

Supporting Student Veterans

Physical Therapist Assistant Program, Mercer County Community College, October 2015

“No matter what political views faculty and staff members have, they should honor a student veteran’s service and respect the student’s privacy.”

-American Council on Education (2011)

MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EDUCATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTRY’S SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN. IN ADDITION, THE PTA PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGES MILITARY SERVICE DURING THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS.



The following key points are important to remember when working in the clinical environment with a student veteran:

1. It is vital that student veterans are aware that his or her Clinical Instructor understands his/her needs.
2. Encourage student veterans to talk to you if they encounter any issues that influence their ability to meet the course objectives.
3. Expect the same performance from student veterans, but remain cognizant of absences related to Veteran Affairs medical appointments or reserve-duty obligations.
4. Do not assume that all student veterans deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
5. Avoid placing a veteran in an uncomfortable position by asking them to share any military experiences or disclose opinions.
6. Historically, one of the most insensitive questions that a veteran may be asked is, “Did you kill anyone”? As the Clinical Instructor, if such a question is posed to your veteran student, it is important that you clarify that this is an inappropriate question and not acceptable in your facility.
7. Additional questions that are considered insensitive and inappropriate are: “Have you served overseas?” “Have you served?” “Where have you served?” These questions do not respect the student’s privacy and it makes an inherent assumption that service to our country is only defined as oversea deployment.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, PLEASE KNOW THAT OUR VETERAN STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO CAMPUS RESOURCES THAT YOU CAN DIRECT THEM TO:

EMAIL VETS@MCCC.EDU

OR CALL 609-570-3240



Resources:

American Council on Education. "Promising Practices in Veterans' Education: Outcomes and Recommendations from the Success for Veterans Award Grants." 2011.

Retrieved from:

<http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/Promising-Practices-in-Veterans-Education.pdf>

Middlesex County College. "Being a Veteran Friendly Campus: Some Helpful Tips." 2015. Retrieved from:

Should you have any additional questions about supporting student veterans in the clinical environment, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Thank you for your continued support for our PTA students and the clinical education needs of our profession.

