

College Credit for Military Training and Experiences

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) establishes educational pathways for service members through programs that are authorized and funded by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), including those that award college credit for military training and experience. These programs are essential to America's all-volunteer military force, and they exist to:



Enhance readiness
across the military
and broader American
workforce



Create incentives
for service member
retention and
recruitment



Increase social mobility
and provide smoother
transitions into civilian life

The DoD's programs for translating military training and occupational experiences into academic credit include the **Military Training Evaluation Program (MTEP)**, the **Joint Services Transcript (JST)**, and the **ACE Military Guide**. Funding is allocated through the DoD's education and training budgets, with resources for partnerships—such as with the American Council on Education (ACE)—to conduct evaluations and maintain essential program components. These programs enable service members to accelerate their progress in earning degrees and credentials at our nation's colleges and universities.

HOW IT WORKS

Under **MTEP**, military service branches work closely with the ACE, a higher education nonprofit recognized for its national leadership in evaluating nontraditional learning and a trusted resource for developing credit equivalencies for military learning.¹ ACE assesses learning experiences in military courses and occupations that cover skills such as leadership, accounting, electronics, and software development to create recommendations for appropriate college-level credit.

MTEP's course and occupation credit recommendations are integrated into the **JST**—the official academic record used by service members to present their military learning to colleges and universities.

The **ACE Military Guide** is an interactive platform that reaches multiple end-users, connects institutions with JST data, and provides tools to integrate credit recommendations into an institution's course catalog. It also helps service members to easily find relevant credit recommendations and make informed college decisions.

IMPACT

To date, more than 25,600 military courses and 3,700 occupations have been evaluated through MTEP, with credit recommendations documented in the ACE Military Guide. This work benefits the entire military force while:

- **Realizing efficiencies:** Transfer credits for more than 30,000 credit hours of prior learning experiences reduces DoD's tuition assistance costs by nearly \$1 billion, based on data from the top 25 academic institutions that have received these funds
- **Reducing time to degree completion:** College credit recommendations enable the average service member to start college with more than 25 credit hours, shortening the time required to earn a degree
- **Creating financial savings:** Credit recommendations allow the average service member to save \$6,350, decreasing out-of-pocket expenses and student loan debt

¹ MTEP operates under the umbrella of the **DoD Voluntary Education (VoEd)** Programs and is authorized by **10 U.S.C. § 2007** (governing statutes for military education and training programs), **32 CFR 68 / DoD Instruction 1322.25** (policy guidance for VoEd programs), and **authorizations in NDAA's** that date to 1974.