



Request for 2022-23 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name:

Create Date:

Due Date:

Submitter Name:

UW Email Address:

Phone Number:

Department Head Approval:

Department Head:

Requested Amount:

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

Our request last year was \$113,193.00 and our award was \$33,000.00.

Our request this year is \$126,110.00, which is an increase of \$93,110.00*.

Military-connected students make up approximately 20% of the UW Tacoma population. The funding provided by this request will be used by the VMRC to enhance services, build community and a sense of belonging, and provide opportunities for personal and career development, all of which aid in the transition into college, retention, and success of military-connected students. Military-connected includes any student serving on active duty, national guard, reserves, veterans, or their family members. Specifically, the funds will support the collaboration with students, student leaders, registered student organizations, UW Departments, and Community Partners and agencies with the following events:

- Quarterly Welcome and Orientation
- Gold Star Luminary
- Lunch and Learn Workshops
- VMRC Video Game Challenge
- Tri-Campus Veterans Appreciation Week
- Veterans & Memorial Day – Flag Planting
- Military-Connected Appreciation Ceremony/Dinner
- VIBE Trap Tournament
- Wreaths Across America
- Military-Connected & Alumni Ceremony/Dinner
- Veterans' Employment and Training Services
- Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference
- Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) National Conference
- Cook-Off Competitions
- Tri-Campus Memorial Appreciation Week
- Memorial Day Remembrance ceremony
- Memorial Day Mile
- May Mental Health Workshop
- Veterans Graduation Celebration
- ROTC & CSPI Commissioning Ceremonies
- Military-Connected New Student Advising & Registration w/UAA
- PAVE (Student Staffing)

*This is the increase from our FY21 SAF Award to our FY22 SAF Request. The decrease from our FY21 Award to our FY22 SAF Request was \$45,153.00.

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

Students

The VMRC is committed to the success of our Military-Connected students and to providing multiple supports for them as they transition from the military to academia. These student veterans are as committed to contributing to their communities post-graduation as they were to fulfil their military missions. However, they juggle unique challenges that traditional college students don't often face, such as achieving high academic performance while managing competing priorities of family life and employment, accessing benefits, maintaining sound financial health, and finding the right resources to address issues they may be experiencing and align our services with the following goals and indicators of success. Below is the breakdown of graduates from Winter-Autumn 2022 with Veteran status.

- ACTIVE DUTY 10
- CHILD/SPOUSE 187

- DISCHARGED VET 111
- NATL GUARD 3
- RESERVIST 21
- TOTAL: 332

Indicator 1: Ensure every student has opportunities to engage in high-impact practices.

VMRC's Military-Connected Career Development Specialist, the dual role with the VMRC and Career Services, supports those post-graduation successes, providing assessments to help military-connected students identify their goals, develop professional skills, connect with employers for internships and employment, and mentoring students on jobs that match their strengths and interests.

Indicator 2: Enhance student well-being.

The VMRC increased student awareness and satisfaction with resources, support, and infrastructure. Last year the VMRC conducted in-person and online workshops, as well as networking opportunities to improve accessibility and outcomes for many military-connected students.

Communities

Indicator 3: Create and strengthen entry points for the community to partner with UW Tacoma.

The VMRC office has strong community partnerships with organizations such as Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI), PLU's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), Washington State Military Transition Council, and the local community, to provide connections with federal, state, and local Veteran and dependent benefits and opportunities.

Indicator 4: Enhance the economic vitality of the region.

The VMRC empowers these students to achieve their academic goals and connects them to internal campus resources, external community resources, scholarships, work-study opportunities specific to the military-affiliated population, and community networking opportunities to ensure post-graduation success.

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goal 1: Increase professional development and develop mentorship programs catering to our military-connected population through training, workshops, and events. Our university addresses the needs of military-connected students' administrative and educational challenges. The VMRC meets the specific needs of student veterans and their families attending our campus with student services', veteran benefits staff advisors, and the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs' Veteran Liaison, who is experienced with military-friendly policies, services, and resources. Our staff and student involvement within military-connected clubs and organizations were established to create a social group that can perform community service projects, advocate for veterans, and help military-connected students integrate into social networks and programs that have the potential to benefit them post-graduation.

Outcome - The VMRC and SVA members' work is recognized within the Student Veterans of America (SVA) National and Regional Conferences, The National Association of Veteran Program Administrators (NAVPA), and The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) programs. UW Tacoma is nationally recognized by our Student Veterans Organization's operations and programs. The military-connected student population advanced their services into various student clubs and programs, including high officer roles in the Associated Students of the University of Washington Tacoma. This leads into our students' testimonies and affirms our Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) program, which helps navigate student-veterans with on- and off-campus support.

Goal 2: Build a community of resources for UW Tacoma's military-affiliated population. Marketed veteran campaigns offer engagement, participation, and fellowship opportunities through our programs, events, and campus partners.

Outcome - The VMRC student population partners with other students and student leaders, registered student organizations, UW/UW Tacoma Departments and Programs, Faculty and Staff, and Community Partners and agencies. Supporters assist the UW Tacoma VMRC student population with opportunities and resources that resonate with the diverse military community. VMRC has collaborated with various internal and external partners who made significant developments with the Coast Guard College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI). The Coast Guard is committed to recruiting a more diverse officer force, and UW Tacoma is a prominent Minority-Serving Institution. Renewing our partnership, the Coast Guard will continue to support our transfer juniors and seniors with up to two years of paid tuition, full-time Coast Guard salary, housing, and medical benefits.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

The VMRC values the breadth of diversity, strengths, and lived experiences these students bring to the campus and the classroom. To improve our military and veteran-connected students' success with the following meeting and programs:

- Welcome Days and Orientation Virtual Events; the VMRC partners with Academic Advising and Financial Aid to welcome and guide incoming and returning Veterans and Military dependents.
- Veterans Virtual Appreciation Week - The VMRC partnered with the UW Tri-Campus Veterans Week Planning Committee to provide branding events for military-connected students, friends, and supporters with 5K virtual funds, flag-planting by the SVO, and a student veteran spotlight campaign.
- Veterans & Military-Connected Appreciation Ceremony Dinner- "Ways to Give Thanks" with 100 military-connected students RSVP to our special family-friendly ceremony dinner, which included the Hot Shop, a Hands-On workshop career experience for 8 student guests.
- The 2023 SVA National Conference was supported by the previous year's SAF, Student Committee, and Community Events Funds. With our Military Career Specialist's support, 4 students attended a cross-country event to network and seek career planning opportunities.
- The VMRC hosts open house events that welcome incoming and returning Veterans and Military dependents with challenge coins. These events help overcome cultural barriers and help students experience a smooth transition from military life to higher education. It is also an opportunity to meet the VMRC staff and ensure their Veteran education benefits are in order.
- Our Military-Connected students are provided with information, introduced to UWT (UW Tacoma) resources, and allowed to meet other UWT students.
- The VMRC's Military Career Specialist organized 18 joint- workshops during FY 2022-23 to provide resumes, cover letter reviews, interview preparation, and career guidance. UWT Student Veteran Organization (SVO) and the VIBE social events incorporate other departments and invite UWT members and families. They also integrate Mid-Term Pizza Break events inviting all students, Veterans, ROTC Cadets, friends, family, etc.
- The Gold Star Luminary Initiative along the Prairie Line Trail- Student Veteran Organization and the VMRC honor military families' sacrifice and pay tribute to their loved ones lost while serving in the U.S. military by lighting a luminary on the last Sunday in September.

- Husky Halloween Hangout, the VMRC collaborates with other departments inviting UWT and their families to a pumpkin painting and movie watching night.
- Autumn/ Winter Break Events with holiday displays, potlucks, and Cook-Off Competitions trophies.
- The 2023 Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony with our Keynote Speaker, Alexandra McClintock, a UW Tacoma Alumni and 2016 Gold Star Wife.
- May Mental Health Conference focus on chemical dependency, Wellness, disorders, and Veteran-related post-traumatic stress.
- VMRC & PLU held a joint 2022 ceremony to commission 3 Second Lieutenants into the US Army.
- UWT VMRC's Veterans Graduation Celebration - Our annual event celebrates our current military-connected graduates with their military stoles. This event includes the graduates, current or former students, family, faculty, and staff; 81 military stoles were distributed for 2022 commencement thanks to SAFC.

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

The UW Tacoma VMRC has had over 1259 student interactions during Winter- Autumn 2022 and processed over 2266 VA students' benefits and waivers to Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve Service members, and military dependents. The chart below shows the check-in Husky ID card scanner and anonymous feedback on the quality of services and programming. This data did not capture all students attending events and didn't swipe in.

Category /Visits | 2022 | 2021 | Percent Difference

1. General Counseling and Advising | 188 | 139 + 1 (VET NAV) | +29.3%
2. Benefits | 116 | 46 | 86.4%
3. Study Area | 147 | 218 | -38.9%
4. VIBE | 6 | 1 | +142.9%
5. Lounge Area | 257 | 50 | +134.9%
6. Career Counseling | 19 | 9 | +71.4%
7. Initial Processing | 30 | 5 | +142.9%
8. Drop-In Session | 16 | 8 | +66.7%
9. VMRC Events | 110 | * | N/A
10. Meeting | 14 | 14+ 1 (PAVE) | -6.9%
11. Phone | 289 | * | N/A
12. SVO | 7 | 2 | +111.1%
13. Lunch & Learn | 41 | * | N/A
14. Initial Processing/Benefits Counseling | 19 | 1 (Residency)+1(Payments) | +161.9%

The VMRC goal is to increase student success, improve the student experience at UW Tacoma and increase military-connected student engagement, to ultimately increase fall-to-fall retention rates to 80%, and-to-fall persistence rates to 90%.

- Autumn 2022 (Total Enrollment- 4801):
 - 17.83% Of Military-Affiliated
 - 461 of St. used GI Bill Benefits
- Autumn 2021 (Total Enrollment-5027):
 - 17.32% Of Military-Affiliated
 - 465 St. used GI Bill Benefits
- Autumn 2020 (Total Enrollment- 5369):
 - 17.36% Of Military-Affiliated
 - 480 St. used GI Bill Benefits

* Last year, the VMRC updated the Husky Card scanner categories to reduce redundancy and misrepresentation with reasons for visits. Which improved the space usage based on the trends and times that PAVE and SVO utilized to set events and workshops for our military-connected students and guests.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

This is the second year in a row that our university has been recognized as a "Best for Vets" institution, with its first-ever ranking last year as No. 133. This year UW Tacoma ranks #49 on a list in Military Times of the best 50 colleges and universities in the nation for veterans and #1 in the Northwest region. The scoring rubric below reflects that our student success metrics (completion, retention, persistence, GPA) are the most critical factor in determining the relative ranking of schools, followed closely by the range of military-specific resources and the level of financial assistance they offer. Admissions and registration policies, human resources, and assorted miscellaneous considerations also factor into the scoring rubric.

The VMRC is more than just a set of resources; the center is a place to be around people that understand or learn from your experiences. The events and programs created many organic conversations and interactions addressing social, emotional, academic, and career development. A significant element of programming is our Military-Connected Career Specialist, who assists students in career exploration and planning to guide them through the transition from higher education to the workplace. This includes assistance with resumes, cover letters, networking, and other related topics to help prepare students for success. Many students who work with our Military-Connected Career Specialist attend the Annual National Conference (NATCON) as a culminating event in their career search. Attendees of NATCON provide feedback regarding the impact of NATCON on their career search and future aspirations. Recent feedback received from NATCON 2023 attendees is attached. Below are pull quotes from the attendee testimonials gathered from this year's event.

"While attending NATCON there are endless opportunities to network, attend seminars, and get your foot in the door with employers. Seminars range from resume workshops, financial responsibility, and even mental health oriented sessions that educate and teach coping skills."

"Being a part of this event allowed me to feel a part of something again, taking me back to my military days with my fellow comrades. It evoked that connection and the reminder that no matter your age, what time you served, or what role you played, you still belong to something special."

Another example of our meaningful and significant programming is this year's MLK Jr. Breakfast. The Black Student Union and Alumni Relations presented the Student Veteran Organization with the 2023 *Organization Dream Award*, which recognizes student organizations and programs that have demonstrated consistent commitment to diversity and equality through innovative programming, campus and community involvement, activism, and leadership development.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Classified Staff ²	VMRC's Program Operations Specialist will assist the department in supporting the transition of new military-connected students and their families by providing oversight of the PAVE program, supporting the initiatives of Student Affairs, and connecting with campus partners (See Supplemental Document)	E001
		Classified Staff Wages: \$39,120
		Fringe @ 31.8%: \$12,440
	PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$51,560

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Contracted Services	Veteran Appreciation Dinner/Event- Venue	S001 \$4,000
	Military-Connected & Alumni Ceremony/Dinner	S002 \$4,000
	VIBE Trap Tournament (UW Tacoma Military Connected Student Team)	S003 \$200
	Veteran Appreciation Event- Photo Booth	S004 \$700
Travel	SVA, NAVPA, & NASPA National and Regional Conferences registration fees, airlines tickets, hotels, travel expenses, and per diem	S005 \$8,000
	PAVE National and Regional Conferences registration fees, airlines tickets, hotels, travel expenses, and per diem	S006 \$4,000
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Supplies for VMRC office (pens, paper, files, promotional items, utensils, ink, office maintenance, etc).	S007 \$3,000
	UWT VMRC Challenge Coins & ROTC Coins	S008 \$1,000
	UWT VMRC Peer Advisors Notch Operator cap (15 Student-Workers)	S009 \$500
	VMRC 5K/march/event Shirts (Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Veterans Day, etc.)	S010 \$5,000
	Military Family Month (April, May, & Nov.) event with materials and supplies	S011 \$450
	UWT VMRC Patches/Stickers	S012 \$2,000
	VMRC business cards, brochures, & UWT VMRC notebooks	S013 \$600
	VMRC Holiday events, prizes, and seasonal decorations	S014 \$2,000
	Gold Star Luminary Candles and Supplies	S015 \$100
	US Stick flags, banners, and awareness signs (Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, Suicide Awareness, etc.)	S016 \$500
	Military stoles for graduates, military spouses, and dependents	S017 \$9,000
	UWT Veteran Lapel Pins	S018 \$1,000
	UWT Events Winner Trophies (6 per Qrt; 18 total)	S019 \$200
UWT VMRC Peer Advisors Shirt/vest/jacket (15 Student-Workers)	S020 \$1,500	
Food	Veterans Appreciation Cakes (For each of the 7 U.S. Military Birthdays)	S021 \$600
	Military-Connected New Student Advising & Registration w/UAA Reception	S022 \$500
	Military-Connected & Alumni Ceremony/Dinner- Catering	S023 \$6,000
	Veteran Appreciation Dinner/Event- Catering	S024 \$6,000
	U.S. Army War College Fellows Presentation Project with food, music, refreshments	S025 \$200
	VMRC CSPI Commissioning ceremony with food, music, refreshments	S026 \$1,000
	VMRC ROTC Commissioning ceremony with food, music, refreshments	S027 \$1,000
	Memorial Day Remembrance event w/ keynote speaker and cater food for ceremony attendees including students, families, and UWT employees	S028 \$6,000
	UWT VMRC's Veterans Graduation Celebration -This event includes the graduates, current or former students, family, faculty, and staff	S029 \$2,500

	Mid-Term/End of Term Pizza breaks- All students are invited to the pizza break; Veterans, spouses, children, ROTC Cadets, friends, family, etc., meet other UWT students	S030	\$1,500
Equipment	Games and controllers for the VMRC Video Game Challenge events	S031	\$500
	iPad for surveys in VMRC called the "Happy Or Not" kiosk or SEER Analytics Survey. Cost for kiosk, stand, and software)	S032	\$1,000
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:			\$74,550

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$51,560
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$74,550
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$126,110

Supplemental Documents



PAVE PROGRAM OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

The roles and responsibilities of the VMRC Program Operations Specialist



NATCON FEEDBACK

2022-23 Student Feedback



VMRC HEADCOUNT HISTORY

Student ID Card Scanner tracking the number of students utilizing the VMRC suite in TLB307A



SP22 PAVE PROGRESS REPORT

Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) is a peer support program that works one-on-one with student Veterans or dependents transitioning into academic life.



VMRC HISTORICAL HEADCOUNT

Student ID Card Scanner tracking the number of students utilizing the VMRC suite in TLB307A (Starting Since AUT19)