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# 65 schools receive ‘veteran-friendly’ ranking from MVAA for 2016-17

*44 colleges, universities ‘go for the gold’*

LANSING, Mich. – World class athletes weren’t the only ones going for the gold this past month. Sixty-five colleges and universities recently earned bronze-, silver- or gold-level status based on their commitment to providing on-campus, veteran-centric services to student veterans.



The Veteran-Friendly School program, created by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, recognizes institutions of higher learning for their dedication to student veterans and dependents utilizing their GI Bill and other educational benefits. This is the program’s second year; last year 57 schools were ranked.

“We had outstanding applicants, with more than half of this year’s veteran-friendly schools achieving a gold-level designation,” MVAA Director James Robert Redford said. “These colleges and universities have proven their dedication to the men and women who have served their country by ensuring they succeed in achieving their educational goals.”

Twelve new schools are featured in this year’s ranking including gold-level Detroit Training Center. Overall, 44 schools were awarded gold, 17 earned silver and four took home the bronze.

Some of the criteria schools were ranked on included having an active student-operated veterans club or association; veteran-specific career services or advising; on-campus veteran’s coordinator and awarding credit based on prior military training and experience.

The 2016-17 rankings are as follows:

## **GOLD**

Aquinas College  
Baker College\*  
Central Michigan University  
Davenport University

Delta College  
Detroit Training Center  
Eastern Michigan University\*  
Ferris State University\*

Grand Rapids Community College\*  
Grand Valley State University \*  
Henry Ford College  
Jackson College  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
Kirtland Community College  
Lake Michigan College  
Lansing Community College\*  
Macomb Community College  
MIAT College of Technology\*  
Michigan State University\*  
Michigan Tech University  
Mid Michigan Community College\*  
Montcalm Community College  
Mott Community College  
Muskegon Community College  
North Central Michigan College\*  
Northern Michigan University\*  
Northwestern Michigan College

Northwood University  
Oakland Community College  
Oakland University\*  
Olivet College  
Saginaw Valley State University  
Schoolcraft College  
Siena Heights University  
Spring Arbor University  
University of Detroit Mercy  
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn  
University of Michigan-Flint  
Walsh College  
Washtenaw Community College  
Wayne State University  
Western Michigan University  
Western Michigan University – Thomas M. Cooley Law School

#### **SILVER**

Adrian College  
Bay de Noc Community College  
Calvin College  
Compass College of Cinematic Arts  
Concordia University – Ann Arbor  
Focus HOPE  
Glen Oaks Community College  
Global Information Technology  
Gogebic Community College

Grace Bible College  
Greater Michigan Construction Academy  
Lake Superior State University  
Merrill Institute  
Monroe County Community College  
St. Clair County Community College  
Suburban Truck Driver Training School  
West Shore Community College

#### **BRONZE**

Alma College  
Cleary College

Lawrence Technological University  
Marygrove College

*\*Indicates a school that also participates in the [Michigan Veteran Education Initiative](#).*

Information about the criteria each school met to achieve its ranking is available at [MichiganVeterans.com/vetfriendlyschools](http://MichiganVeterans.com/vetfriendlyschools). Thirty-one schools met all seven criteria.

“These rankings make it simple for veterans and their dependents to identify Michigan schools committed to helping them succeed,” Redford said. “Veterans will also know exactly what services are available to them when they walk onto campus.”

The veteran-friendly designation is available to any institution of higher learning eligible to receive veteran education benefits, regardless of size, location or program delivery. Institutions apply annually for a designation, with an application and review process conducted every spring semester.

Student veterans or dependents with questions about GI Bill or other federal benefits should call 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838) or visit [MichiganVeterans.com](http://MichiganVeterans.com).

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***About the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency:*** MVAA serves as the central coordinating point for Michigan veterans, connecting those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, and their families, to services and benefits throughout the state. Learn more at [MichiganVeterans.com](http://MichiganVeterans.com) or call 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838).