From One Family to Another: Veterans and Dependents Transferring to a UC

Description: This presentation will provide information on how you can help veterans and students with dependents best represent their experiences and narratives on the admission application. We will also cover campus resources to support and enhance the academic success of your students as they transition from admission to enrollment.
Facts, information and admission tips
UC is a national leader in transfer student success and we are growing! Every community college in CA sends students to UC.

Each UC campus has a range of services and programs to support transfer students. We recognize that both veterans and students with dependents may have different needs than the “typical” community college transfer student.

In this presentation we will highlight tips and resources that may be helpful to these types of students and specify the resources that are available to support them.

Source: https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/california-community-college-enrollments-uc
Non-traditional Experience

You work every day with students who are not typical transfers. You know that students with dependents as well as Veterans are usually older, often have gaps in their higher education, and of course, and balance school with family and/or work responsibilities.

Advising students to explain all gaps in education is helpful in the admissions review process. For example, UC admission staff want to understand more about students who may have worked full time and were not enrolled full-time or were not enrolled at all for a period of time. UC staff would like for the student to discuss what were their work and/or family responsibilities. We want to know how was the student spending their time when they were not enrolled.

Students should include this information on the admission application, whether in Academic Comments, work experience and/or the Personal Insight Questions. Admission staff will find this information useful in understanding the context of the student. It doesn’t matter where the student includes the information, rather that the information appears somewhere in the application.
UC admission staff are interested in more than the academic qualifications of students. Context is critical.

Many veterans and students with dependents have valuable stories to tell, and UC admission staff want to hear them!

Many veterans discuss their leadership or challenges during their time in military service. Some discuss skills they’ve acquired, courses they’ve taken, or work experience from their military service.

Students with dependents talk about the challenges of balancing school with work and family responsibilities. For example, it is important for us to know what the student accomplishes and balances on a daily basis; making sure their own children do their homework, providing transportation to school and community events, going to work and still preparing dinner for the family. Students who care for elderly family members speak of multiple hospital and doctor visits, making sure prescriptions are taken, and taking care of all the daily needs of family members. There are many demands on the time of students with dependents that impact their academic journey and success and understanding that context may make a difference in admission selection.

How many students do you speak with who have been promoted and then don’t talk about that on their application? Or students who train other employees on their job? We want to hear about these day to day stories.
Resources:
Although most UC campuses provide the same resources, each UC may have slightly different names, accommodations, or many resources may be housed at different units/offices.

Academic Resources
• All UC students are assigned an academic advisor (major specific), but some campuses also identify a specific advising liaison for veterans or for students with dependents. This may be through regular advising, housing and residential life advising, or major/program advising offices.
• Depending on the campus, many academic counselors create partnerships with other campus entities and provide “drop-in hours” for veterans and students with dependents. For example, specific “drop-in” hours at the Transfer Center and Veteran Resource Center.

Extra-Curricular
• Health Care: The UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UC SHIP) offers medical, pharmacy, dental, vision, mental health and substance use disorder benefits for UC undergraduate and their eligible dependents.
• UC SHIP cost can be waived if student chooses to use their own provider. [https://www.ucop.edu/ucship/](https://www.ucop.edu/ucship/)
• Financial Aid: Some campuses have a financial aid liaison who works specifically with veterans, and students with dependents because financial aid for them, may be complex and requires more guidance to understand the options.
• All campuses offer at least one club or organization for veterans and for students with dependents.
Note: All campuses offer TRANSFER housing. All campuses except Merced currently offer FAMILY housing.

The photo on the left is family housing at University Village at Berkeley. On the right, Palo Verde is one option for students with dependents at UC Irvine.

Configurations of apartments and/or townhomes, costs, and unique features are available on campus housing sites. For a list of all sites: http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/files/campus-housing-admitted-students-2019.pdf

Often, housing and residential life as well as your Veterans, Transfer and/or Students with Dependents programs may have information on SCHOOLS located near family housing.
UC is military-friendly. In fact, most campuses have earned a “military-friendly” designation from U.S. military-affiliated sources.

Of students who self-report veteran status on the UC admission application, 67% are CCC transfer students. Remember, data on campus enrollments of veterans are kept at the campus level. These are data from the admission application.

UC conducts the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey. The chart on the right shows the percentage of students who self-reported veterans status as enrolled students. As you can see, undergraduate veteran enrollment is strong and growing.

Source: [https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/uc-student-veteran-community.pdf](https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/uc-student-veteran-community.pdf)
When working with your students, these questions may help guide them to the campus that will best meet their needs and expectations.

As you may know, UC expects students to be enrolled full-time. Exceptions are granted, usually for students who work full-time or are called to active duty. Each campus will have its own process for approving this exception, and in some cases this may occur at the department/program level. For example, part-time status may be granted by the college (e.g., the College of Engineering at UCSB) or by the individual major (e.g., English at UCLA).

Location is an essential consideration when students have work and family responsibilities. UCLA, Berkeley, and San Diego typically enroll more veterans in part due to the accessibility of the location. However, some campuses provide additional services that may impact the application and ultimately enrollment choice. For example, some campuses offer shuttles from campus to family housing, helping veterans and students with dependents with transportation concerns. Source: https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/uc-student-veteran-community.pdf

Personal “fit”. All students should consider the campus that best meets their needs and expectations, but for veterans this might include a strong veteran community, liaisons with different offices on campus (e.g., Financial Aid, the Veterans Administration, or the Registrar’s Office). Over half of veterans indicate they feel “Valued as an individual” and agree with the statement “I belong at UC”. Source: https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/uc-student-veteran-community.pdf

Affordability depends on family circumstances. With the Blue & Gold Opportunity program, and a commitment to keeping tuition flat, UC students overall graduate with less debt ($21,008) than the national average for public four-year universities ($27,550). However, time to degree is one way of reducing overall costs. 47% of veteran transfer students graduate in two years after enrollment. Over 80% graduate in three. More than half of all undergraduates do not pay tuition. Combining these facts with veterans resources such as the Veterans Coordinator will help your students get the support and information they need at UC. Source: https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/uc-student-veteran-community.pdf
Active-duty or veterans of the U.S. military who have completed courses provided by the military can inform UC on the admission application. Students should then be prepared to submit official military transcripts (e.g. Joint Services Transcript (JST), SMART, AARTS, etc.) after enrollment at UC. Doing so is optional.

UC may award transfer credit for some of military courses if the content was equivalent to a course taught at any campus in the UC system. Because it will be unknown until after a student matriculates at UC if any transfer credit will be awarded the better advice to give active-duty or veterans is to be sure the will meet the minimum junior transfer unit requirement (60 sem/90 qtr) without any possible credit for military courses.

For clarity, military service courses is different from courses completed at a military-based college/university such as the Community College of the Air Force, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point or the U.S. Naval Academy. If a student was enrolled in a military college they must report all courses/grades as they would for CCC courses/grades.
• The UC campuses have a wide array of resources and services that we offer our veterans students, through our Veteran Resource Centers. Although all Veteran Resource Centers differ in size and certain services, we do have key...that will help our veteran students succeed.

• Veterans receive priority enrollment at UC
• Some campuses offer courses specifically for veterans
• We all offer peer advising, where a student veteran, already acclimated to the university, can show a new veteran the campus, the different offices, buildings, departments and resources available.
• All campuses celebrate student veterans. Some offer a week-long Veterans Week, you see UCSD’s banner for their announcement here. Some campuses have Dependent Days, for the children and families of student veterans. Others have service opportunities for the entire campus to honor veterans on Veterans Day.
• All campuses have a liaison who help veterans with financial aid. On some campuses, this person may be the Veterans Coordinator. Others may have a specified person in the Financial Aid office. No matter where the person is located, veterans have a resource to help them navigate financial aid and veterans benefits.
# UC Veteran Resource Centers and contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UC</th>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Email and Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC Berkeley</td>
<td>Cal Veteran Services Center</td>
<td>Ron Williams</td>
<td>Phone: 510.642.0083</td>
<td><a href="http://veteran.berkeley.edu/">http://veteran.berkeley.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Davis</td>
<td>Veteran Success Center</td>
<td>Earl L. Raehsler</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:vaoffice@ucdavis.edu">vaoffice@ucdavis.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="https://opportunity.ucdavis.edu/centers/usc">https://opportunity.ucdavis.edu/centers/usc</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Irvine</td>
<td>Veteran Services Center</td>
<td>Adelí Durón</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:veteran@uci.edu">veteran@uci.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="https://veteran.uci.edu/">https://veteran.uci.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Los Angeles</td>
<td>Veterans Resource Center</td>
<td>Emily J. Ives</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:veteran@saonet.ucla.edu">veteran@saonet.ucla.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="https://www.veterans.ucla.edu/About/Veterans-Resource-Office">https://www.veterans.ucla.edu/About/Veterans-Resource-Office</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Merced</td>
<td>Veteran Services</td>
<td>Michelle Greenwood</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:veteranservices@ucmerced.edu">veteranservices@ucmerced.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="https://veteranservices.ucmerced.edu">https://veteranservices.ucmerced.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Riverside</td>
<td>Veterans Resource Center</td>
<td>Tamara D. Thacker</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:tamara.thacker@uci.edu">tamara.thacker@uci.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="https://studentlife.ucr.edu/veterans">https://studentlife.ucr.edu/veterans</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC San Diego</td>
<td>Student Veterans Resource Center</td>
<td>Iris Ayala-Swindell</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:src@ucsd.edu">src@ucsd.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/veterans/">https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/veterans/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| UC Santa Barbara | Veterans & Military Services | Coby Dillard | Phone: (858) 534-5080 | [http://veterans.ucsb.edu/](http://veterans.ucsb.edu/)

Ensuring transfer success 2019
Characteristics of students with dependents
Did you know?
Parenting undergraduates at UC

- 80% are transfers
- 52% are over the age of 30
- 43% are in STEM fields
- 75% aspire to earn a graduate degree

Source: https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/uc-parenting-students.pdf
These data are from the UC Office of the President, Institutional Research and Planning study on parenting students released in January.

8 out of 10 would return to the same campus, 7 of 10 say they belong at UC. These also show that parenting students are getting the support they need to be successful at UC while balancing family responsibilities.

75% affirm they belong at UC and a visible and vibrant part of the UC community.

81% of parenting students reported they knew a professor well enough to ask for a letter of recommendation. As the same study found, 75% of parenting students aspire to graduate school, this is a good indicator of the quality of the academic experience of parenting students at UC.

Cost is a primary concern, but the study found that over half of parenting students find the cost of attending UC to be manageable. This indicates that parenting students are getting the financial assistance they need to succeed at UC.

Half of parenting students work at UC, but this number includes on-campus employment. Some parenting students may work at the campus child-care center, or in their family housing community.

Source: https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/uc-parenting-students.pdf
Across the UC system, our campuses offer a variety of services for students with children, including but not limited to these shown on the slide.

Prospective students with dependents can google a UC campus’ website [using the search terms: Student-Parents, Students with children, and/or Students with Dependents]

And, at least one campus, UCSD, has a Priority Enrollment Program for Undergraduate Students with Children.

Each of these columns include examples of programs, clubs, services, and/or opportunities for parenting students to find support, connect with other parenting students, locate goods and services and learn more about health and wellness.
## UC resources for students with dependents

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<th>Program/Office</th>
<th>Contact/Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>Student Parent Center</td>
<td><a href="https://studentparents.berkeley.edu/">https://studentparents.berkeley.edu/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>Student Parent Resources</td>
<td><a href="https://hr.ucdavis.edu/departments/worklife-wellness/student-parent/">https://hr.ucdavis.edu/departments/worklife-wellness/student-parent/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Irvine</td>
<td>Student Parent Resources</td>
<td><a href="http://transferhub.ucla.edu/resources/student-parent-resources/">http://transferhub.ucla.edu/resources/student-parent-resources/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>Students with Dependents</td>
<td><a href="https://www.brc.ucla.edu/Programs/Students-with-Dependents/">https://www.brc.ucla.edu/Programs/Students-with-Dependents/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Merced</td>
<td>Calvin E. Bright Success Center</td>
<td><a href="http://learning.ucmerced.edu/">http://learning.ucmerced.edu/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverside</td>
<td>Resources for Student with Family</td>
<td><a href="http://housing.ucr.edu/student-families.html">http://housing.ucr.edu/student-families.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>Resources for Student Parents</td>
<td><a href="https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/wellness-resources/student-parents/index.html">https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/wellness-resources/student-parents/index.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>Non-Traditional Student Resource Center</td>
<td><a href="http://wpse.sa.ucsb.edu/nontrad/student-parents/">http://wpse.sa.ucsb.edu/nontrad/student-parents/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz</td>
<td>Services for Transfer &amp; Re-entry Students</td>
<td><a href="https://stars.ucsc.edu/index.html">https://stars.ucsc.edu/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you!