

# Best Practices

An Overview  
of  
UW Oshkosh  
Military/Veteran  
F.A.C.E.S. Training

Aaron Kloss

UW Oshkosh Veterans Resource Center  
Coordinator

## Objectives of Green Zone Training

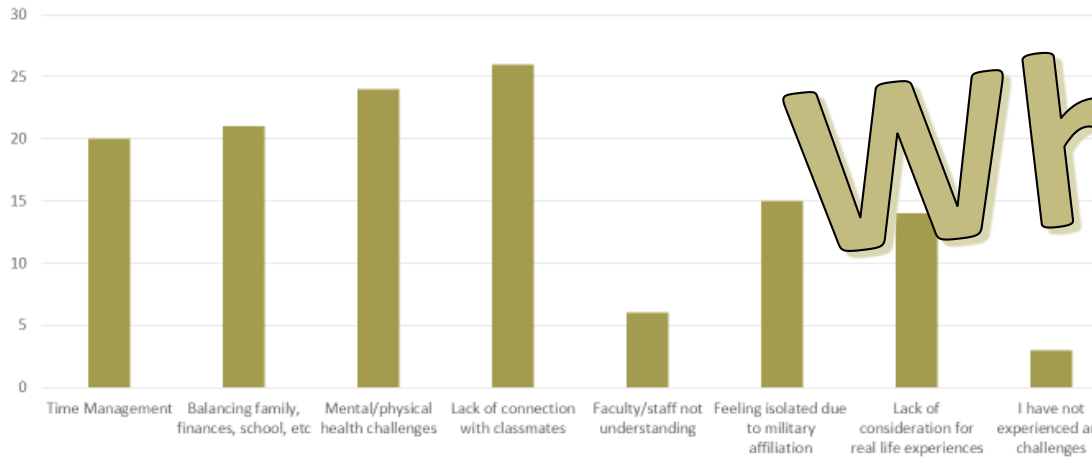
- Describe the demographics of UW Oshkosh veteran and military affiliated students
- Understand military experience, including the emotional cycle of deployment, transitions from military life to veteran life, and experiences individuals in this population face on this campus
- Recognize the strengths of veterans and military affiliated students
- Explain how PTSD, TBI, hearing loss, and other disabilities can affect students' experiences
- Understand the expectations of being an ally
- Know the resources available

# What is F.A.C.E.S?

## Why is this Important?

- Campus culture is different from military culture for both service members and their families
- Some people do not have personal, firsthand experience of life with the military
- Most people have some information about the military, gathered from the media or secondhand accounts

## What are some challenges you have faced transitioning to academic life?



# Why F.A.C.E.S?

## If you have experienced challenges, where have you sought out resources?



# What I wish UWO Staff/Faculty knew about being a military-affiliated student:

"We are REQUIRED to go to training and that our military requirements are non-negotiable for us which interferes greatly with our school."

"I guess the only thing would be a sense of understanding of the work that it took to go through the military then reenter the civilian world and continue on with my college career."

*"There are a lot of stereotypes about people in the military, and they do not apply to everyone."*

"The time commitment for drill."

"It's extremely important to me"

*"Experiences vary greatly."*

*"It sometimes conflict with my class schedule.*

*I need extra time to do some assignments.*

*It can take a toll on your mental health."*

"The staff at the Veterans Resource Center has been essential to my success at UWO."

"We still need help..."

"I wish UWO was more accommodating to non-traditional students."

*"Dependents have their own struggles."*

"Military language is direct, blunt, and bottom-line up front. It is a challenge to change that mentality to academia papers with extra fluff."

"The mental health resources specifically for military."

# Student Voices

"I don't know much about it, so don't assume I have opinions on topics surrounding the military."

"Please don't ask me to do zoom calls during drill, its not going to work."

"Coming to college was a culture shock."

"Weekend drill is not a vacation, it is work and hard to balance combined full-time school with a part time job. When the first solution for staff to take is moving due dates to the LEFT, it only makes things already difficult-more difficult/stressful."

*"Please don't ask what my thoughts and opinions are on what is going on overseas."*

"Being away from loved ones hurts."

"There is an age gap between us and our peers. It makes it difficult to connect."

*"it's really important to me, I love my country and was raised to love my country."*

"Many of us have been out of academia for quite a few years. We are having to relearn how to study and be a student."

"We are unable to focus on school work because when on orders, 100% of our time is focused on military practices and operations."

# PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Offering training once a semester-large scale setting
- Additional trainings available for departments by request
- Online version coming in the future
- Presentations to include:
  - Real veteran stories-Shared by veterans
  - Real life scenarios for walkthroughs

# Final Thoughts

“A student veteran’s path through the higher education landscape can be strewn with potential academic and personal landmines.”

–David DiRamio

We are not experts, but as members of the UW Oshkosh community let us help ease and overcome these landmines. We owe them a chance to have meaningful new careers and lives, from which we will all benefit greatly.