

Valuing our Veterans Support and Assistance Policy, 4.03

Chapter 4: Student

Responsible Office: Enrollment Management

Applies to: Students

Approved: 04/19/2022

Policy: Rhodes State College is committed to the success of service members and veteran students as they pursue a degree and/or certificate. The purpose of the Valuing Our Veterans Support and Assistance Policy is to ensure that service members and veterans receive the support and assistance set forth in the Ohio Revised Code, Section 3345.421 (B) and guide the College in providing the appropriate services.

Guidelines:

I. Definitions

In alignment with the Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.42, this policy utilizes the definitions for the terms “service member” and “veteran”:

- a. **Service Member:** A service member is defined as a person who is serving in the armed forces of the United States.
- b. **Veteran:** A veteran is defined as any person who has completed service in the armed forces, including the National Guard of any state or a reserve component of the armed forces, and who has been discharged under honorable conditions from the armed forces or who has been transferred to the reserve with evidence of satisfactory service.

II. Support and Assistance Provided to Service Members and Veterans

The College will provide the following to support and assist its service members and veterans:

- a. Appoint at least one staff member to serve as the College’s Veterans Certifying Official.
- b. Refer service members and veterans to local, state and/or federal agencies if the service member or veteran may be eligible for services.
- c. Work with the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) to develop a veteran-friendly campus that increases the opportunity for service members and veterans to succeed academically.
- d. Work with other Ohio institutions of higher education to disseminate and share promising practices for serving service members and veterans effectively.
- e. Promote a veteran-friendly campus by utilizing the ODHE structure to disseminate and share promising practices statewide for serving service members and veterans effectively.
- f. Train appropriate faculty and staff to increase awareness of the mindset and unique needs of service members and veterans returning from combat zones and/or tours of duty overseas.

- g. Provide access to a College counselor, with a Masters in Social Work (MSW) and/or Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW).
- h. Offer priority for course registration.
- i. Offer free tutoring.
- j. Provide Accommodative Services for qualified service members and veterans.
- k. Encourage service members and veterans to join and participate in: a Student Veterans Organization on campus; “safe zones” for service members and veterans through a student service member/veteran club, organization, or association; and campus-wide awareness training.
- l. Provide a student orientation session specifically for service members and veterans.
- m. Recognize the service of service members and veterans at various College events, including a Service Member/Veterans Appreciation Day and graduation.
- n. Maintain institutional policies and procedures that prevent barriers to service member and veteran success, including, but not limited to, offering priority for course registration and free tutoring.
- o. Empower those working directly with service members and veterans to provide services designed to promote educational achievement.
- p. Provide training, in partnership with Department of Veterans Affairs, in the proper certification methods for certifying officials on each campus.
- q. Maintain an appeals procedure for students, as outlined in the Student Complaint and Grievance Policy, who are veterans or service members for resolving disputes regarding the awarding of college credit for military experience.
- r. Communicate with eligible persons about educational and training benefits to encourage the use of GI Bill benefits, as well as services and assistance offered by the institution.
- s. Work with the legislature, workforce and higher education community to identify and develop statewide policies to ensure seamless transition to higher education for all students.
- t. Educate the College community of the benefits of the Post 9/11 GI Bill; and
- u. Connect returning service members and veterans with services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through the College’s veterans’ student services.

III. Workforce Training and Education

The College will provide access for service members and veterans in postsecondary education and training and assist with the transition to civilian work. Online Tool

- a. An online tool will be provided for exploring careers, searching programs in Ohio and providing consumer reporting information on earnings and employment outcomes for each program. The website will include information targeted to service members and veterans regarding shortening the time to receive a credential or degree through:
 - i. Expanding credit for prior learning;
 - ii. Articulation and transfer agreements;
 - iii. Bridge programs, including the Manufacturing Pathways, provided through the West Central Ohio Manufacturing Consortium;
 - iv. Applied Baccalaureate degrees; and

- v. Links to other online tools through the University System of Ohio Talent Development Network.

IV. Workforce Development Services

The College will promote seamless workforce development services for service member and veteran job seekers such as those provided at Ohio Means Jobs Centers, campus career centers, and through affiliates.

V. Withdrawal for Military Deployment

Students who are members of the Ohio National Guard or members of the Armed Forces of the United States may request and shall receive a military leave of absence in the event of military deployment. Affected students may request a total withdrawal for the term with a refund of tuition and fees paid. The student may also request a grade of Incomplete; however, the course work must be completed by the end of the semester following deployment. To be considered for a total withdrawal for military deployment, the affected student must submit applicable deployment orders to the Veterans Affairs Certifying Official in the Records Office.

Related Policies or Procedures:

[Student Complaint/Grievance Policy](#)

Compliance References:

- [Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.42](#)
- [Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.421](#)

History:

| | Date: | Reason: |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| Issued: | 12/16/2014 | Adoption of the Valuing our Veteran’s Support and Assistance Policy |
| Revised: | 03/15/2015 | Revisions to the definition section |
| Revised: | 04/19/2022 | Revisions to include priority registration per Ohio Revised Code |

This policy and / or procedure provides operating principles for Human Resources issues at Rhodes State College. It supersedes any prior policy covering specific subject. This policy and / or procedure may be suspended, modified or cancelled as determined by the College. This policy and / or procedure does not create a contract of employment, nor is it a condition of employment between the College and its employees.