



Methodology

2022 Military Times Best for Vets: Colleges

This year's Best for Vets: Colleges survey includes responses from more than 300 schools that answered more than 70 questions on their services and programs specific to military students — whether active-duty, veteran or families and dependents of servicemembers.

Student success metrics (completion, retention, persistence, GPA¹) are the most important factor in determining the relative ranking of schools on this year's list, followed closely by the range of military-specific resources and the level of financial assistance they offer. Admissions and registration policies, human resources and assorted miscellaneous considerations also factor into the scoring rubric.

The scoring rubric below reflects revisions instituted in response to feedback from a series of focus interviews with a range of schools prior to the survey launch. As comparison to last year's rubric overview shows, financial aspects were most dominant last year, followed by military resources and success metrics at nearly equal levels.

2022	Points	% of Total
Success	45.80	28.26%
Resources	37.25	22.99%
Financial	36.00	22.22%
Admissions / Registration	23.00	14.19%
Employees	13.00	8.02%
School	7.00	4.32%
Grand Total	162.05	100.00%

2021	Points	% of Total
Financial	51.50	38.90%
Resources	27.50	20.77%
Success	26.40	19.94%
Admissions / Registration	20.00	15.11%
Employees	4.00	3.02%
School	3.00	2.27%
Grand Total	132.40	100.00%

¹ Due to varying interpretations of how to answer the questions on graduation rates, these data were excluded from the analysis. Efforts will be made next year to clarify this important question.

Because of revised scoring, there are significant fluctuations in the placement of many schools within the rankings. Therefore, direct comparison of year-over-year rankings is not appropriate as a gauge of an individual school's actual progress in serving military-connected students.

It's important to note that schools are scored not by the sheer number of "points" in the rubric that they earned, but by the percentage of points they earned out of the potential number of points achievable by that type of school. (For example, matters of in-state tuition are moot for private schools; therefore points related to in-state tuition were only counted for public institutions.)

Each school's participation in this year's survey was voluntary and Military Times only included schools that responded to the vast majority of questions. In some cases, a school's failure to respond to specific questions may have adversely impacted their score. As a courtesy, schools that did not answer the questions on success metrics were awarded a baseline number of points for those data fields.

We appreciate that the higher education landscape is continually evolving, with innovative pedagogical models under constant development. Any broad and data-based survey cannot convey many nuances in the difference between each school. Additionally, standard (and therefore commonly available) data on higher education often does not account for the unique educational paths of military students. This survey aims to account for the wide spectrum of educational models in our country, while prioritizing the baseline experiences of military-connected students. We advise readers that the best "fit" between an individual student and a school can only be gauged by more specific inquiry into the needs of the student and the institutional character of each school.

Many questions in this year's survey were honed and developed in consultation with representatives from several schools covering the range of institution types. We welcome further feedback as we continually strive to keep Best for Vets: Colleges the most timely and relevant resource for military students interested in utilizing their much-deserved educational benefits to further themselves as citizens.

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