



California State University

SAN MARCOS

CSUSM Veteran's Benefit Support Specialist:

The Veteran's Benefit Support Specialist (VBSS) is a VA Work-study who provides peer-level support as part of the CSUSM Professional Development/ESTEP Program team. VBSS assist in achieving the goals of the program by ensuring that all program participants achieve their "Grad Day +1" goals. Students from all majors at CSUSM are eligible to participate. Each VBSS will be responsible for 2-4 students in supporting the transition to university life.

The VBSS opportunity is a VA work-study position, which requires that the prospect be utilizing VA Education benefits to include Chapter's 30, 31, 33, and 35. The VBSS and the Veteran's Retention Counselor (VRC) are key staff members who work together to develop a community conducive for student success and encourage positive behavior through Whole Person Wellness.

Program Goals:

- Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for program participants.
- Ensure consistent and sustained support from campus leadership.
- Implement an early alert system to ensure all participants receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.
- Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all participants, together with the creation of a designated space for them (even if limited in size).
- Collaborate and coordinate various services for veterans with local communities and organizations, including government agencies.
- Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on participants, including demographics, retention, and degree completion.
- Provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans.
- Develop systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans

Qualifications:

For consideration, candidates must possess the following qualifications:

- Serve as an energetic and enthusiastic VA work-study aid in student's success at CSUSM.
- Demonstrate the ability to serve as a role model and mentor for new students by modeling integrity and inclusivity.
- Possess the ability and commitment to communicate and work with diverse groups of people, identities, and experiences.
- Minimum CSUSM 3.0 grade point average and minimum grade point average of 3.0 for previous semester, but all applicants will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Second semester junior and first semester seniors are preferred, but other qualified applicants will be considered on a case by case basis.



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Responsibilities:

VBSS's of the CSUSM Professional Development Program will have the following responsibilities:

- Assist and connect students in becoming familiar with university resources.
- Attend required weekly meetings with the Veterans Retention Counselor.
- Maintain regular contact with your mentees through one on one, face to face interactions.
- Be available for formal and informal interaction with students by phone, text, social media, email, or in-person.
- Attend at least one professional development opportunity with students per semester. The peer mentor has the freedom to choose those opportunities, however the Veteran's Retention Counselor must approve those opportunities one week prior.
- Serve as a communications link between the Veteran's Retention Counselor and students.
- Document interactions through an online meeting log.
- Complete weekly online check-ins
- Fulfil self-selected, semester-based learning outcomes

Benefits:

- Guide new students through their first semester at CSUSM.
- Learn both campus and community resources for the benefit of the VBSS' own "Grad Day +1" goals.
- Expansion of one's professional network.
- Gain valuable management experience.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Build close relationships with new students

Time Commitment:

- Variable depends on needs of mentee and the availability of VBSS. However minimal time requirement is 10 hours per week for the duration of the Fall 2017 semester, and may work a maximum of 20 hours per week.
 - At least 50 percent of work-time must be executed in the Veterans Services office