

Arizona Veteran Supportive Campus Certification & Military/Veteran Resource Network Application

Institution Name:	Scottsdale Community College
Your Name	Gia Taylor
Address	Street Address: 9000 E. Chaparral Road City: Scottsdale State / Province: AZ Postal / Zip Code: 85256
Phone Number	(480) 423-6088
Fax	(480) 423-6077
E-mail	gia.taylor@scottsdalecc.edu
Copy and paste the URL you would like the above image or logo linked to	http://scottsdalecc.edu/
Institution Mission and/or Charter:	<p>Scottsdale Community College improves the quality of life in our communities by providing challenging, supportive, and distinctive learning experiences. We are committed to offering high-quality, collaborative, affordable, and accessible opportunities that enable learners to achieve lifelong educational, professional, and personal goals.</p> <p>SCC fulfills this mission by delivering rigorous and relevant instruction, providing outstanding support to students, faculty, and staff, encouraging an open and dynamic exchange of learning among the college, tribal nations, and local and world communities, promoting civic responsibility, sustainability, and global engagement, fostering personal growth and connectedness.</p> <p>The mission of the Veterans Services Office (VSO) at Scottsdale Community College (SCC) is to act as a liaison between the Veteran students and the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) for the purpose of certifying Veteran education benefits.</p> <p>SCC is committed to providing quality service to all of our students, but especially veterans, their families and active service members. We have a separate Veterans Services Office with dedicated staff whose primary responsibility is to provide</p>

service and assistance to the veteran student population in order for them to accomplish their educational goals and obtain their educational benefits. A key goal is to ensure our veteran students achieve academic success through curricular and co-curricular involvement in SCC opportunities such as clubs, mentoring, scholarships, service learning, internships and other leadership activities. We have an active Veterans Club which hosts events and activities; we offer a Veterans Orientation at the start of each semester; and offer a veteran-only student success course. We make a special effort to alert veteran students when our scholarship process opens and have developed a scholarship for returning adults/veterans. Goals for improvement include enhancing programming, updating our Veterans webpage, engaging with the Military/Veterans Resource Network and establishing a peer coaching program.

Staff provides training to other SCC units and faculty regarding requirements that may affect a student's benefit eligibility per Federal regulations. We have also designated a space for a Veterans Lounge where veteran students may have a quiet place to study and build community. Our VSO will be administering a survey to all veteran/active military students in Fall 2013 and hiring peer coaches to work with new students. These Peer Coaches will assist new students in making a successful adjustment to college and civilian life. We have already begun registering students into the veterans-only College Success course. We are exploring the possibility of partnering with the University of Arizona, the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to offer workshops that help students be more successful in the world of work.

The League of Innovation and the Public Broadcasting Company recently sponsored a summit on Veteran Student Success. The Summit was held on September 16-17, 2013, in Dallas, Texas to explore how community colleges can share data and best practices on serving the needs of students who are veterans/active military and to engage local PBS TV stations in promoting veterans' issues through

<p>Brief background of institution (year established, etc.):</p>	<p>the media. SCC is exploring how best to incorporate these best practices recommended at the Summit, key among them – improving veteran educational access/support and helping veterans to integrate into civilian life and prepare for meaningful careers.</p> <p>Scottsdale Community College opened in the fall of 1969 and moved to our present location in the fall of 1970 with an enrollment of 948 students. The college’s enrollment has mirrored the rapid population growth in the area, and it currently serves approximately 17,000 credit and 8,000 non-credit students annually.</p> <p>While Scottsdale Community College has traditionally focused on a service area within six miles, increasing numbers of students from outside that area call SCC their community college. With a student population that closely reflects the diversity of our service area, the college also attracts nearly 1,000 students from 100 different countries. On campus walkways, one sees people of all ages and numerous cultural backgrounds—all with an unlimited variety of interests and goals.</p> <p>An important part of the college's history is encapsulated in its mascot—the Artichoke. Born during a period of student unrest in the early 1970s, Artie the Artichoke was adopted as the school's mascot to express a difference of opinion concerning budget priorities. Originally intended to be a source of embarrassment, Artie has been embraced by students, athletes, staff, and the community as a beloved character.</p> <p>Scottsdale Community College has offered specific programs that focus on our unique location on Native American lands. These have included specific instructional programs geared to Native American students as well as unique business needs on this reservation. The college continues to offer a dedicated student service program geared to the unique needs and interests of our Native American students.</p>
<p>Please list the programs, resources, services, etc. you provide:</p>	<p>A vast majority of students are currently enrolled in credit programs including mathematics, science,</p>

<p>Are there eligibility guidelines for your programs, resources and/or services? If so, please describe:</p>	<p>social and behavioral sciences, English and communication, speech, and studio and performing arts to earn associates degrees. Most have scheduled plans to transfer to comprehensive universities and colleges to complete baccalaureate and post-graduate degrees. Students graduating from SCC do exceptionally well.</p> <p>SCC has also broadened opportunities to students to prepare for careers that do not require four-year degrees. Applied Sciences offers over 23 different career or occupational programs including Nursing, Drafting, Fashion Merchandising, Interior Design, Hospitality and Tourism, Culinary Arts, Administration of Justice, Equine Science, Tribal Management, and Computer Information programs. These programs are styled in accordance with the needs of students, the community, business, and industry. College personnel work closely with community employers to assess current educational and training needs.</p> <p>Degrees/Certificates:</p> <p>http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/academics/degrees-certificates</p> <p>Eligibility guidelines for programs, resources and services:</p> <p>While a few programs have separate admissions processes due to space limitations such as Nursing and Culinary, SCC is an open access institution. Most of our programs have the capacity to admit any student who applies.</p>
<p>How would you describe your target audience?</p> <p>Is there a regulatory body that has oversight over your institution? If so, please identify the body and indicate</p>	<p>The average age of our students is 26 years old. Our students may seek an associate's degree, university transfer credits, professional certification, or lifelong learning opportunities. SCC faculty and staff are here to help students reach their educational goals. With hundreds of courses and programs, we can help guide students onto a professional path, provide new career options and expand their knowledge of the world around them.</p> <p>Scottsdale Community College is a regionally-accredited institution through the Higher Learning</p>

your institution's current status as of the date of this application:

Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Every ten years the college completes a comprehensive self-study process leading to continued accreditation. The self-study process is designed to identify strengths, areas for improvement, and required follow-up reporting. SCC is one of 10 colleges that comprise the Maricopa County Community College District.

In 2007, Scottsdale Community College completed a self-study report and was visited by the Higher Learning Commission. The Commission renewed Scottsdale Community College's accreditation; the college's next comprehensive site visit by the Commission is currently scheduled for 2016-2017.

For additional information regarding accreditation, assessment, and other areas related to academic accountability, contact the Commission at [\(312\) 263-0456](tel:3122630456), or view the website at www.ncahlc.org.

What are the educational costs for your programs or services to service members, veterans and/or family members? If there is no cost, please indicate the types of funding source(s) that support your institution (e.g. grants, donations, etc).

As part of the Maricopa Community College District, SCC's tuition is determined by our Governing Board.

Tuition and Fees Schedule:
<http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/admissions/tuition-fees>

Financial Aid /Scholarships:
<http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/admissions>

CONNECT to the Culture? (A.R.S. 41-609.D.1, D.2) Minimum Required Areas of Focus: - Institution conducts an annual or bi-annual campus survey of student veterans (including needs, issues and suggestions of veterans) (A.R.S. 41-609. D.1). Please include a copy of the survey, survey results, and how and when survey is (was) administered. • Institution has a steering committee, including student veterans, faculty and staff to help guide the institution's activities and focus on student veterans. Include how often the committee convenes (A.R.S. 41-609. D.2).

SCC has a Veterans Advisory Council comprised of a dean of students, academic and counseling faculty, staff and students – many of whom are veterans. The Council meets twice per semester and sponsors trainings for all employees on veterans/military culture, student needs, and veterans' issues. The Council also assists with special programming such as a Veterans Day ceremony. A survey will be administered in the fall 2013 to solicit input from all veteran students to improve quality of services. A copy of the survey is attached.

ASK the right questions at the right time? (A.R.S. 41-609.D.3) Minimum Required Areas of Focus:

- Key staff (who regularly interact with and provide support to student veterans) receive training on issues affecting the military, veteran and family population, including, but not limited to (A.R.S. 41-609. D.3):> Combat & operational stressors > Key issues affecting the population (e.g. post-traumatic stress, TBI, substance use, suicide, etc.), as well as the potential impact of visible and invisible injuries and disabilities > Military/veteran-specific resources and systems of care
- All staff (admin staff, faculty, etc.) have knowledge and awareness of the following (able to provide information to students/families as needed) (A.R.S. 41-609. D.3): > National Veterans Crisis Line > Designated key staff on campus for student veterans > Military/Veteran Resource Network

RESPOND Effectively? (A.R.S. 41-609.D.4, D.5, D.7) Minimum Required Areas of Focus:

- Institution identifies a specific location on campus and/or on website (if primary a web-based institution) that has information and resources for student veterans, as well as family members (A.R.S. 41-609. D.7).
- Institution provides orientation information specific to student veterans (A.R.S. 41-609. D.4). This may include one or more of the following: > A student veteran information packet > Student veteran guides for new students > Optional orientation sessions for student veterans, courses/lectures specific to student veterans.
- Institution promotes peer mentoring and support for student veterans (A.R.S. 41-609. D.5): > This must include the provision of counseling services on-campus or referrals to other counseling and crisis resources (e.g. National Veterans Crisis Line,

Our Counselors work closely with local behavioral health agencies to refer students in crisis as well as utilize the Military/Veterans Resource Network. One of our Counselors specializes in working with veterans and also provides awareness training to all college employees. She also teaches our veterans-only student success course. Training to better understand combat and operational stressors is also provided to all faculty each year. Trainings are offered to all college employees each semester by external specialists on military culture. In the fall 2013, Ret. Lt. Col. Andrew Griffin, Director of Veterans Affairs at NAU provided training on military culture and the unique characteristics related to returning combat veterans. We also provide training to all Student Affairs staff about services offered by our Veterans Office. Two full time staff, who report to our Director of Admissions and Records, are assigned to the VSO to assist students with enrollment processes and serve as liaisons with other offices on campus. They serve on a district-wide Veterans Council sponsored by the Maricopa Community Colleges District.

Veterans Services Office (VSO) offers a wide variety of services, including one-on-one guidance through the admissions and enrollment processes, policies, and procedures. Two full time staff are assigned to the VSO to assist students through the enrollment process. VSO's main function is to certify educational benefits through the VA online system (VA-Once). This process includes checking a student's academic progress (SAP), informing other VSO's if the student is concurrently enrolled in multiple schools, confirming that all attempted classes are required for their educational and degree goals, confirming receipt and evaluation of all prior college/military transcripts, processing deferments of tuition and fees, and offering book advances if needed. We provide referral information for various activities and services available on campus, within the district and through the community. If requested, we are also available to our students as liaisons to any department for explanations of benefits. VSO maintains the veteran student lounge on campus, and offered a veteran

<p>military support programs, VA & Vet Center counseling, community-based counseling). > This may include formal and informal mentoring programs (students, faculty/staff, community members, etc.).</p>	<p>student orientation (Fall 2013) and veteran only success course (spring 2014). The VSO hires student workers who are veterans to serve as peer coaches to assist new students in acculturating to college and civilian life.</p>
<p>ENGAGE in the Military/Veteran Community? (A.R.S. 41-609.D.6, D.8) Minimum Required Areas of Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution actively outreaches to military/veteran community, including military installations to provide information on programs, as well as to identify resources that may be of benefit to student veterans (A.R.S. 41-609. D.6). • Institution partners as appropriate and needed with public and private sector organizations to strengthen support for and success of student veterans (A.R.S. 41-609. D.8). • Outreach (print, web, etc.) accurately reflects graduation rates for student veterans. • Outreach (print, web, etc.) clearly indicates costs, options and responsibilities for financing education 	<p>There are few military bases in AZ, especially within close proximity to the Scottsdale campus; however, we do communicate with bases in-state by sending written materials and a letter from our college President. Our recruiters utilize outreach strategies to communicate with prospective students in state and out-of-state. SCC subscribes to the federal Veterans Executive Order and complies with ethical recruitment practices that accurately reflect costs, academic options, financial aid, and graduation rates for all students. Our counselors work closely with private mental health agencies and the Veterans Administration to refer students in crisis. We have held events on campus to improve transfer partnerships with the three AZ public universities and work closely with the AZ Department of Veterans Services to ensure compliance. We believe that community colleges are uniquely positioned to provide college credit for military training and occupational experience, and that we can respond quickly to the changing needs of our constituents and communities.</p>