

Helping military students transfer credits, degrees

Working with Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), DETC (Distance Education and Training Council) announces a practical way for DETC degree-awarding institutions to assist their students who are in the military transfer their credits and degrees to other institutions.

For students graduating from DETC institutions, this has meant that some colleges have refused to even evaluate their academic transcripts only because the credits were not issued by a regionally accredited institution.

DETC is happy to announce that for students at DETC institutions who serve in the military, there is a practical way to ensure success in getting their transcripts evaluated (and their credits, hopefully, accepted):

Suggest that the student or graduate transfer to one of the 1,800 colleges and universities that are members of the SOC Consortium.

In other words, your students who are in the military now have a choice of several hundred regionally accredited institutions to transfer to, since each of these institutions has pledged they will not refuse to evaluate credits in transfer just because they are from a DETC institution.

Members of the SOC Consortium are bound by the membership criteria of SOC to treat military members fairly when it comes to credit transfer decisions.

SOC institutions follow the general principles of good practice outlined in the *Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit*. This statement says, among other

things, that credits must not be denied based solely on the source of accreditation of the sending institution. Each SOC institution may be required by SOC to submit documentary evidence that it generally accepts credits in transfer from other accredited institutions.

Recommended advisory language

In communicating with your students who are in the military, on your Web site, and in your catalogs and promotional literature about this opportunity for fair consideration of credits to be transferred, DETC has worked with the SOC staff in developing the following recommended language. Using this copy will help ensure that there will be fewer misunderstandings by students and receiving colleges. Changing the wording is not advised. (See box.)

When credits get denied

If you learn of *any* cases where your students who are serving in the military were denied acceptance of their credits in transfer from your institution to a SOC Consortium

A Note on Credit Transfer Opportunities for Members of the U.S. Military

As a member of the United States Armed Forces and a student or graduate of _____, you may at some point elect to transfer or enroll for a degree at another college or university.

It is very important to understand that each college or university has the right to accept or reject academic credits earned at another institution, if the credits fail to meet its academic requirements. No reputable institution can guarantee that all or any of your credits will automatically transfer.

For military students, their family members, and veterans, Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) strongly encourages all of its Consortium member institutions to have institutional policies and practices that are fair, equitable, and effective in recognizing special and often limiting conditions faced by military personnel.

To that end, SOC Consortium member institutions ensure that academic transcripts will be reviewed based upon such principles as the courses taken, the grades received, and the level, content, and applicability of the courses to their degree program requirements, and not solely upon the source of accreditation of the sending program or institution. Additionally, each SOC Consortium institution is committed to assisting Service members, their families, and veterans in minimizing loss of credit and avoiding duplication of coursework, while simultaneously maintaining the integrity of its academic programs.

All SOC colleges and universities are military friendly and have policies and practices that provide flexibility of programs and procedures in admissions, credit transfer, and recognition of other applicable learning, including that gained in the military.

Member college, and the reason offered was that the credits were not from a regionally accredited college, please notify DETC and we will take this up with SOC. Contact Rachel Scheer at Rachel@detc.org to alert us to any issues involving credit denial by a SOC member college.

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eKnowledge, NFL players extend donation

A group of National Football League players and eKnowledge Corporation is continuing their multi-million dollar sponsorship of \$200 SAT and ACT test preparation programs to all active-duty, Reserve, and retired military members and their families. Those who request the donated materials need only pay shipping and handling costs of packaging, processing, and shipping.

Some of the patriotic NFL players who have pledged to support the eKnowledge donation program for 2007 include: **Jon Bradley (Detroit Lions), Scott Young (Philadelphia Eagles), Garrick Jones (Calgary Stampeders), Corey Williams (Green Bay Packers), Jason Radar (Miami Dolphins), and Ahmaad Galloway.**

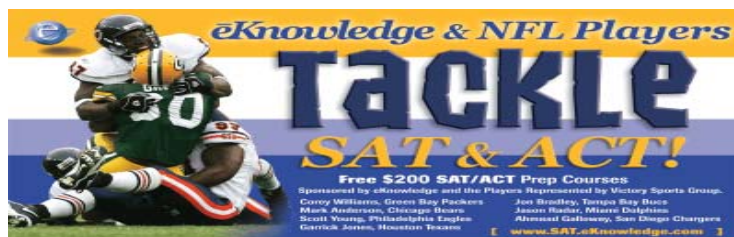
Now in its third year, this generous eKnowledge/NFL player sponsorship effort has donated more than 60,000 free SAT/ACT test preparation programs to Service members and their families worldwide. In

response to the donation, eKnowledge and the NFL players have received tens of thousands of thank-you letters from Service members and dependents who have received the highly valuable, free test preparation programs. One note was even postmarked from Africa, where a Service member was stationed.

“As a military parent residing in Kenya,” Air Force Maj. Douglas McClain wrote, “I truly appreciate the opportunity

to obtain these products for my daughter who attends the international school here. “This program will guarantee that she has current material to prepare for the SAT and ACT.”

Service members and families interested in receiving free eKnowledge products under the sponsorship program can complete an online request form at <http://sat.eknowledge.com/military> or by visiting <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil> and link to “Donation: VSG/NFL Players”. Requests can also be made by calling eKnowledge at (951) 256-4076 or via e-mail at support@eknowledge.com.



DANTES

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