

# *JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY*

## *SUPPORT TO THE MILITARY*



Jacksonville University is one of our nation's premier private universities. We have been named one of "America's Best Colleges in the South for 10 consecutive years by U.S. News and World Report. Founded in 1934, Jacksonville University offers more than 70 majors, including degrees in business, marine science, mathematics, and nursing, as well as those in the more contemporary and specialized fields of aviation, music, film and animation, and sports management. Our University's many strengths include small class sizes, as small student-to-faculty ratio, quality faculty, and competitive admissions policies. The University combines the advantages of a liberal arts college with the strengths of an urban comprehensive university. Our academic programs and resources prepare students for success in their chosen careers and for advanced study at the graduate level. Connections with area businesses and civic organizations provide meaningful internships and educational opportunities outside of the classroom. Our vision of preparing each student for life-long success in learning, achieving, leading and serving permeates every element of the University.

Our University is proud to be one of the most military friendly campuses in the United States. We value our military students not only for their service to our country but also the leadership, life experience and maturity they bring to the educational environment on our campus. To honor our commitment to our military community, we are implementing multiple initiatives that will significantly enhance our support to military students. Our comprehensive approach to assimilating our military into the Jacksonville University community significantly enhances the military student experience. We see the incredible value that veterans' leadership, life experience and maturity bring to the educational environment on our campus. The University's traditional students benefit greatly from their veteran student colleagues. Outlined below is an overview of our military support initiatives.

- **University President, faculty, and staff are personally committed to fully supporting military students by continually seeking new and innovative programs that enhance our support.**
- **Jacksonville University Military History.** Throughout our history, we have been a strong supporter of our nation's military by serving veterans, active duty military, and military families. Many of our University's Presidents have been military veterans and our staff today has 3 of the 20 Jacksonville area Veterans of Influence. Our first student body president was a World War II disabled veteran and we have produced over 1,500 Navy and Marine officers through our Navy ROTC Program. The Jacksonville University Military Community encompasses our University's commitment to the military with active duty students; student veterans; Navy ROTC; military family members utilizing the GI Bill; faculty veterans; staff veterans; and students from Wounded Warrior Project and Children of Fallen Patriots, totaling almost 600.
- **Our designation as a "Military Friendly School" and one of the "Best Colleges for Veterans" is emblematic of the University's commitment to the military.**



- **Veteran Student Coordinator.** Deidre Willette serves as the Veteran Student Coordinator to guide prospective and current students from application to graduation. Our goal is to assist with the transition from military service to the education environment. Deidre can be contacted at (904) 256-7638 or [dwillet1@ju.edu](mailto:dwillet1@ju.edu).
- **Faculty and Staff Awareness of the Military.** A Military 101 course to educate our faculty and employees about the military is provided through seminars and the University's intranet. This course provides an awareness to the value that military and veteran students bring to the campus and the transition process to college that military students experience.
- **Military Veterans Career Track.** Jacksonville University has developed a unique Veteran Career Track that leverages the experience of our military students as they seek meaningful careers.
- **Military Student Orientation and Forums.** Each semester the University hosts an Orientation to share and communicate all the resources available to Military and Veteran students. In addition, each semester the Chief Government, Military and Community Officer hosts a Military and Veterans Open Forum to listen to students' needs and concerns.
- **Defenders Den** –The University has created the Defenders Den, a veterans only dedicated space staffed by the Greater Jacksonville Area USO.
- **Retired Flag Officers and Senior NCO reception for Military Students.**
- **First semester Post 9/11 GI Bill Military Students are provided a book voucher.**
- **Military Veterans are honored through initiatives such as the Jacksonville University Month of Heroes, President's Veterans' Day Message, and others.**
- **Military Students conduct an annual meeting with the University President.**
- **Student Veterans of America (SVA)** [www.studentveterans.org](http://www.studentveterans.org) Jacksonville University has an award winning SVA Chapter. The Mission of the SVA is to provide military service members and veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education through graduation. The Jacksonville University SVA promotes communication and interaction to encourage veterans helping veterans. We sponsor organizational operations and social events and networking opportunities that include family, loved ones, and veteran supporters. Our Chapter plans and supports events that will aid in the recognition of national holidays and members of the armed forces. The Chapter's contact is [SVA@jacksonville.edu](mailto:SVA@jacksonville.edu) and we are located in the Defenders Den in the Founders Building on the University campus.
- **VA Work Study positions** – Jacksonville University offers VA work study positions on campus. Students work on the University's military and veteran student initiatives.
- **Discounts are offered in the Jacksonville University bookstore and cafeteria.**
- **Veterans' Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (VBSN) Program.** Jacksonville University is one of only nine institutions to receive a Health and Human Services grant as part of the VBSN program. This program builds on the healthcare knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired by veterans during their military experience by awarding academic credit for prior healthcare training and other nursing-related learning experiences. Veterans who completed the VBSN program will receive assistance with National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) test preparation, career planning guidance, and transition into civilian professional registered nurses.
- **Community Service.** Jacksonville University provides multiple opportunities to military students for community service.

- **Northeast Florida Military Veteran College Network.** Jacksonville University has founded the Northeast Florida Military Veteran College Network (NFMVCN) to enhance the collaboration and sharing of best practices of the area's universities, military installations, County Veterans' Service Officers, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders.
- **Jacksonville University**