

Northwest Florida State College

1. What is your process for determining the number of college credits and the course equivalencies to award a student for military experience?

We currently only award credit to the military courses that appear on a student's Joint Services Transcript (we do not award credit based on military occupations). If a student has not completed a military course, they receive a minimum of 4.00 elective hours for their military experience. We use the ACE credit recommendations listed on the Joint Services Transcript and the ACE Military Guide to determine whether content and learning outcomes are comparable to that of one of our NWFSC courses. Most of the credit awarded is elective credit. Our official policy is published in the College's Online Catalog and is as follows:

Credit for Military Training and Experience

NWFSC recognizes the educational value of military training and experience. Students must submit an official military transcript to the Office of Academic Records and Enrollment for credit consideration. The Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard use the Joint Services Transcript (JST) to document military training and experience. If no JST record is available for the service member, the Office of Academic Records and Enrollment will accept a copy of the service member's DD Form 214.

The American Council on Education (ACE) recognizes the educational value of non-traditional training and learning experiences. As such, ACE continuously evaluates military school courses and occupations and makes recommendations for college-level credit. ACE credit recommendations are present on the Joint Services Transcript (JST) of a military service member. NWFSC will award credit for ACE recommendations in the associate and baccalaureate categories for the service member's documented military courses and military occupation experience. Recommendations for credit at the vocational level may be awarded upon approval from the Executive Director of Academic and Records in conjunction with the appropriate faculty/instructional staff. While ACE recommendations will be considered for credit during the evaluation of the JST, they are not binding to the College.

All direct course equivalents and general education electives will be posted to the student's academic record. A maximum of 18 non-general education electives will be posted. All credit awarded is posted to the student's record as transfer credit with a grade of "P". In such cases that the service member has no transferable experience documented on his or her JST, the service member will receive 4 hours of elective credit for his or her military experience. Military courses in which ACE has provided optional credit recommendations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and a final determination will be made by the Executive Director of Academic Records in conjunction with the appropriate faculty/instructional staff.

Although credit-by-examination scores such as CLEP and DANTES may appear on the JST, the service member is still required to provide an official score report from the respective examination authority in order for credit to be awarded from these alternative examinations.

Please note that the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) and Air University (AU) are degree-granting institutions accredited by the regional accrediting body Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS COC), and as such, fall under the College's general transfer credit policy, not this policy specific to the evaluation of the JST.