



MOUNTAIN CLIMBER



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FORT DRUM EDUCATION CENTER

TRANSITIONS

ETS PCS
RETIREMENT

FACE THE CHALLENGE

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On the Education Services Officer's Desk

The
Army Education
Center
at the
McEwen Library and
Education Complex

Hours of Operation

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, and Friday

0900-1600

Wednesday

1245-1600

(315) 772-6878



The Fort Drum
Education Center
Mountain Climber

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Shortly, it will be the beginning of summer, also a time of transitioning for many military members from one active duty location to another or out of the military into civilian life. When serving in the military, soldiers and their family members face some unique challenges in pursuing a college education. Often, soldiers have an immediate goal of obtaining as many college credits as possible for promotion points to enhance their Army career while also pursuing a degree for use in a specific career field after they leave the military. It's sometimes difficult to find the right mix of degree plans to work toward both goals effectively.

Moving every three to five years can also present a challenge to obtaining a college degree. College credits earned prior to service may not transfer to the college of choice while in service, requiring a soldier to retake some of the courses or earn the credit through some other means such as credit-by-exam programs such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or DANTES Standardized Subject Tests (DSST).

In the complex world of college education, it's impossible to know all of the pitfalls, even for seasoned Army Guidance Counselors. However, when just beginning



a college education or even if you are in the middle of a college degree program, talking with an Army Guidance Counselor about problems you may encounter or discussing the best options available for your situation can frequently save you time, money, credit hours and heartache. Army Guidance Counselors view updates to reference materials on a regular basis, learn much in-depth information about many colleges because we deal with them daily and receive frequent training on the services and programs offered by Servicemembers' Opportunity Colleges (SOC) around the world. This is a valuable resource for soldiers and their family members, but it requires that you come in, see an Army Guidance Counselor, and ask some questions.

I worked for twelve years as an Army Guidance Counselor. I have counseled many soldiers throughout the years that learned valuable information much too late because they didn't ask the right questions or assumed that they knew what they were doing. I counseled a

soldier in Bosnia who had over 160 semester hours of credit from various sources such as credit from many colleges, credit by exam, military tests and experiential learning. He had enough credits to get his degree from Excelsior College and could have applied three years earlier for that degree. The degree would have assisted him with promotion opportunities. However, the soldier did not understand how his credits fit together with different colleges to earn a degree. Army Education Counselors have knowledge of many different degree programs and understand which colleges are the best fit for you. The best fit is not always the college that is located at your current installation, but may be a college through distance learning or finishing the degree that you started with another college ten years ago.

If you are interested in earning a degree, desire to find out how your credits will transfer when transitioning, and need to find out how to quickly earn your degree, visit your Army Education Center as soon as you transition to another installation. You may have some better options available.

Carla K. Ortiz
Education Services Officer



TRANSFERRING COLLEGE COURSES

Opportunity for travel is one of the reasons many join the Army. While a highly mobile lifestyle is great for seeing new and interesting places, it can create problems for those who want to complete a college degree. For this reason, a good understanding of how to transfer college credit is important. This is illustrated by the following story.

A soldier came into my office and asked for help completing his college degree. I asked the basic questions - what type of degree, what major, and how many credit hours have you already completed? His frustrated answer was, "I have completed over 150 semester hours of college but have no degree, not even an associate."

He explained the main cause of his frustration was that he had never been stationed in one place long enough to complete a degree. Each time he PCS'd to a new location, he had trouble transferring his previous coursework and meeting the degree requirements of his new college.

Though this soldier's situation is a bit extreme, unfortunately, it is true. The good news is that situations like this can be avoided! Obviously, this soldier had set no firm goals and had no plan.

An old adage states that to be successful, you must "plan your work and then work your plan." Fortunately for soldiers, a plan already exists that will help you transfer courses and reach your educational goals. All that's needed is for you to apply the principles of this plan to your particular situation. This plan is called SOCAD. I have included some basic information about SOCAD, but first, here are a few tips concerning educational planning and transferring courses.

If you haven't done so already, you should establish your educational goals, both short- and long-range, and then develop a plan to

accomplish your goals. Some things to consider are:

Try the "backwards planning" principle. Envision yourself working in your dream job, and then think about how you got there.

- What degree was required?
- What courses did you have to take to get the degree?

Do you plan a career in the Army?

- If so, what degree will help you succeed in your MOS?
- Is the degree available locally?
- Is distance learning a suitable option for your learning style?

Do you plan to return to civilian life at ETS?

- If so, what career field will you pursue?
- What degree is required?
- Where will you live?
- What colleges are in the area?
- Do they offer the degree you need?

Obtain a copy of the degree plan from the college you plan to attend.

- The degree plan will list all courses required for your degree.
- The degree plan should show all course prerequisites.
- Some courses are sequenced (must be taken in a certain order).
- Never assume a college will automatically accept all of your prior college work.

Most associate's degrees require about 60-70 semester hours. However, transferring an associate's degree to a four-year university usually does not mean you will receive the same number of semester hours toward your bachelor's degree. Most colleges evaluate transfer work on a course-by-course basis. Some four-year colleges and universities will guarantee acceptance of a certain number of transfer hours from community colleges within the same state. However, the courses accepted in transfer must still meet the university's requirements.

- Does the school grant credit by examination (CLEP, DSST, etc.)?

- What subjects will they accept?
- How many total hours will they accept?

- Do they grant experiential credit?

Your new college will require official transcripts for all prior college credit, and it is not obligated to grant transfer credit just because your last college put it on their transcript.

You will have to submit official transcripts from each and every source of prior college credit; i.e., all colleges attended, CLEP exams, AARTS, etc.

While you're still here at Fort Drum - what classes can you take locally or via distance learning that will fit i.e., transfer - into the degree you need to get the job you want?

The previous suggestions were meant for general guidance only. The key is to get involved in your education planning. Consider SOCAD, the plan that has already been established specifically for you, the soldier, to help in transferring college credit and reaching your degree goals.

What is SOCAD?

SOCAD stands for "Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Army Degrees." It is discussed in depth on the next page in "Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges and SOCAD".

How do I begin a SOCAD degree?
Contact your Army Education Center.

Kerry L. Parker
Army Guidance Counselor



COOL - Army to Civilian Skills and Employment

Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL)

<http://www.armyeducation.army.mil/cool/>

The military invests a significant amount of money in the training of its uniformed personnel, providing a broad base of knowledge and experiences that can carry over to civilian occupations. When considering this training and transitioning to civilian career, the website "COOL" was created and sponsored by the members of the GI to Jobs Working Group in order to make it easier for current and former military personnel to obtain the

licenses and certification they need to practice in the civilian work force.

The website has two key components. One purpose of this website is to determine the extent to which Army training and experience meets civilian credentialing requirements. This site was also designed for service members and veterans seeking information about how to access available resources to fill any gaps that exist between their military training and experience and the credentialing requirements.

Occupational credentials, such as licensure (granted by federal, state and local government agencies) or certification (non-governmental agency or association grants recognition of competence to an individual who has met certain qualifications as specified by an agency or association) have increasingly become a common requirement for many types of civilian jobs. These standards have been established to ensure that individuals practicing in fields have the appropriate qualifications to perform quality work. Transitioning military personnel can face significant delays in employment or underemployment if they do not have the credentials they need.

Because credentialing requirements are typically based on traditional civilian means of obtaining education, training and experience, service members and veterans who receive their career preparation in the military may have more difficulty obtaining a license or certificate as compared to their civilian counterparts.

This website provides information and links to other resources to bring military credentials and experience to the civilian workplace. Visit the website to:

- Match relevant military occupational codes to civilian occupational codes
- Answer questions about civilian licenses and certificates.
- Identify which certificates and licenses may apply to the civilian equivalent of your military specialty.
- Indicate whether you need additional training to supplement your military experience.
- Find additional resources to help you become licensed or certified in your profession.

Diane Smith
Army Guidance Counselor



SUNY COLLEGES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

Life after the "green suit"

According to the Department of Labor, the average person changes jobs approximately 7 times during his/her life. For those of you who are leaving the military, you find yourself no different from the majority of other workers moving on to new career opportunities. But before we talk about those opportunities and the required course work or training, let's take a moment to look at why you may want to increase your education. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The More You Learn, The More You Earn." For instance, in 2000, the U.S. median income of a worker with a bachelor's degree was about \$46,273 per year; for a high school graduate, it was about \$28,805.

Now that we've looked at the "why", let's look at the "what." The following information is provided by the New York State Department of Labor, August 2002: "Industries & Occupations to Watch."

Job opportunities in New York State will occur in a variety of industries and occupations in the coming years; some of those with the most promising prospects are listed below:

- Business services (advertising, temporary

- help, Computer services, rentals and leasing)
- Educational Services.
- Health Services.
- Engineering, accounting, research, management and related services.
- Social services (counseling, job training, child and elderly day care, retirement homes).
- Construction-special trade contractors.
- Eating and drinking establishments.
- Recreation services.
- Legal services.

The following list of occupations are listed as having the most expected net openings in New York State through 2008:

Professional, Technical, Managerial

- Teachers, secondary school
- General managers/ top executives
- Registered nurses
- Teachers, elementary
- Systems analysts
- Computer support specialists
- Lawyers.
- Accountants and auditors.
- Computer programmers.
- Human service workers.

Nonprofessional, Nontechnical

- Salespersons, retail
- Cashiers
- Clerks, general office
- Waiters and waitresses
- Food preparation workers

- Janitors and cleaners
- Guards
- Clerical supervisors
- Sales supervisors
- Nursing aides and orderlies

Okay, you've found an area that you'd like to pursue, now comes the "how." The following is a list of career areas with suggested degree programs offered locally that relate to the professional, technical and managerial area:

Teaching

Liberal Arts-Jefferson Community College
Educational Studies-SUNY Empire
State Master in Teaching-SUNY Potsdam

General Manager/top executive

Business-Jefferson Community College
Business-SUNY Empire, SUNY Oswego, or SUNY Potsdam

MBA-SUNY Empire State, SUNY Oswego

Registered Nurse

Nursing, R N-Jefferson Community College
Nursing-SUNY Plattsburgh

Computers

A.S. Jefferson Community College

Accountant
A.S. Jefferson Community College
B.S. SUNY Empire State

Human Services
A.S. Jefferson Community College
B.S. SUNY Empire State
M.S. SUNY Oswego

Criminal Justice
A.S. Jefferson Community College
B.T. SUNY Canton

The SUNY Office has advisors for many of the programs just highlighted. If there is no advisor available, we have resources that can put you in contact with an advisor or give you a web or e-mail address. Contact Wanda Lancaster if you have general questions about a degree program. Specific degree programs can be discussed with a particular college's advisor. The Fort Drum phone number is 772-5477. Our commercial line is 773-9007.

Our office is open Monday through Friday from 0900 until 1600. Appointments are encouraged.

Too Busy for College?

Why not consider an online learning. The SUNY Learning Network has several degree programs that can be completed entirely online.

Check them out at www.SLN.suny.edu

Jefferson Community College

Early Fall Classes at Fort Drum 8/18-10/08/03

ACC 101	811	Accounting Princ 1	M/W	1800-2135	4cr
BIO 105	811	Environ. Biology	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
CIS 110	811	Intro. to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3cr
ENG 100	811	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 101	811	Composition 2	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 102	811	Comp & Literature	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 150	811	Amer. Hist. to 1865	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
BUS 104	811	Personal Finance	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
CRJ 208	811	Issues in Crim. Just.	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
GEG 101	811	intro. to World Geography	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
MTH 125	811	intermediate Algebra	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
PSY 133	811	Intro. to Psychology	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 144	811	Intro. to Sociology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 241	811	Marriage and Family	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SPA 121	811	Elementary Spanish 1	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 111	801	Western Civilization 1	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3cr

Late Fall Classes at Fort Drum 10/20-12/22/03

ACC 102	851	Accounting Princ. 1	M/W	1800-2135	4cr
ART 115	851	Art Appreciation 1	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
CIS 110	851	Intro. to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3cr
ENG 100	851	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 101	851	Composition 2	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 220	851	Creative Writing	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 151	851	Amer. Hist. since 1865	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
BUS 160	851	Spreadsheet Applic.	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
ECO 100	851	Elem. of Economics	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
GEO 102	851	Planet Earth	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
MTH 155	851	College Algebra	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
PSY 238	851	Human Sexuality	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 144	851	Intro. to Sociology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 245	851	Criminology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SPA 122	851	Elementary Spanish 2	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 112	805	Western Civilization 2	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3cr
PSY 133	805	Intro. to Psychology	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3cr

SUNY Empire State College

Various Semester dates 9/4 -12/22/03

INT 328		The Domestic Dog	Th	1200-1400	4cr	FTD
HUM 305		Language & Culture	Th	1200-1400	4cr	FTD
MTH 102		Intermediate Algebra	Mo	1200-1400	4cr	FTD
CHS 325		Trends, Iss. & Controv. In H.S.	We	1800-2030	4cr	Watertown
INT 300		Ed. Planning & Lifelong Lrng.	Tu	1800-2030	4cr	Watertown
CUL 200/300		Topics in Writing	Mo	1800-2030	4cr	Watertown
HIS 240/340		Global Iss. & US For. Pol.	Th	1800-2000	4cr	Watertown

Study groups will meet every other week for a period of 8 weeks. Substantial independent study is required as well as participation in the study group sessions. Call 773-6139 for course descriptions.

SUNY Potsdam

Various session dates 9/4/03-11/25/03

BUEC 303		Legal Environ. Of Business	Tu	1730-2130	3cr	JCC
BUEC 355		Organization Behavior	Th	1730-2130	3cr	JCC
COMM 430		Employ. Seeking and Comm.	Fr/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
GREC 503		Educational Law	We	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GREC 517		Intg.Arts into Elem.Curr.	F/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
GREC 567		Elem. Soc. Studies: Cnt & Mthd	M	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GREC 600		Phil. Foundations of Educ	Tu	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GREC 605		Rdng./Study Skills in Cont. Areas	Th	1630-2030	3cr	Sherman
GREC 607		Found. of Education(B-6th)	Tu	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GREC 630		Elem. Soc. Studies: In Reading	M	1630-2030	3cr	N. Elem
GREC 632		Clin. Prac: Diag. & Remed Rdng	Sa	0930-1200	3cr	JCC
GREC 633		Clin. Prac II: Field Based Prac.	Sa	1230-1430	3cr	JCC
GREC 660		Educational Research	Fr/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
GREC 669		Professional Portfolio	Self Paced		3cr	TBD
GRDG 605		Literacy Assess. & Eval.	M	1630-2030	3cr	N. Elem.
GRDG 615		Literacy: Family/Sch/Comm	Fr/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
SPED 505		Intro. To Special Education	We	1630-2030	3cr	N. Elem.
IT 614		Technology in Education	Fr/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC

SUNY Oswego

Semester dates 9/2-12/19/03

FIN 325 86E		Corporate Finance	Tu	1800-2045	3cr	JCC
CPS 503 810		Psych. Foundation - Personality	Tu	1600-1830	3cr	JCC
CPS 509 800		Prof. Sem. for HS/CC	Mo	1600-2100	3cr	JCC
CPS 510 010		Couns. Theory & Process (Lab req)	We	1600-1900	3cr	JCC
CPS 512 010		Case Studies in Counseling	We	1630-1900	3cr	JCC
CPS 513 010		Field Exper in Alchl. Couns. I	We	1630-1900	3cr	JCC
CPS 515 010		Field Exper in Counseling	Tu	1900-2130	3cr	JCC
CPS 516 010		Field Exper in Alchl. Couns. II	Tu	1900-2130	3cr	JCC
CPS 560 800		Chem. Dependency & Treatment	Mo	1830-2100	3cr	JCC
CPS 574 800		Voc. Develop. & Decision Making	Th	1600-2000	3cr	JCC
CPS 585 810		Found. Of Psy. & Educ. Appraisal	Mo	1630-1900	3cr	JCC
PBJ 300 820		Native American Law	Sa	0900-1145	3cr	JCC
PBJ 201 DIS		Survey: American Non-Crim. Law				SLN
PBJ 350 DIS		Pro Seminar: Public Just-Writing				SLN
PBJ 360 DIS		Discrimination in Workplace				SLN
PBJ 397 DIS		Practicum in Public Justice				SLN
PBJ 400 DIS		Police Management				SLN

General Ed and PBJ Elective Requirements for Oswego may be satisfied via online courses. Call 773-9007 for Wednesday advisement appointments for all programs.

SUNY Plattsburgh

Semester Dates 8/25-12/12/03

NUR 304		Health Assessment	We	1630-2120	3cr	JCC
NUR 425		Comm. Health Nursing	Mo	1630-1900	3cr	JCC
NUR 448		Pharmacology	Tu	1630-1720	1cr	JCC
CAS 111		Intro. To Canada	We	1820-2130	3cr	JCC
SOC 309		Sociology: Aging & Death	Fr	1600-1845	3cr	JCC

Note: Plattsburgh courses are in support of the Telenursing program. Please call 1-800-787-8773 for registration information and/or materials.