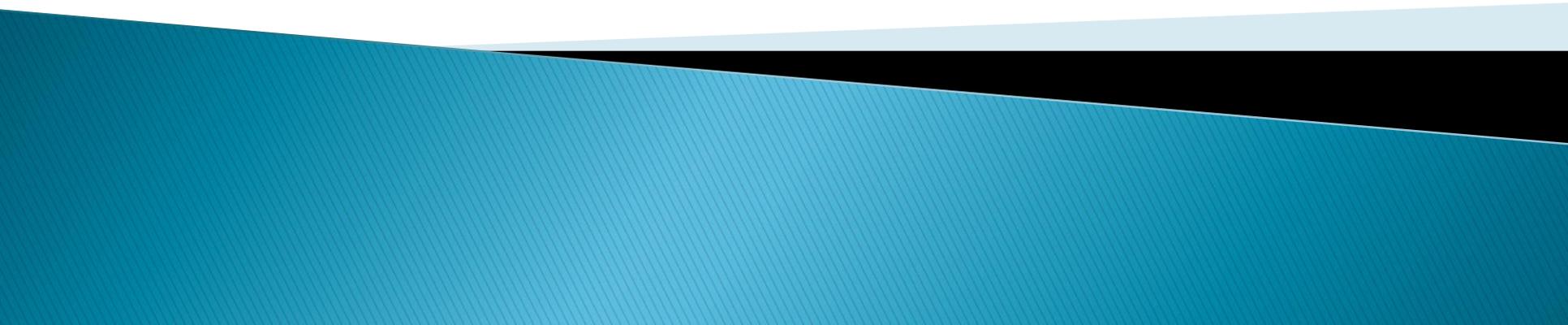


Strategies for Success in Higher Education

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Outline

▶ **Finances & Financial Aid**

- How to prepare yourself
- What to apply for
- What to look out for

▶ **Academics**

- Know before you go
- Plan for a successful semester

Finances & Financial Aid

How to Prepare Yourself

- ▶ **It takes time to receive VA Education Benefits.**
 - Average of 6 to 8 weeks
 - Be prepared to buy books
 - The Post 9/11 GI Bill Book Stipend takes time to receive.
- ▶ **Check and see if your school offers a veteran deferment or payment plan**

Finances & Financial Aid

What else to apply for

- ▶ **Apply for all forms of financial aid.**
 - **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
 - Your gateway to all forms of federal aid,
 - i.e. Pell Grants & Federal Student Loans
 - **NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).**
 - Based on income and need
 - Note: Must be applied for if using the “State TA” program called RIRP
 - Federal Tuition Assistance/ Post 9/11 GI Bill will not duplicate TAP awards.

Finances & Financial Aid

What else to apply for

- **NYS Veteran Tuition Award**
 - Eligibility based on wartime service, not income.
 - Must be NYS resident with honorable discharge. Currently pays 100% of tuition at SUNY schools.
- **School Specific Grants**
 - Many institutions have grants for Service Members and Veterans
- **GI Bill Benefits / Federal Tuition Assistance**
 - Must see your school VA Rep to get GI Bill benefits started
 - Must apply for RIRP/FTA prior to established deadlines

Finances & Financial Aid

Common Pitfalls

▶ All Online Classes

- Taking all on-line classes will decrease the amount of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits.
- Taking at least one on-campus course will avoid this.

▶ Part Time Study

- GI Bill benefits (to include Post 9/11) are prorated based on credit hours.
 - Part time study reduced benefit amounts

Finances & Financial Aide

Common Pitfalls

- ▶ **Certificate of Residency (COR)**
 - If attending a community college in a county where you don't reside, you can be charged double tuition as an out-of-county resident.
 - Obtain COR from County Clerk and submit to Bursar/Business office so tuition charge will be same as in-county resident.

Academics

Know Before you Go

- ▶ **Credit for Military Training**
 - Most schools are unable to award many credits for service connected training or experience.

- ▶ **Transfer Credits**
 - Most schools require 50% or more of the credits required for a degree be taken at that institution.

Academics

Plan for a Successful Semester

▶ **Study Groups/Extra Help**

- Take advantage of all services offered by the school
 - Tutoring, Math/English labs, study groups, Disability Services offices, etc.

▶ **Be careful of dropping classes**

- Depending on the circumstances, the VA may require you to repay money received

Conclusion

**Questions?...Comments?
.....Concerns?**

Please visit us during the provider forum!!

**Good Luck with your academic
goals!**

