



UVU
Veteran Success Center

Case for Support
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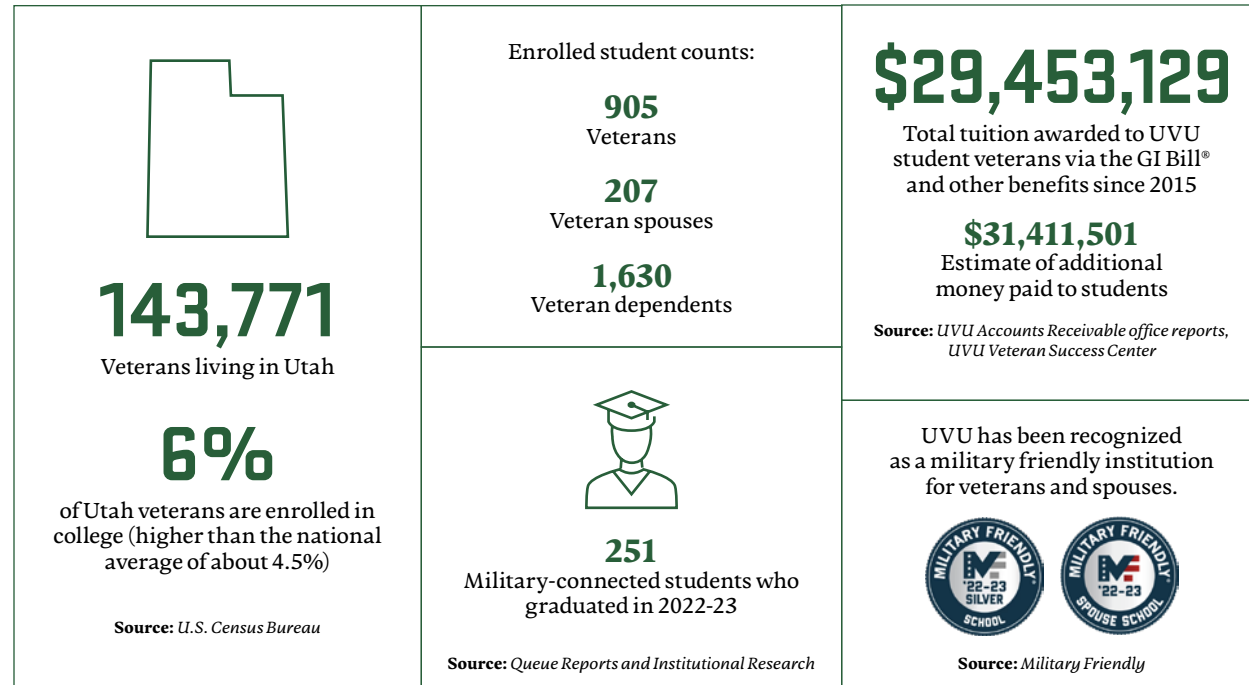
Ever **DEDICATED.**
Ever **SELFLESS.**
Ever **UNITED.**

The Utah Valley University (UVU) Veteran Success Center (VSC) is dedicated to the success of all veterans as they seek to navigate their educational paths.

Serving nearly 3,000 students who are veterans or military-connected each year, the center is committed to partnering with veterans to implement their GI Bill® education benefits and provide opportunities to forge connections with others who have served. The UVU Veteran Success Center provides educational guidance, mentoring, and opportunities that explore and honor the unique position and experiences of each veteran and their family. As the number of veterans seeking higher education continues to increase, providing support and resources through the UVU Veteran Success Center is essential to honoring those who have served and sacrificed.

VETERAN SUCCESS CENTER

At-a-glance



Helping veterans be involved and engaged

It is imperative for a campus veterans' organization to help military-connected students feel more engaged in student life. According to Kathy Snead, director of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, this sense of being involved is a key indicator of whether they will be academically successful. The UVU Veteran Success Center is dedicated to supporting students beyond the classroom. In 2022 and 2023, the VSC hosted seven events for veterans and their families.



Veteran Success Center Events

Salute to Service Basketball Game	284 attendees
Salute to Service Rodeo Event	220 attendees
United We March	210 attendees
Wee Care Trunk or Treat	500+ attendees
Veterans Day Brunch	270 attendees
Thanksgiving Dinner	94 attendees

Source: Institutional Research, SAP / Concur

Nationwide, only 54% of veterans who enroll in college programs complete a degree. Returning to civilian life is a difficult transition. Many veterans face transition issues, while others are recovering from physical and mental injuries. At times, the minutiae of everyday life can be dull or painful. Other times, life beyond service can feel overwhelming. College seems like a clear path, but without special attention too many veterans leave without graduating.

The Utah Valley University Veteran Success Center was established in 2015 to ensure veterans enrolled in UVU have a support system that will allow them to thrive as they complete their degrees. It connects students with campus services, community services, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It helps them access their benefits. It awards scholarships. Perhaps most importantly, the VSC is a community of veterans and service members – a place where they can gather and find the familiar feeling of camaraderie.

There are 143,771 veterans living in Utah right now. Six percent of those veterans are enrolled in college. As the largest public higher education institution in the state, UVU takes its role of educating veterans seriously. It could not do this without the VSC, and the VSC would not exist without the support of donors like you. Veteran and military-connected students make up roughly 4-5% of the student population at UVU.

How the VSC increases retention and engagement:

- Established UVU veteran and military-connected student organization (MIDAS) Military, Individuals, Dependent, And Spouse.
- Signed MOA with VA VITAL program which provides veteran students with mental health support.
- Working with the UVU rodeo team to establish a Veteran Equine Therapy program.
- Helps connect service members and veterans to their VA education benefits.
- Provides staff, peer mentorship, and tutoring.
- Hosts military and veteran engagement activities and events.
- Offers scholarship opportunities.
- Holds graduation recognition and celebration.



Veteran Success Center Goals

- 1 Provide Scholarships
- 2 Fund Experiential Learning Opportunities
- 3 Create the Veteran Success Center Endowment



How you can
MAKE AN IMPACT





EverGREEN, the Campaign for UVU, marks an exciting time to give to an institution that values the service and sacrifice of veterans. The UVU Veteran Success Center will continue to support service-connected students to see them through to graduation. We can only achieve our goals with your help.

Goal 1: Provide Scholarships

It is a common misconception that VA education benefits cover the full cost of education. Often, veteran students run out of benefits before their last year of schooling when seeking a four-year degree or higher education. Scholarships can help bridge the gap in those benefit shortcomings. The VSC works with sponsors to secure scholarship funds to facilitate the completion of educational goals.

Scholarships in 2022-23

Purple Heart — 5 awarded in 2022-23

UVU recognizes recipients of the Purple Heart with a tuition waiver option; however, students must still pay fees. The waiver covers up to 18 credits of Utah resident undergraduate tuition per semester and/or up to \$10,000 graduate tuition total (not per semester).

Scott B. Lundell Scholarship — 2 awarded in 2022-23

This scholarship is awarded to surviving dependents of Utah-resident military members killed in the line of duty after 9/11/2001.

Veteran Success Scholarship — 15 awarded in 2022-23

The UVU Veteran Success Scholarship was established in 2016 to benefit UVU students who are either veterans or spouses or dependent children of veterans. The scholarship is awarded in two categories:

- Merit-based (based upon academic performance)
- Needs-based (based on financial need)



Goal 2: Fund Experiential Learning Opportunities

UVU believes in education that provides real-world hands-on learning opportunities. The VSC helps veteran students translate their military experience into marketable civilian skills. The VSC wants to expand partnerships with UVU alumni, local entrepreneurs, and veteran-friendly businesses to develop internship opportunities and job fairs for veteran and military-affiliated students.

Goal 3: Create the Veteran Success Center Endowment

Establishing an endowment for the center will secure the availability of programs, support, and scholarships for military-connected UVU students for decades. The Veteran Success Center will have the necessary funds to grow and expand. An endowment allows for new opportunities, better retention for UVU students, and flexibility for development.



Faith's Story

“Going to college later in life was daunting. My GI Bill was ready to use, but there was a lot of worry and uncertainty involved in starting onto the path of higher education. The UVU Veteran Success Center made the whole process infinitely easier and was there to assist me whenever there was a problem. The expertise, patience, and attention to detail they showed in helping me achieve my associate degree took a huge weight off my mind and let me focus on my degree and classwork without worry. My transition to student life was easy and comfortable with their help.”

Faith Nielson '23, BFA Entertainment Design



*Ever*GRATEFUL.

By sharing your means with Utah Valley University or any of its educational programs, you can enrich the lives of veterans and service members who, in turn, will positively impact our communities.

Thank you!

For more information, please contact:

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