OUR MISSION

The mission of Student Veteran Life is to achieve three main objectives:

- Create centralized services and programming that supports student veterans and their dependents in their academic endeavors;
- Grow and strengthen the veteran community and identity by cultivating a sense of pride in the sacrifices that student veterans have made in service to their country; and
- Represent the unique position and needs of our veteran constituents.

ONCE SERVED, ALWAYS SERVED

Student Veteran Life was established in 2015 as a unit for student veterans, founded by student veterans. Our office is home to a staff of skilled veterans who can help you navigate the University of Washington. From campus locations to student resources, we are able to serve student veterans at any point in their college experience. On average, the office sees 10-20 veterans per day, a number that is continuously growing!

As such, in order to build on the strength of organic and authentic community building and effectively bridge the civilian-military divide on campus, Student Veteran Life is led by a team of experienced and diverse veterans. Having former military service members who understand the transitional needs of student veterans is paramount to our success as a unit.

Transitioning student veterans need to have access to someone who has shared their unique experiences and has successfully navigated from service in the military to service as a civilian. Our unit serves a diverse community of scholars who have served their country and now want to advance their lives and education at the University of Washington.
ON CAMPUS

As an organization, we make it our mission to reach our new student veterans within their first 90 days on campus. In doing so, we hope to maintain communication throughout their time here, ensuring that they leave the UW with the most positive experience and a diploma in hand. Though Student Veteran Life is already providing or has initiated a number of valuable programs, there is much to be done in the years to come.

The military community makes up a large portion of the campus population. Including veterans, National Guard, reservists, active duty, and their dependents, nearly five percent of the total campus population is a member of the military community.

Veterans can be found across campus and in nearly every department. Of the 180 majors offered at UW, veterans are enrolled in 125 courses of study.

CELEBRATING VETS

The University of Washington is proud to be home to a diverse population of veterans. Every year as part of Veterans Appreciation Week, the UW campus comes together to celebrate veterans and their contributions to the University, community, and nation as a whole. Events are spread over a week’s time and include a Salute to Service football game, Career Reboot Workshop, reception to celebrate staff, student, faculty, and alumni veterans, and culminates in a Veterans Day ceremony at UW’s Medal of Honor Memorial.

TESTIMONIALS

Student Veteran Life is becoming a great space for student veterans to study, relax, and receive mentorship. I currently use the space to do homework in between classes. The number of student veterans using the new office has really been growing as the SVL office is becoming known as a safe place for our campus student veterans.

– Elizabeth Oestreich, B.S ‘16 Biology

As a student veteran leader at UW Seattle and UW Bothell, I have seen first-hand how important it is to have accessible spaces with centralized resources for veterans so that they can heal together, and exist in an environment where they feel safe to be themselves around their brothers and sisters.

– Ben Wiselogle, M.P.A. ’16, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance

OUR PILLARS

Though the Student Veteran Life is already providing or has initiated a number of valuable programs, there is much to be done in the coming years.

Whole Veteran Initiative
This effort is designed to offer hands-on, interactive, direct services to student veterans in an interactive way. This includes mental health therapies, art courses, and service dogs, as well as mindfulness, through yoga and meditation classes. We also focus on the body, as a measure of whole health, including fitness courses for overall health.

Teaching and Education
We offer an orientation class for all new student veterans to help them transition from military to academia. We also offer a Veteran Ally Network, which educates staff and faculty of the unique challenges and positions of student veterans.

Building Community
We are working to build a long-term community of Husky veterans through regular communications and mentorship.

We celebrate our veterans on campus with annual events intended to recognize the unique accomplishments of military veterans and their service to our country.

Building relationships with external constituents allows us to maintain an evolving understanding of the veteran community outside of the University of Washington.