About VSSS

Veteran Student Support Services, a unit within the Office of the Dean of Students, recognizes the selfless service and sacrifices made by members of our armed services and the unique challenges associated with transitioning into a university setting. To support this transition, we are committed to providing veterans, active military personnel and dependents with the services needed to make the most of their educational experience.

Mission

Our mission is to honor, build, and maintain a community of students, staff, faculty, and alumni who have served in the armed forces. Through this community, we seek to bring awareness and appreciation of veteran issues to the University of Illinois, while also providing opportunities and services that address veteran students’ needs and remove barriers to their success.

Staff

Our unit is staffed by a full-time Assistant Dean of Students who devotes fifty percent time as a Veteran Student Services Coordinator. Additionally, this unit is supported by four half-time VA Work Study students and the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Key Features

• Identify veteran students through multiple pathways, such as admissions, financial aid, faculty and staff referrals and outreach. Serve as a bridge to assist veterans with their transition to the University
• Increase awareness of veterans’ issues throughout the campus community by way of professional development and training, discussion panels, newspaper columns, and activities spearheaded by the Illini Veterans (student veteran organization).
• Partner with key departments that offer specialized services for student veterans, such as the Counseling Center, Career Center, Disability Resources and Educational Services, New Student Programs, the Women’s Resources Center, LGBT Resource Center, and relevant cultural centers.
• Provide deployment and re-entry support to activated students and their dependents.
• Maintain a Student Veterans Lounge that has approximately 1200 student contacts per semester

Demographics — Fall 2013

| Total number of veterans on campus served by VSSS | 409 |
| Total number of dependents on campus served by VSSS | 32 |
| Total number of veterans by gender | 81 female (20%) 328 male (80%) |
| Top three colleges where veterans are enrolled (undergrad) | LAS, ENG, AHS |
| Top three colleges where veterans are enrolled (grad) | BUS, EDU, ENG |