
**NEW MEXICO
HIGHER EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**



Fostering Student Success from Cradle to Career

PRESENTATION TO THE MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 21, 2021

DR. HARRISON ROMMEL
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL
FINANCE & FINANCIAL AID

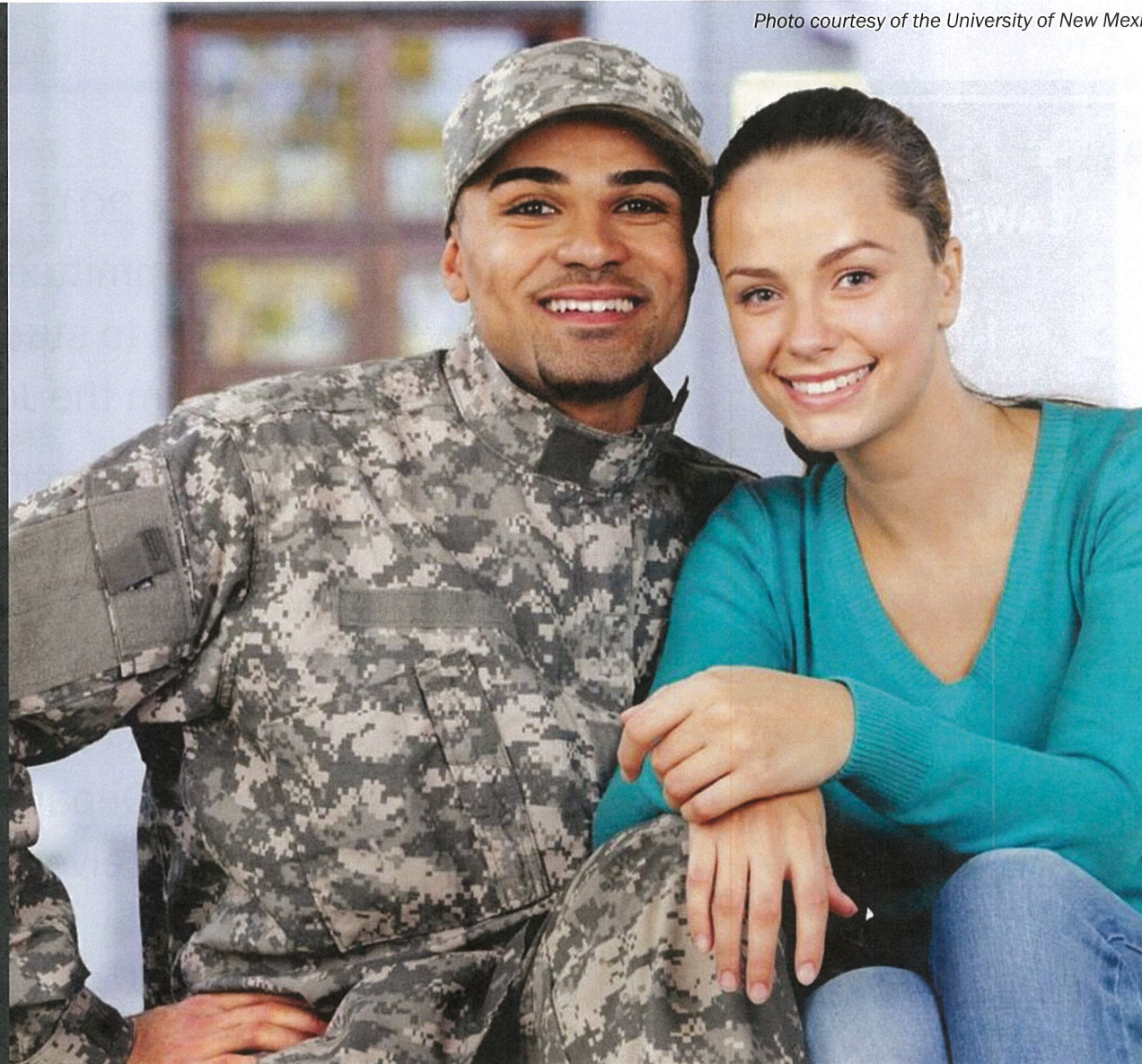


Photo courtesy of the University of New Mexi

LAWS 2016 CHAPTER 3 **SB153, SEN. BRANDT**

“The higher education department, in coordination with the institutions of higher education in New Mexico, shall study, create and implement a consistent policy and develop a single articulation agreement for the state, regarding the evaluation and award of academic credit based on an active duty member of the United States military or a veteran's military training and experience toward associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.”

- In Summer 2015, the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee became aware of significant challenges to students regarding acceptance of credits from the Joint Service Transcript (JST):
 - Excessive granting of elective credits jeopardizing federal financial aid (150% rule)
 - Inadequate transfer of credits that directly apply to a degree plan
- SB153 directed the New Mexico Higher Education Department to address articulation of credit received as part of a veteran's military service

JOINT SERVICE TRANSCRIPT (JST)

- JST is the Joint Services Transcript that has replaced the Coast Guard Institute Transcript, the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART). JST is an academically accepted document approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to validate a service members military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations
- The JST provides a description of military schooling and work history in civilian language. It serves as a counseling tool for academic and career counselors in advising service members and veterans. It serves as an aid in preparing resumes and explaining Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, National Guard and Navy work experience to civilian employers
- Air Force personnel receive a Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) transcript in lieu of the JST
- The JST and Air Force transcripts contain several thousand entries, some of which do not directly map to any higher education course offerings. This presents a challenge for academic advisors and registrars when evaluating transcripts.
 - Link: <https://jst.doded.mil/faq.html>
 - Link: <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Barnes/CCAF/FAQs/>

RESOURCES FOR STUDENT VETERANS AND COLLEGES


Link: <https://www.acenet.edu/Programs-Services/Pages/Credit-Transcripts/Military-Guide-Online.aspx>

- In April 2021, the American Council of Education launched the ACE Military Guide as a resource for Military and Veteran Students, Colleges and Universities, and Military Training Providers

The screenshot shows the ACE Military Guide website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ACE logo (American Council on Education) and four main categories: PROGRAMS & SERVICES, RESEARCH & INSIGHTS, POLICY & ADVOCACY, and MEMBERSHIP & AD. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with three tabs: 'About the ACE Military Guide', 'What's Your Role?' (which is highlighted), and 'Learn More'. The main content area features a 'What's Your Role?' section with a bulleted list of roles: a postsecondary institution, a learner, and a military training provider. Below this list is a paragraph stating that the guide is for anyone in these roles. The page is divided into three columns, each with a representative image and a call to action: 'College or University' (with a 'SIGN UP >' button), 'Military or Veteran Student' (with a 'LEARN MORE >' button), and 'Military Training Provider' (with a 'LEARN MORE >' button).

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PROGRAMS & SERVICES RESEARCH & INSIGHTS POLICY & ADVOCACY MEMBERSHIP & ADVANCEMENT

[About the ACE Military Guide](#) [What's Your Role?](#) [Learn More](#)

THE ACE MILITARY GUIDE

About the ACE Military Guide

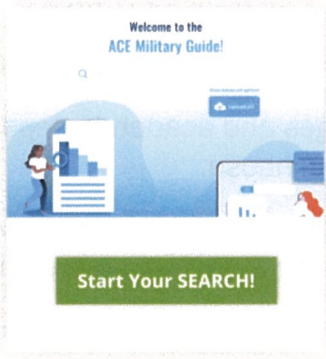
The ACE Military Guide is the sole source of information for all military courses and occupations evaluated by ACE from 1954 to present.

In April 2021, ACE launched a modernized and improved version of the Military Guide, which includes these new features:

- A streamlined format for course and occupation summaries
- A public Joint Services Transcript (JST) upload feature for students
- A dedicated application to support colleges and universities in making credit award decisions
- Simplified and user-friendly navigation and design

The ACE Military Guide retains these hallmarks:

- Information for all military courses and occupations evaluated by ACE
- Multiple ways to search for courses and occupations—by service, date, ACE ID or military course number, and course or occupation title
- Evaluations conducted by college and university faculty members who are actively teaching in the areas they review



CURRENT PROCESS FOR VETERAN STUDENT TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION

- The New Mexico Higher Education Department surveyed Registrars at the public higher education institutions to analyze their current transcript evaluation process for veteran students. In general, the following was collected:
 - All public postsecondary institutions evaluate JST credits for transfer.
 - As with all transfer coursework, if there is no equivalent course offered, the incoming course is coded as a general elective.
 - Students may opt in or out of elective credits being added to their transcript.
 - Colleges and academic departments have the discretion to count any elective transfer credit as meeting a degree requirement, if they choose.
 - Colleges and universities have to code the exceptions and substitutions they make in their degree audit systems, prior to awarding a degree, so there is a record.
- The issue of elective credits creating challenges for financial aid eligibility appears to be resolved.

NEW MEXICO ARTICULATION AND TRANSFER

- New Mexico's decentralized system of higher education created inhomogeneities in articulation and transfer of courses across its public institutions over the years.
- The New Mexico Higher Education Department's Policy and Academic Affairs Division is charged with addressing disparities in course articulation through development of a Common Course Numbering System (CCNS) and a uniformly adopted General Education (Gen Ed) Core Curriculum.
- "Articulation and Transfer" is a collaborative effort and requires review and adoption of course objectives and uniform syllabi endorsed by academic departments and public higher education institutions writ large.
- CCNS and Gen Ed work is an ongoing process. Development of a robust system of articulation and transfer is the necessary first step before a statewide uniform articulation process for military credits can be fully developed.

NEW MEXICO COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

- Required by the Post-Secondary Education Articulation Act.
 - Chapter 21, Article 1B NMSA 1978
- 5.55.5 NMAC (adopted June 12, 2018) lays out the provisions relating to the common course numbering system.
 - Link: <http://164.64.110.134/parts/title05/05.055.0005.html>
- The agency policy on common course numbering can be found the link below.
 - Link: https://hed.state.nm.us/resources-for-schools/public_schools/nm-course-numbering-system

NEW MEXICO COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

- Over 9,400 higher education courses have been approved and mapped to one of over 2,474 common courses.
- The number of mapped courses per college or university:

Inst	Institution	Number of CC	Inst	Institution	Number of CC
NMSU	New Mexico State University	677	UNM-TA	University of New Mexico: Taos	128
NMT	New Mexico Tech	132	UNM-VA	University of New Mexico: Valencia	318
UNM	University of New Mexico	460	CNM	Central New Mexico Community College	550
ENMU	Eastern New Mexico University	314	CCC	Clovis Community College	230
NMHU	New Mexico Highlands University	206	LCC	Luna Community College	115
NNMC	Northern New Mexico College	277	MCC	Mesalands Community College	254
WNMU	Western New Mexico University	379	NMJC	New Mexico Junior College	144
ENMU-RO	Eastern New Mexico University: Roswell	247	SFCC	Santa Fe Community College	759
ENMU-RU	Eastern New Mexico University: Ruidoso	261	SJC	San Juan College	399
NMSU-AL	New Mexico State University: Alamogordo	668	NMMI	New Mexico Military Institute	87
NMSU-CA	New Mexico State University: Carlsbad	671			
NMSU-DA	Dona Ana Community College	680	DINE	Dine College	100
NMSU-GR	New Mexico State University: Grants	667	IAIA	Institute of American Indian Arts	30
UNM-GA	University of New Mexico: Gallup	115	NTU	Navajo Technical University	120
UNM-LA	University of New Mexico: Los Alamos	310	SIPI	Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute	119

NEW MEXICO COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

- Much of the preliminary work has been accomplished, and higher education institutions have made great progress updating their catalogs and submitting common courses. However, the effort isn't complete.
 1. There are some “glitches” in the course catalog where courses were entered without Course Descriptions and/or Student Learning Outcomes and the agency is working diligently to update these omissions.
 2. Faculty committees for engineering and computer science are underway to complete these fields of study.
 3. Unique courses should be reviewed to ensure that they couldn't instead be modified to fit into one of the common courses.

NEW MEXICO GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

- As of June 2021 a total of 505 different courses were approved as General Education (Gen Ed) Courses.
- Some are common across most colleges and universities, but many are unique to the offering school or shared by only a few schools.
- Every higher education institution is required to accept Gen Ed courses for transfer credit and to ensure that it meets the “Content Area” designated by the original college or university.
- Wherever possible, approved Gen Ed courses were added to the Common Course Numbering System (CCNS) Matrix.
- A couple of disciplines, e.g., Engineering and Computer Science, still need to be added to the CCNS Matrix, and there are a couple of Gen Ed courses in those fields.
- In the rare cases where the approved Gen Ed course wasn’t a previously entered common course, the agency works with those schools to get Course Descriptions and Student Learning Outcomes.

NEW MEXICO GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

General Education (Gen Ed) Curriculum courses are ideal first courses to map to JST transcript entries; completion of the Gen Ed curriculum speeds a student's progress to advanced coursework and completion of their degree.

- The Gen Ed courses currently approved distribute across the Content Areas:
 - I. Communication 30
 - II. Mathematics 33
 - III. Science 93
 - IV. Social & Behavioral Science 95
 - V. Humanities 142
 - VI. Creative & Fine Arts 70
 - VII. Flex 76

Note: June 2021 Data

NEXT STEPS

- **Outreach:** The New Mexico Higher Education Department continues to enhance outreach to veterans and other students through hiring of a Public Information Officer (PIO), developing new outreach materials and partnering with other agencies (e.g., Department of Veterans Services and the National Guard).
- **Policy:** The agency is poised to promulgate policies and procedures to higher education institutions guiding articulation of military credit for common courses and Gen Ed courses.
- **Technical Assistance:** The agency requires dedicated staffing and technical assistance (from ACE or other partners) to fully implement a uniform articulation system for military credits.



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QUESTIONS?

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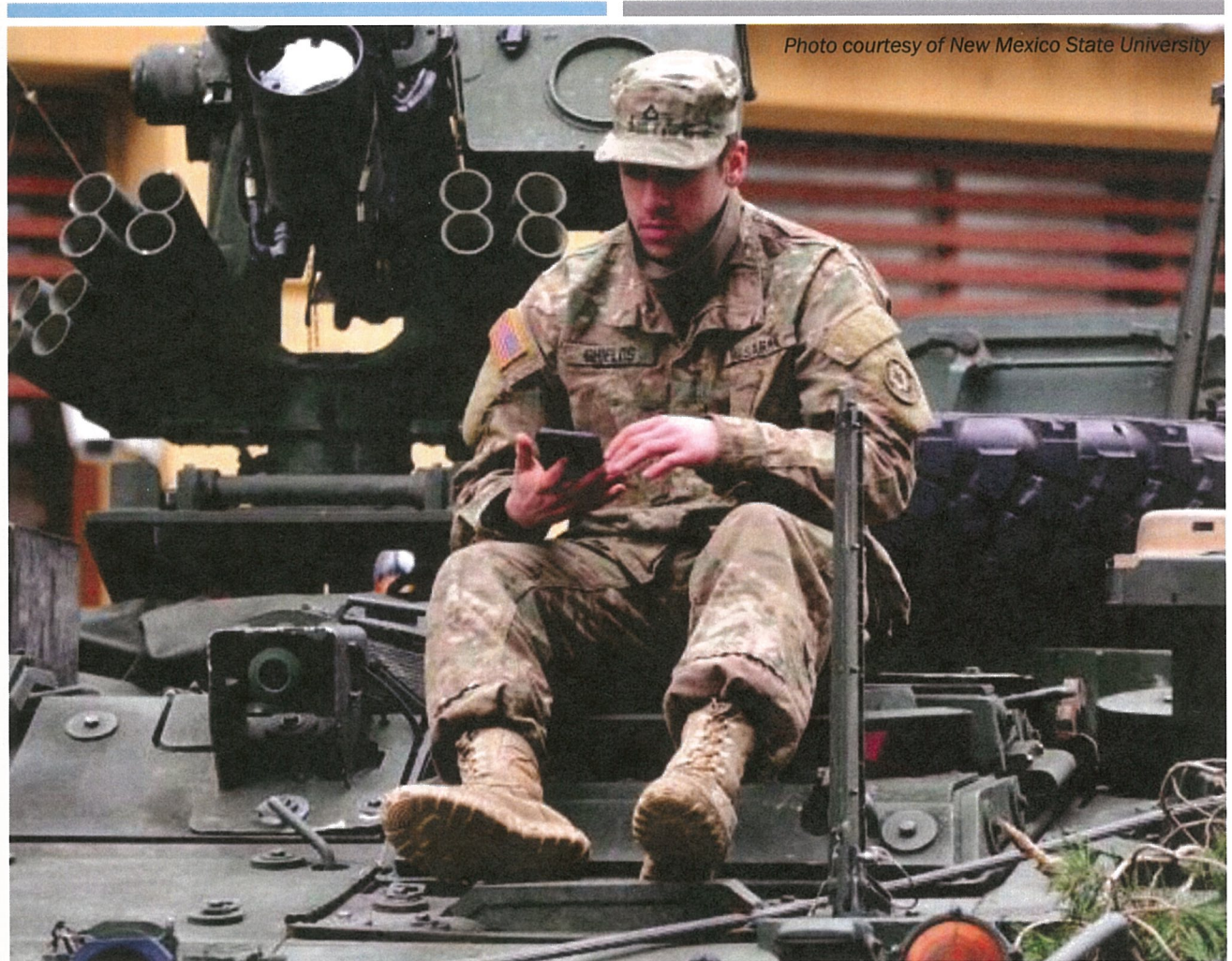


Photo courtesy of New Mexico State University