Office of the Secretary of Defense

APPENDIX A TO PART 68—DOD VOLUNTARY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN DOD OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (USD(P&R)) AND [NAME OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION]

1. Preamble.
   a. Providing access to quality postsecondary education opportunities is a strategic investment that enhances the U.S. Service member’s ability to support mission accomplishment and successfully return to civilian life. A forward-leaning, lifelong learning environment is fundamental to the maintenance of a mentally powerful and adaptive leadership-ready force. Today’s fast-paced and highly mobile environment, where frequent deployments and mobilizations are required to support the Nation’s policies and objectives, requires DoD to sponsor postsecondary educational programs using a variety of learning modalities that include instructor-led courses offered both on- and off-installation, as well as distance learning options. All are designed to support the professional and personal development and progress of the Service members and our DoD civilian workforce.
   b. Making these postsecondary programs available to the military community as a whole further provides Service members, their eligible adult family members, DoD civilian employees, and military retirees ways to advance their personal education and career aspirations and prepares them for future career and technical pursuits, both inside and outside of DoD. This helps strengthen the Nation by producing a well-educated citizenry and ensures the availability of a significant quality-of-life asset that enhances recruitment and retention efforts in an all-volunteer force.

2. Purpose.
   a. This MOU articulates the commitment and agreement educational institutions provide to DoD by accepting funds via each Service’s tuition assistance (TA) program in exchange for education services.
   b. This MOU is not an obligation of funds, guarantee of program enrollments by DoD personnel, their eligible adult family members, DoD civilian employees, and retirees in an educational institution’s academic programs, or a guarantee for installation access.
   c. This MOU covers courses delivered by educational institutions through all modalities. These include, but are not limited to, classroom instruction, distance education (i.e., web-based, CD-ROM, or multimedia) and correspondence courses.
   d. This MOU includes high school programs, academic skills programs, and adult education programs for military personnel and their eligible adult family members.
   e. This MOU articulates regulatory and governing directives and instructions:
      (1) Eligibility of DoD recipients is governed by federal law, DoD Instruction 1322.25, DoD Directive 1322.08E, and the cognizant Military Service’s policies, regulations, and fiscal constraints.
      (2) Postsecondary educational programs provided to Service members using TA on military installations outside of the United States, shall be operated in accordance with guidance from DoD Instruction 1322.25, DoD Instruction 1322.19, section 1212 of Public Law 99–145, as amended by section 518 of Public Law 101–198; and under the terms of the Tri-Services contract currently in effect.
   f. This MOU is subject at all times to Federal law and the rules, guidelines, and regulations of DoD. Any conflicts between this MOU and such Federal law, rules, guidelines, and regulations will be resolved in favor of the Federal law, rules, guidelines, or regulations.

3. Educational Institution (Including Certificate and Degree Granting Educational Institutions) Requirements for TA.
   a. Sign and adhere to requirements of this MOU, including Service-specific addendums as appropriate, prior to being eligible to receive TA payments.
      (1) Those educational institutions that have a current MOU with DoD will sign this MOU:
         (a) At the expiration of their current MOU;
         (b) In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.f.; or
         (c) At the request of DoD or the specific Military Service holding a separate current MOU. The DoD Voluntary Education Partnership MOU (which includes the Service-specific addendums) is required for an institution to participate in the DoD TA Program. An “installation MOU” (which is separate from this MOU) is only required if an institution is operating on a military installation. The installation MOU:
            i. Contains the installation-unique requirements that the installation’s education advisor coordinated, documented, and retained; is approved by the appropriate Service voluntary education representative; and is presented to the installation commander for final approval.
            ii. Cannot conflict with the DoD Voluntary Education Partnership MOU and governing regulations.
      (2) Educational institutions must comply with this MOU and the requirements in Service-specific addendums that do not conflict with governing Federal law and rules, guidelines, and regulations, which include, but are not limited to, Title 10 of the U.S. Code; DoD Directive 1322.08E, “Voluntary Education Partnership MOU.”

...
American Council on Education, and the Registrars and Admissions Officers, the of the American Association of Collegiate and Award of Credit developed by members forth in the Joint Statement on the Transfer its in conformity with the principles set in this MOU may receive a letter of warning, be denied the opportunity to establish new pro- grams, have their MOU terminated, be re- moved from the installation, and may have the approval of the issuance of TA with- drawn by the Service concerned.

b. Be accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

c. Comply with the regulatory guidance provided by DoD and the Services.

d. Participate in the Military Voluntary Education Review (MVER) process when re- quested. This requirement applies not only to institutions providing courses on military installations, but also to those institutions that provide postsecondary instruction that is not located on the military installation or via DL.

e. If the institution is a member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), the institution shall:


2. Provide processes to determine credit awards and learning acquired for specialized military training and occupational experience when applicable to a Service member’s degree program.

3. Recognize and use the American Coun- cil on Education (ACE) Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services to determine the value of learning acquired in military service. Award credit for appropriate learning acquired in military service at levels consistent with ACE Guide recommendations and those transcripts by the Community College of the Air Force, when applicable to a Service member’s program.

f. If an institution elects not to be a mem- ber of SOC, the institution shall:

1. Disclose its transfer credit policies prior to a Service member’s enrollment.

(a) If the institution accepts transfer credit from other accredited institutions, then the institution agrees to evaluate these credits in conformity with the principles set forth in the Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit developed by members of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the American Council on Education, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The institution will then award appropriate credit, to the extent practicable within the framework of its institutional mission and academic policies.

(b) Decisions about the amount of transfer credit accepted, and how it will be applied to the student’s program, shall be left to the insti- tution.

2. Disclose its policies on how they award academic credit for prior learning experi- ences, including military training and experi- ence documentation, provided that the course content has not changed.

3. Decisions about the amount of experi- ence awarded, and how it will be applied to the student’s program, shall be left to the institution. Once an insti- tution has evaluated a particular military training or experiential learning opportunities provided by the Military Services, at or before a Service member’s enrollment.

(a) In so far as the institution’s policies generally permit for the award of credit for comparable prior learning experiences, the institution agrees to evaluate the learning experiences documented on the Service member’s official Service transcripts, and, if appropriate, award credit.

(b) The official Service transcripts for military training and experience documenta- tion are: Army/ACE Registry Transcript Sys- tem, the Sailor/Marine ACE Registry Tran- script System, the Community College of the Air Force transcript, and the Coast Guard Institute transcript.

(c) If general policy permits, transfer credit may:

1. Replace a required course within the major;

2. Apply as an optional course within the major;

3. Apply as a general elective;

4. Apply as a basic degree requirement; or

5. Waive a prerequisite.

(d) Decisions about the amount of experi- ential learning credit awarded, and how it will be applied to the student’s program, shall be left to the institution. Once an insti- tution has evaluated a particular military training or experiential learning opportunity for a given program, the institution may rely on its prior evaluation to make future decisions about awarding credit to Service members with the same military training and experience documentation, provided that the course content has not changed.

(e) Disclose to Service members any aca- demic residency requirements pertaining to the student’s program of study, including total and any final year or final semester residency requirement at or before the time the student enrolls in the program.

(f) Disclose basic information about the in- stitution’s programs and costs, including tuition, fees, and other charges to the Serv- ice member. This information shall be made readily accessible without requiring the Service member to disclose any personal or contact information.

(g) Prior to enrollment, provide Service members access to an institutional financial aid advisor who will provide a clear and com- plete explanation of available financial aid,
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to include Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and appropriate loan counseling before offering, recommending, or signing up a student for a loan.

(b) Prior to enrollment, provide Service members with information on institutional “drop/add,” withdrawal, and readmission policies and procedures to include information about the potential impact of military duties (such as unanticipated deployments or mobilization, call-up, and temporary duty assignments) on the student’s academic standing and financial responsibilities. For example, a Service member’s military duties may require relocation to an area where he or she is unable to maintain consistent computer connectivity with the institution, which could have implications for the Service member’s enrollment status. This information will also include an explanation of the institution’s grievance policy and process.

(7) Conduct academic screening and competency testing; make course placement based on student readiness.

(b) Designate a person or office at the institution that will serve as a point of contact for Service members seeking information about available, appropriate academic counseling, financial aid counseling, and student support services at the institution. The point of contact:

(a) Shall have a basic understanding of the military tuition assistance program and veterans’ education benefits, and a familiarity with institutional services available to assist Service members;

(b) Does not need to be exclusively dedicated to providing these services and, as appropriate, may refer the Service member to other individuals, both on and off-campus, with an ability to provide these services.

g. Adopt an institutional policy banning inducements (including any gratuity, favor, gift, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, transportation, lodging, meals, or other item having a monetary value of more than a de minimus amount) to any individual or entity (other than salaries paid to employees or fees paid to contractors in conformity with all applicable laws) for the purpose of securing enrollments of Service members or obtaining access to TA funds as part of efforts to eliminate aggressive marketing aimed at Service members.

h. Refrain from high-pressure recruitment tactics as part of efforts to eliminate aggressive marketing aimed at Service members. Such tactics include making multiple unsolicited phone calls to Service members for the purpose of securing their enrollment.

i. Refrain from providing any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on securing enrollments or Federal financial aid (including TA funds) to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting, admission activities, or making decisions regarding the award of student financial assistance. These tactics are discouraged as part of efforts to eliminate aggressive marketing aimed at Service members.

4. TA Program Requirements for Educational Institutions.

a. One Single Tuition Rate. All Service members attending the same institution, at the same location, enrolled in the same course, will be charged the same tuition rate without regard to their Service component. This single tuition rate includes active duty Service members and the National Guard and Reservists who are activated under Title 10 and using Title 10 Military Tuition Assistance, in order to assure that tuition rate distinctions are not made based on the Service members’ branches of Service.

(1) It is understood tuition rates may vary by mode of delivery (traditional or online), at the differing degree levels and programs, and residency designations (in-state or out-of-state). Tuition rates may also vary based on full-time or part-time status, daytime vs. evening classes, or matriculation date, such as in the case of a guaranteed tuition program.

(2) It is also understood that some States have mandated State rates for Guard and Reservists within the State. (Those Guard and Reservists not activated on title 10, U.S. Code orders).

b. Course Enrollment Information. The educational institutions will provide course enrollment, course withdrawal, course cancellation, course completion or failure, grade, verification of degree completion, and billing information to the TA issuing Service’s education office, as outlined in the Service’s regulations and instructions.

(1) Under section 1232g of title 20, United States Code (also known as “The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act” and hereinafter referred to as “FERPA”), DoD recognizes that institutions are required to obtain consent before sharing personally identifiable non-directory information with a third party. Service members must authorize the institutions to release and forward course enrollment information required in 4.b. to DoD prior to approval of course enrollment using tuition assistance.

(2) If an institution wants to ensure confidentiality during the transmission of data to the third party, then the institution can contact the appropriate Service TA management point of contact to discuss security and confidentiality concerns prior to transmitting information.

c. Degree Requirements and Evaluated Education Plans.

(1) Institutions will disclose general degree requirements for the Service member’s educational program (education plan) to the
member and his or her Service. These requirements, typically articulated in the institution’s course catalog, should:

(a) Include the total number of credits needed for degree completion.
(b) Divide the coursework students must complete in accordance with institutional academic policies into general education, required, and elective courses.
(c) Articulate any additional departmental or graduate academic requirements, such as satisfying institutional and major field grade point average requirements, a passing grade in any comprehensive exams, or completion of a thesis or dissertation.

(2) In addition to providing degree requirements, the institution shall provide to Service members who have previous coursework from other accredited institutions and relevant military training and experiential learning an evaluated educational plan that indicates how many, if any, transfer credits it intends to award and how these will be applied toward the Service member’s educational program. The evaluated educational plan will be provided within 60 days after the individual has selected a degree program and all required official transcripts have been received.

(3) When a Service member changes his or her educational goal or major at the attending school and the Services’ education advisor approves the change, then the institution will provide a new evaluated educational plan to the Service member and the Service. Only courses listed in the Service member’s education plan will be approved for TA.

(4) Degree requirements in effect at the time of each Service member’s enrollment will remain in effect for a period of at least one year beyond the program’s standard length, provided the Service member is in good academic standing and has been continuously enrolled or received an approved academic leave of absence. Adjustments to degree requirements may be made as a result of formal changes to academic policy pursuant to institutional or departmental determination, provided that:

(a) They go into effect at least two years after affected students have been notified; or
(b) In instances when courses or programs are no longer available or changes have been mandated by a State or accrediting body, the institution shall work with affected Service members to identify substitutions that would not hinder the student from graduating in a timely manner.

d. Approved and TA Eligible Courses.

(1) Approved Courses. If an eligible Service member decides to use TA, educational institutions will enroll him or her only after the TA is approved by the individual’s Service. Service members will be solely responsible for all tuition costs without this prior approval. This requirement does not prohibit an educational institution from pre-reg-
(2) TA will be limited to tuition and reimbursable fees that are specifically required as a condition of enrollment in a particular course or term of enrollment of the Service member. These fees, that are charged to all students and are refundable to the same extent as tuition in accordance with the institution's tuition refund policy, at the start of the course, will in no case exceed the rate charged to nonmilitary students, unless agreed upon in writing by both the institution and the Service.

(3) Tuition charged to a Service member will be paid in accordance with the institution's published refund policy and will go to the State institution. Tuition charged to a Service member requests tuition and fees to attend the State institution.

(4) Institutions will ensure that course materials and electronic accessibility are readily available, either electronically or in print medium, and provide the Services with the new tuition and fee charges. This will ensure that all institutions will ensure adequate print and non-print media resources to support all Service members with the same institutional designation as non-Service members who completed the same course work for a degree from the same institution.

(5) Refunds of Government-funded TA will be paid in accordance with the institution's published refund policy and will go to the Service, not to the Service member.

(6) The institution will refund to the Service the total amount of tuition and fees paid for a course that is cancelled by the institution.

(7) TA invoicing information is located in the Service-specific addendums attached to this MOU.

(I) Materials and Electronic Accessibility.

(1) Institutions will ensure that course materials are readily available, either electronically or in print medium, and provide information about where the student may obtain class materials at the time of enrollment or registration.

(2) Institutional representatives shall refrain from encouraging or requiring students to purchase course materials prior to confirmation of sufficient enrollments to conduct the class. Students will be encouraged to verify course acceptance by CCAF (Air Force only) or other program(s), with the installation education advisor before enrolling or requesting TA.

(3) Institutions will provide, where available, electronic access to their main administrative and academic center's library materials, professional services, relevant periodicals, books, and other academic reference and research resources in print or online format that are appropriate or necessary to support the courses offered. Additionally, institutions will ensure adequate print and non-print media resources to support all courses being offered are available at base or installation library facilities, on-site institution resource areas, or via electronic transmission.

1. Graduation Achievement Recognition.

(a) The educational institution shall issue, at no cost to the Government, documentation as proof of completion, such as a diploma or certificate, to each student who completes the respective program requirements and meets all financial obligations.

(b) Credentials should be awarded to Service members who have completed a certificate, diploma, or degree program. The list will include the degree level, major, and program requirements completion date.

(c) The academic credentials for certificate, diploma, or degree completion should reflect the degree-granting institution and campus authorized to confer the degree.

(i) If the Service member attends a branch of a large, multi-branch university system, the diploma may indicate the credential of the specific campus or branch of the institution from which the student received his or her degree.

(ii) Credentials should be awarded to Service members with the same institutional designation as non-Service members who completed the same course work for a degree from the same institution.

(d) The institution shall provide students with the opportunity to participate in a graduation ceremony.

J. Reporting Requirements and Performance Metrics.

(1) The institution shall provide reports via electronic delivery on all DoD TA recipients for programs and courses offered to personnel as required by the cognizant Service. This includes, but is not limited to, TA transactions, final course grades to include incompletes and withdrawals, degrees awarded, certificates earned, evaluated educational plans, courses offered, class rosters of Service members, and military graduation.

(a) All reporting and transmitting of this information shall be done in conformity with
all applicable privacy laws, including FERPA.

(b) Institutions shall respond to these requests in a timely fashion, which will vary based on the specific nature and scope of the information requested.

(2) The cognizant Service may evaluate the institution’s overall effectiveness in administering program, courses, and customer satisfaction to DoD. A written report of the findings will be provided to the institution. The institution shall have 90 calendar days to review the report, investigate if required, and provide a written response to the findings.

(3) The Services may request reports from an institution at any time, but not later than 2 years after termination of the MOU with such institution. Responses to all requests for reports shall be provided within a reasonable period of time, and generally within 14 calendar days. Institutional response time will depend on the specific information sought by the Services in the report.

5. Requirements and Responsibilities for the Delivery of On-Installation Voluntary Education Programs and Services.
   a. The requirements in this section pertain to institutions operating on a military installation. An installation MOU:
      (1) Is required if an institution is operating on a military installation.
      (2) Contains only the installation-unique requirements coordinated, documented, and retained by the installation’s education advisor, with concurrence from the appropriate Service voluntary education representative, and presented to the installation commander for final approval.
      (3) Cannot conflict with the DoD Voluntary Education Partnership MOU and governing regulations.
   b. Educational institutions shall:
      (1) Agree to have a separate installation MOU if they have a Service agreement to provide on-installation courses or degree programs. The installation MOU contains the installation-unique requirements that will be coordinated, documented, and retained by the installation’s education advisor, with concurrence from the appropriate Service voluntary education representative, and presented to the installation commander for final approval.
      (2) Comply with the installation-unique requirements in the installation MOU that do not conflict with the DoD Voluntary Education Partnership MOU and governing regulations.
      (3) Agree to coordinate degree programs offered on the installation with the installation’s education advisor, who will receive approval from the installation commander, prior to the opening of classes for registration.
      (4) Admit candidates to the institution’s on-installation programs at their discretion; however, priority for registration in installation classes will be given in the following order:
         (a) Service members.
         (b) Federally funded DoD civilian employees.
         (c) Eligible adult family members of Service members and DoD civilian employees.
         (d) Military retirees.
         (e) Non-DoD personnel.
      (5) Provide the installation’s education advisor, as appropriate, a tentative annual schedule of course offerings to ensure that the educational needs of the military population on the installation are met and to ensure no course or scheduling conflicts with other on-installation programs.
      (6) Provide instructors for their installation courses who meet the criteria established by the institution to qualify for employment as a faculty member on the main administrative and academic center.
      (7) Inform the installation education advisor about cancellations for classroom-based classes on military installations per the guidelines set forth in the separate installation MOU.
   c. The Services’ designated installation representative (usually the installation education advisor), shall be responsible for determining the local voluntary education program needs for the serviced military population and for selecting the off-duty educational programs to be provided on the installation, in accordance with the Services’ policies. The Service, in conjunction with the educational institution, shall provide support services essential to operating effective educational programs. All services provided will be commensurate with the availability of resources (personnel, funds, and equipment). This support includes:
      (1) Classroom and office space, as available. The Service will determine the adequacy of provided space.
      (2) Repairs as required to maintain office and classroom space in “good condition” as determined by the Service, and utility services for the offices and classrooms of the institution located on the installation (e.g., electricity, water, and heat).
      (3) Standard office and classroom furnishings within available resources. No specialized equipment will be provided.
      (4) Janitorial services in accordance with installation facility management policies and contracts.
   d. The Service reserves the right to disapprove installation access to any employee of the institution employed to carry out any part of this MOU.
   e. Operation of a privately owned vehicle by institution employees on the installation will be governed by the installation’s policies.
   f. The installation education advisor will check with his or her Service’s responsible
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APPENDIX B TO PART 68—ADDENDUM FOR EDUCATION SERVICES BETWEEN [NAME OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION] AND THE U.S. AIR FORCE

1. Purpose. This addendum is between (Name of Educational Institution), hereafter referred to as the “Institution,” and the United States Air Force (USAF). The purpose of this addendum is to provide guidelines and procedures for the delivery of educational services to Service members, DoD civilian employees, eligible adult family members, military retirees, and non-DoD personnel not normally administered and proctored within the traditional, in-the-classroom setting.

2. Responsibilities.
   a. USAF Education and Training Section (ETS) Chief. The USAF ETS Chief shall:
      (1) Maintain a continuing liaison with the designated Institution representative and be responsible for inspections and the acceptance of the Institution’s services. The ETS Chief will assist the Institution representative to provide military and USAF culture orientation to the Institution personnel.
      (2) Review requests from Institutions with no on-installation MOU for permission of installation access and space within the ETS to counsel current students, provide information briefings and materials, attend education fairs, and provide other informational services approved by the installation commander. Approval depends on the installation commander. Approval of any school eligible for Military TA will be extended equally to all such schools; same time allotment, space, and frequency.
      (3) Assist the Institution or refer them to the information technology contractor for training in the use of the Academic Institution Portal (AI Portal) regarding input of Institution information, degree offerings, tuition rates, grades, invoices, degree completions, and search tools pre-built into the USAF online Voluntary Education System.
   b. Institutions shall:
      (1) Appoint and designate an Institution representative to maintain a continuing liaison with the USAF ETS Chief.
      (2) Provide general degree requirements to each airman for his or her education program and the ETS as soon as he or she decides to register with the Institution and while awaiting final evaluation of transfer credits.
      (3) Assume responsibility for the administration and proctoring of all course examinations not normally administered and proctored within the traditional, in-the-classroom setting.
      (4) Provide to airmen, upon their request, information on Institution policies including, but not limited to, course withdrawal dates and penalties, course cancellation procedures, course grade publication, fees (covered by military tuition assistance (MIL TA) and not covered by MIL TA), billing practices, and policy regarding incompletion of a course. Face-to-face counseling is not required.
      (5) Register and use the AI Portal to input Institution basic information, degree offerings, tuition rates, invoice submission, course grade submission, degree completions, and to pull pre-established educational institution reports while conducting business with the USAF.
      (6) Submit one consolidated invoice per term via the AI Portal for each class in