
11.1006	Computer Support Specialist.	8%
47.0605	Diesel Mechanics Technology/Technician.	5%
52.0402	Executive Assistant/Executive Secretary.	3%
48.0501	Machine Tool Technology/Machinist.	3%

Table 9: Top 10 Associate Degree Programs of Student Veterans at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
24.0101	Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies.	45%
11.0103	Information Technology.	8%
52.0201	Business Administration and Management, General.	7%
24.0102	General Studies.	5%
51.3801	Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse.	4%
15.0000	Engineering Technologies/Technicians, General.	4%
51.0904	Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic).	3%
43.0107	Criminal Justice/Police Science.	2%
32.0111	Workforce Development and Training.	2%
15.0403	Electromechanical/Electromechanical Engineering Tech.	2%

Table 10: Associate Degree Programs of Military Dependents at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
24.0101	Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies.	51%
51.3801	Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse.	8%
52.0201	Business Administration and Management, General.	7%
24.0102	General Studies.	5%
11.0103	Information Technology.	4%
13.0101	Education, General.	3%
15.0612	Industrial Technology/Technician.	3%
43.0104	Criminal Justice/Safety Studies.	2%
51.0904	Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic).	2%
52.0401	Administrative Assistant and Secretarial Science, General.	1%

Table11: Top Bachelor's Degree Programs of Student Veterans at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
52.0201	Business Administration and Management, General.	7%
43.0103	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration.	5%
51.3801	Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse.	4%
42.0101	Psychology, General.	4%
24.0101	Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies.	4%
31.0501	Sports, Kinesiology, and Physical Education/Fitness, General.	4%
11.0701	Computer Science.	3%
26.0101	Biology/Biological Sciences, General.	3%
49.0101	Aeronautics/Aviation/Aerospace Science and Technology.	3%
31.0505	Exercise Science and Kinesiology.	3%

Table 12: Bachelor's Degree Programs for Military Dependents at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
52.0201	Business Administration and Management, General.	6%
51.3801	Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse.	6%
26.0101	Biology/Biological Sciences, General.	5%
42.0101	Psychology, General.	5%
31.0501	Sports, Kinesiology, and Physical Education/Fitness, General.	4%
43.0103	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration.	3%
11.0701	Computer Science.	3%
13.1206	Teacher Education, Multiple Levels.	3%
01.0000	Agriculture, General.	2%
31.0505	Exercise Science and Kinesiology.	2%

Table 13: Top 10 Master's Degree Programs of Student Veterans at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
52.0201	Business Administration and Management, General.	18%
52.1301	Management Science.	7%
44.0701	Social Work.	6%
24.0102	General Studies.	6%
54.0101	History, General.	3%
13.1206	Teacher Education, Multiple Levels.	3%
11.0802	Data Modeling/Warehousing and Database Administration.	3%
52.1399	Management Sciences and Quantitative Methods, Other.	3%
51.3801	Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse.	3%
13.0101	Education, General.	3%

Table 14: Master's Degree Programs for Military Dependents at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
52.0201	Business Administration and Management, General.	12%
13.1206	Teacher Education, Multiple Levels.	6%
44.0701	Social Work.	6%
13.1101	Counselor Edu/School Counseling & Guidance Services.	5%
51.9999	Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences, Other.	4%
24.0102	General Studies.	4%
54.0101	History, General.	3%
13.0401	Educational Leadership and Administration, General.	3%
51.3801	Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse.	2%
13.0301	Curriculum and Instruction.	2%

Table 15: Top 10 Doctoral Degree Programs of Student Veterans at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
43.0103	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration.	12%
51.3818	Nursing Practice.	10%
13.0401	Educational Leadership and Administration.	8%
22.0101	Law.	8%
15.1102	Surveying Technology/Surveying.	6%
51.1201	Medicine.	6%
44.0701	Social Work.	4%
51.2001	Pharmacy.	4%
24.0102	General Studies.	3%
51.0401	Dentistry.	3%

Table 16: Doctoral Degree Programs for Military Dependents at VETS Campuses

CIP Code	Instructional Program	Percent
43.0103	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration.	13%
51.3818	Nursing Practice.	11%
51.1201	Medicine.	10%
51.3801	Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse.	9%
51.2001	Pharmacy.	8%
51.2308	Physical Therapy/Therapist.	4%
18.001	Veterinary Medicine.	4%
24.0102	General Studies.	4%
22.0101	Law.	4%
14.0801	Civil Engineering, General.	3%

VETS Campus Degree Completion

Since 2019, student veterans have earned almost 8,700 credentials at Tennessee's VETS Campuses. Again, this was the first year VETS Campus data was reported as an academic year but with Spring 2022 included. A future benefit of switching to academic, rather than calendar, year will be the potential to compare military-connected student data to the general student population in Tennessee. Student veterans earned 2,825 credentials in AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included), 41 percent being bachelor's degrees (**Table 17**). Military dependents also earned 2,082 credentials and 61 percent of those were bachelor's degrees (**Table 18**).

Table 17: Credentials Earned by Student Veterans at VETS Campuses in AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included).

Degree Type	**TCATs**	**CC**	**LGIs**	**Private**	**UT**	**Total**
TCAT Certificates	56					**56**
TCAT Diplomas	102					**102**
Community College Certificates		309				**309**
Associate		413	283			**696**
University Certificate			21		11	**29**
Bachelors			894	34	270	**1,167**
Masters			170	72	125	**354**
Doctoral			13	4	48	**63**
Grand Total	***158***	***722***	***1,381***	***110***	***454***	***2,825***

Table 18: Credentials Earned by Military Dependents at VETS Campuses in AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included).

Degree Type	**TCATs**	**CC**	**LGIs**	**Private**	**UT**	**Total**
TCAT Certificates	26					**26**
TCAT Diplomas	35					**35**
Community College Certificates		83				**83**
Associate		221	133			**354**
University Certificate			19		9	**28**
Bachelors			676	83	504	**1,263**
Masters			89	49	90	**228**
Doctoral			5	15	45	**65**
Grand Total	***61***	***304***	***922***	***147***	***648***	***2,082***

Note: TCATs – Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology; CC – Community Colleges; LGIs – Locally Governed Institutions; Private – Private Not-for-Profit Colleges and Universities; and UT – University of Tennessee system.

Conclusion

Overall, there were more than 18,100 military-connected students at the 30 Tennessee VETS Campuses that were required to submit data for AY 2022-23 (with Spring 2022 included). Tennessee has seen a growth in campuses dedicating efforts to support the military and veteran community through higher education. Next year there will be at least six more campuses reporting data, and a continued effort to add more institutions to our VETS Campus roster. There excitement at seeing these numbers, but also pride and confidence in knowing that these military-connected students have arrived at Tennessee's VETS campuses who are dedicated to serving the veteran and military community.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission looks forward to continuing the efforts to increase support systems for student veterans and military dependents at Tennessee's VETS Campuses. While that support starts with the compassion Tennessee has for those who served, VETS Campus data guides the way to improve services, inform policy, and reach more students.

Appendix A: VETS Campus Designation Qualifications

To qualify for the VETS Campus designation, institutions must:

1. Conduct an annual campus survey of students who are veterans to identify the views, needs, issues and suggestions of veterans;

2. Provide information to faculty and staff about military and veterans' culture, including combat-related mental or physical disabilities or other challenges;

3. Administer orientation programs for students who are veterans;

4. Facilitate mentoring and support programs for students who are veterans;

5. Develop outreach and communication strategies for military bases located near the campus, for the purpose of assessing veterans' educational goals and meeting their identified needs;

6. Create and maintain a process for the assessment of prior learning that grants academic credit to veterans for transferable training and experience attaining through military service; and

7. Provide, on the campus website, information on the availability of prior learning assessments and potential program credit for skills, training or education obtained during military service.

Eligible institutions may apply for designation as a VETS Campus by submitting a written request to THEC's Executive Director outlining all outreach services offered to veterans.

Appendix B: Definitions

- **Military-Connected Student:** Any student fitting within the description of Student Veteran or Military Dependent below:

    - **Student Veterans:** Active-duty members of the armed services, the National Guard, or Reserves and persons who are separated from the military through retirement or after a period of military service who are enrolled as a full- or part-time student at a postsecondary institution taking classes either online or in person.

        - **Veterans:** A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

        - **Reserve / National Guard:** The National Guard is part of the reserve components of the United States Army and the United States Air Force. There are also Reserve components in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Many Reserve / National Guard individuals are in higher education or hold a civilian job full-time while serving part-time as a National Guard member.

        - **Active Duty:** A person who is active duty is in the military full time. They work for the military full time, may live on a military base, and can be deployed at any time.

    - **Military Dependents:** Students attending a postsecondary institution who are the qualified spouse, natural, adopted, stepchild or parents of a veteran or service-member.

Appendix C: List of VETS Campus by Sector

The following postsecondary institutions were designated VETS Campuses in AY 2022-23.

Newly designated VETS Campus in calendar year 2023 are marked with an asterisk (*).

Community Colleges

Chattanooga State Community College
Cleveland State Community College
Columbia State Community College
Dyersburg State Community College
Jackson State Community College
Motlow State Community College
Nashville State Community College
Northeast State Community College
Pellissippi State Community College
Roane State Community College
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Volunteer State Community College
Walters State Community College

Public Universities

Austin Peay State University
East Tennessee State University
Middle Tennessee State University
Tennessee State University
Tennessee Technological University
University of Memphis
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
University of Tennessee, Martin

Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT)

TCAT Crossville*
TCAT Chattanooga
TCAT Dickson
TCAT Jackson*
TCAT Nashville*
TCAT McMinnville*

Private Not-for-Profit Colleges and Universities

Belmont University*
Bryan College
Carson-Newman University*
Christian Brothers University
Lane College
Lipscomb University
Maryville College