



Center for Military-Connected Students (CFMCS)
Faculty Senate Presentation
Oct 4, 2023



CFMCS Overview

History

- ✓ Created in Jul 2022 by merging Office of Military and Veteran Student Services and Ft. Knox campus.
- ✓ Reports to the Executive Vice President and Provost, through Senior Vice Provost.
- ✓ Five staff members
 - ✓ Belknap Campus: Center Director, Manger Department of Veterans Affairs Education Benefits, Department Coordinator
 - ✓ Ft. Knox Campus: Assistant Director, Program Assistant

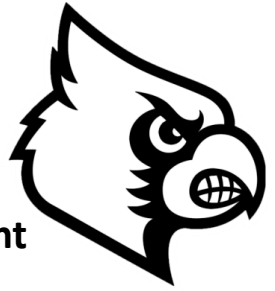
Vision

- ✓ The Center for Military-Connected Students will be the national model for empowering and supporting military-connected student success through innovation, accessibility, connection, and appreciation.

Mission

- ✓ The Center for Military-Connected Students provides life changing academic opportunities to services members and their families by streamlining access to military service benefits, connecting them to services and to each other, and creating a community of support enabling them to achieve their goals.





Why Military-Connected

Neither “Military” nor “Veteran” **captures entire population...** “Military-Connected” is an overarching term for a **student group which includes:**

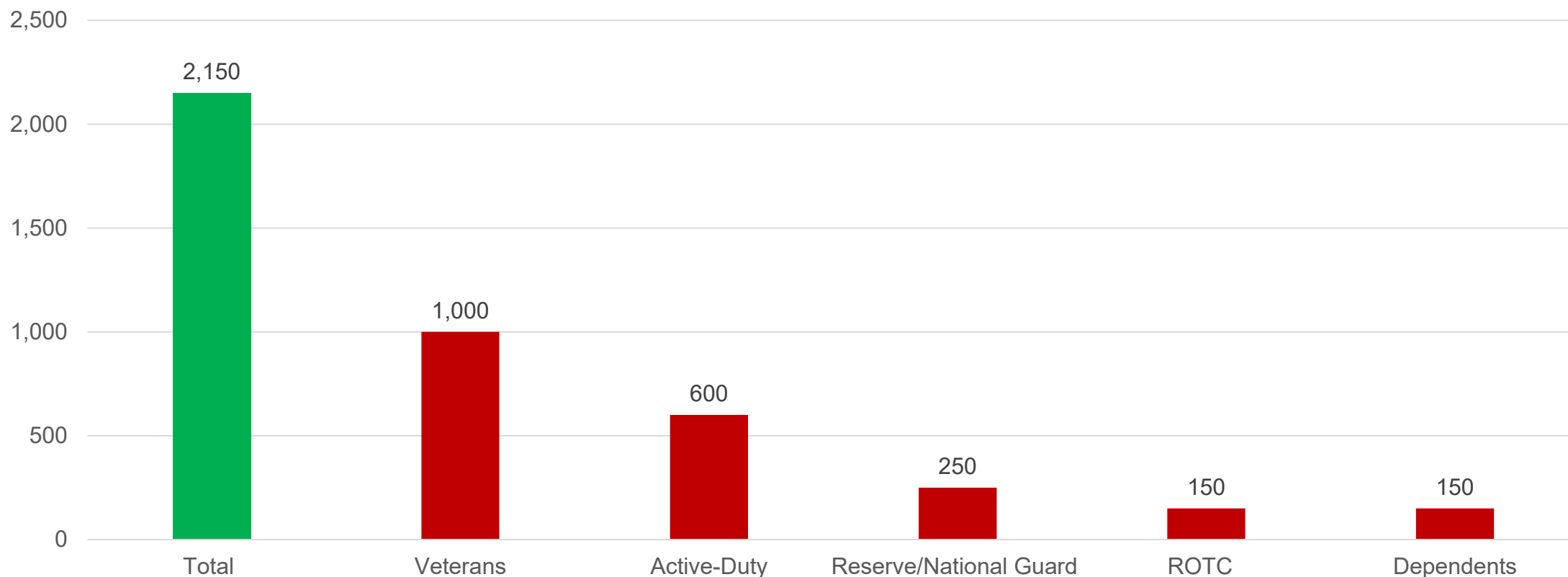
- **Veterans:** as defined by 38 U.S.C. § 101: a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable
- **Active-Duty** members: as defined by 38 U.S.C. § 101(21): someone with full-time duty in the Armed Forces, other than active duty for training
- **Reserve** members: part time role, generally do not move with the military, fall under federal authority
- **National Guard** members: part time role, generally do not move with the military, fall under authority of the state (Governor)
- **Dependents:** A Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) term, generally, the spouse or child of a service member
- **Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets:** At UofL, Army or Air Force ROTC cadets in training to become officers when they graduate/commission



UofL Military-Connected Student Demographics Fall 2023 (not final data)

Total University Enrollment: ~23,000

Military-Connected Enrollment



Military-Connected students' equal **+9%** of total enrollment & more than **twenty percent** of fully Online Program enrollment

CFMCS

Brodschi Hall ribbon cutting, Oct 12, 1-1:30 (between Brandeis Law School and Ekstrom Library)

1st floor: student lounge, study space, meeting/wellness room, kitchenette, ADA compliant restrooms with a shower.

2nd floor: Center staff offices and hotel office space for student services (SFAO, Bursar, Registrar, etc., to work from).

Summary of CFMCS key services

- ✓ Identify and track military-connected students
- ✓ Policy advocacy for military-connected students
- ✓ Undergraduate admissions actions for currently serving members, veterans and dependents using VA education benefits
- ✓ Advocacy and assistance for Graduate admissions
- ✓ Advising and processing of VA Education benefits
- ✓ Military Tuition Assistance (TA) processing
- ✓ Residency coding for military-connected students
- ✓ Connecting students to campus and community services and resources
- ✓ Enabling students to connect with each other



George L. Brodschi Hall
Center for
Military-Connected Students

2218 W. Centennial Walk

UofL Benefits for Military-Connected Students **(Just so you are aware)**



Military Tuition Rate

Active-Duty members and eligible members of the National Guard and Reserve receive a special tuition rate of \$250 Per Credit Hour for all undergraduate programs, and most graduate programs. For more information contact miltuition@louisville.edu.

Application Fee Waiver

All members of the Armed Forces of the United States (any branch, any component) receive a waived application fee.

Priority Course Registration

Veterans and all members of the Armed Forces of the United States (any branch, any component) receive priority course registration.

Faculty “So What's”



CMFCS is a **resource for faculty** with questions or who are dealing with military-connected student issues.

A veteran student has a service animal, and the faculty is not sure if they should allow it in the classroom.

Who do you consult with, contact?

There are two questions that we are permitted to ask. Is the animal a Service Animal required because of a disability? What work or task has the animal been trained to perform? If the student answers yes to the first question and can identify a task the animal is trained to perform for them, the animal meets the definition of a service animal and should be permitted in the classroom. Students are not required to provide proof of disability or register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), demonstrate the task, or have the animal wear a harness identifying it as a service animal. If the instructor is unclear whether the answer to the second question is satisfactory, consulting with the DRC is appropriate. If the animal is not a service animal, the student in this scenario does not have a right to have the animal in the classroom. Consider notifying the Center for Military-Connected Students (**milconstu@louisville.edu**).

It is early in the semester and faculty notices a veteran student is not attending class, and when they do, they are withdrawn and not engaging. **How do you handle this situation?**

Recommend you speak to the veteran student to try to understand the circumstances causing them to withdraw and not engage. It might be that the veteran student is struggling with the material but is not willing to admit it due to military culture creating an atmosphere where members do not want to ask for help. You can put the student in touch with REACH which offers free tutoring for a range of courses (**reach.louisville.edu/tutoring/**). If it is not course related, but more “life related” you might put the student in touch with the University Counseling Center (**<https://louisville.edu/counseling>**). Consider notifying the Center for Military-Connected Students (**milconstu@louisville.edu**).

Faculty “So What's”



A student tells their faculty member that their unit is deploying, or that they are being activated for a natural disaster and asks the professor what the institution’s withdrawal policy is. **How do you handle this situation?**

The institution has a comprehensive policy governing withdrawals. That policy can be found under the “Policy Tile” on the Center for Military-Connected Students website (<https://louisville.edu/military-connected-students>). Consider notifying the Center for Military-Connected Students (milconstu@louisville.edu).

During an open class discussion, a veteran student walks out to not get upset with another student’s comments about servicemembers/veterans. **How do you handle this situation?**

You may try to reach out to the veteran student to check on their wellbeing. You may reference the Dean of Student’s Response Guide, which may be useful [Response Guide for Difficult Student Situations — Dean of Students \(louisville.edu\)](#). If necessary, you can contact the Dean of Students (dos@louisville.edu). Consider notifying the Center for Military-Connected Students (milconstu@louisville.edu).

Red Bird Training



- Red Bird training is a collaboration between the University Career Center, the CFMCS, and the Office of Adult Learning.
- The training is for faculty and staff who wish to learn more about the military-connected student experience.
- The goal is to create Ally's who know about the issues and concerns, unique perspectives, strengths, and challenges of military-connected students.
- These individuals assist our military-connected student population and serve as resources to other faculty, staff or students who have questions about military-connected student issues. They are NOT expected to be experts who can solve all military-connected students issues.
- The training takes place 1x per quarter, next session is Oct 10, 10:30-12:30 p.m. with lunch provided.
- To register <https://forms.office.com/r/SjZ74nNE4H>



Contact CFMCS with questions about Military-Connected Students

milconstu@louisville.edu

Questions?