

Your guide to earning the red stole!



A gift to all graduating student-veterans to honor their accomplishments, service, and sacrifice.

Information

To learn more, please contact:

Matthew Kuchta

VA Coordinator
Phone: (203) 837-8840
KuchtaM@wcsu.edu
wcsu.edu/veterans
Old Main 206C
181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810

Veterans Affairs Regional Office

Buffalo, NY
(888) 442-4551

VONAPP

vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp

Joint Services Transcript (JST)

jst.doded.mil

Community College of the Air Force

www.au.af.mil/au/barnes/ccaf/transcripts.asp

Danbury Vet Center

(203) 790-4000
457 N Main Street, Danbury, CT 06811

SSG Joseph Benete, Jr.

Connecticut Army National Guard Recruiter
Cell: (203) 948-4317
Office: (203) 791-8-270
Higgins Hall 013
181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810



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Office of
Veterans Affairs
at WCSU



Thank you for considering Western Connecticut State University as you transition from the military to college and into your future career. I would also like to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' for your dedication, service and sacrifice for our great country – from one veteran to another. I know what it means to serve and this is why I take pride in improving and expanding resources available to current and former service members.



A new mission has been presented to you: go to college, earn your degree and begin the rest of your life. I and the WCSU community are here to guide you onto the right path and provide you all necessary resources in order to successfully complete this mission. WCSU offers a full variety of degree programs, meaningful internships as well as unparalleled Veterans Affairs Educational Benefits expertise.

As the Veterans Affairs Coordinator, I provide one-on-one service for all veterans, service members and families of service members. I am always available via e-mail or phone and will not stop until all your questions are answered. I work with students to determine how going to school will impact one's life and custom-tailor a plan to make the most of all benefits available. Developing this roadmap to your future is pivotal to your success and I will be here to help you through whichever path you choose!

Thank you again and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,



Matthew T. Kuchta
(203) 837-8840
KuchtaM@wcsu.edu

Why Western?

- Dedicated, full-time, single point of contact for all questions and to guide transition (also currently serving in the CT Army National Guard)
- The degrees you want and need: Justice & Law Administration, Business, Art, Nursing & many more
- Priority Class Registration for all student-veterans and dependents using VA benefits in order to get all classes needed for your degree
- College credit for military training and experience: Physical Education is waived and most free-electives are covered (based on training and military transcripts)
- WCSU leads the state in developing military-friendly policies and initiatives
- Access to private lounge with computers, television, snacks and work areas only for student-veterans
- CT Army National Guard Recruiter stationed on-campus to assist with any questions about continuing service

What does all this mean to me?

- Always get guidance and answers to your questions with real-time, personalized service from someone still serving
- Ability to graduate with a meaningful degree sooner than 4-years when taking advantage of intersession classes
- All certifications to the VA completed within 24-hrs which result in quick-payments from the VA

Who is at WCSU? By the numbers...

- 207 student-veterans and dependents using benefits since Fall 2015 semester
- Average student-veteran GPA of 3.10 (Fall 2015)
- Of all student-veterans at WCSU, 30 percent female & 70 percent male
- Student-veterans from all services: 60 percent from the U.S. Army, USMC – 40 percent from USAF, NAVY and USCG
- \$3,144/month BAH for E-5 w/ dependents at WCSU (depends on VA rating & course load)

What do I do now?

- Contact WCSU Office of Veterans Affairs
- Apply to WCSU
- Complete VONAPP and elect to receive your VA benefit
- Gather records: immunizations, DD Form 214, Certificate of Eligibility
- Meet with advisor & register for classes
- Complete Veterans Educational Registration Form & Statement of Understanding
- Meet with Veterans Affairs Coordinator to finalize courses and to certify VA