



Veteran Student Newsletter

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CSI Veterans Committee

In an effort to better service veterans and current military service members, CSI has created the CSI Veterans Committee. The committee's objectives will be to help coordinate services provided to veterans on campus and look at ways to improve upon these services. Members of the committee include the following:

- CSI's Veterans Certifying Officials (Carol Carlile and Tara Nunnelley) ccarlile@csi.edu or tnunnelley@csi.edu
- CSI's Veterans Club Advisor and Faculty Representative (Brittney Gray) bgray@csi.edu
- CSI Counselor (Carol Vanhoozer) cvanhoozer@csi.edu
- CSI Dean of Student Services (Scott Scholes) sscholes@csi.edu
- CSI Student Advisor (Scott Lindquist) slindquist@csi.edu
- Veterans Club Student Representative (Rob O'Donnell)

If you have questions about the committee or recommendations on how to improve upon veteran services at CSI, let one the committee members know.

Scott Lindquist
Student Advisor



Is there something you want to see in the next newsletter? Contact Us: tnunnelley@csi.edu

Campus Spotlight

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Student Disability Services (SDS) at the College of Southern Idaho is responsible for ensuring that individuals with disabilities are provided equal access and opportunity to all of the services and programs offered by the college. Our office ensures that reasonable accommodations are made available to students who qualify to receive them.

Each semester, our office staff has the pleasure to work with several veterans with a variety of conditions. Some of these students have disabilities related to their service to our country while others have disabilities that have been present since their youth. Some of the more common conditions we assist with include: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and physical limitations/ mobility impairments.

To receive accommodations, students need to meet with an SDS staff member to determine what accommodations they are eligible to receive and pertain to their current coursework. Students wishing to have academic accommodations must provide current documentation of their disability. SDS responds to all requests for assistance to accommodate students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are provided on a case-by-case basis according to how their disability specifically impacts functioning.

Scott Scholes
Dean of Student Services



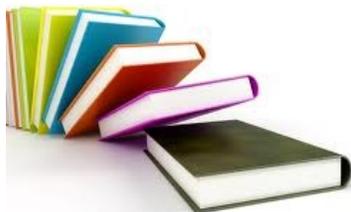
Hours for the SDS:

Fall/Spring Hours:
Mon-Friday 8am-5pm

Summer Hours
Monday - Friday 8am-5pm

Phone: (208)732-6260

Location: Taylor Administration Building 2nd Floor



Don't forget to speak with a CSI Veteran's Certifying Official when making any changes in your academic plans including changes in program of study and personal information.

Important Dates:

- August 31st—Last day of registration. Add/Drop/Audit
- August 31st—Last day for 100% refund
- November 1st—Deadline to apply for Fall graduation
- November 5th—Spring registration begins
- November 16th—Last day to Withdraw (W grade issued)

Welcome Back Veterans BBQ!!!

August 29, 2012
11:30 AM—1:00 PM

Outside Taylor
Administration
Building



VA Education Benefit Policies

Important VA Education Benefits Policies

It is important to be aware of the different policies associated with your VA Educational Benefits. Below are some of those regulations. A more complete list can be found at the [CSI Veterans Services webpage](#).

Changing Program of Study

If students decide that they want to change their program of study, they need to complete VA Form 22-1995 if they are using Chapter 30, 33, 1606, or 1607. If they are using Chapter 35, they need to complete VA Form 22-5495. These forms are available at the CSI Office of Admissions and Records from a CSI Veterans Certifying Official or online at the following link: <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/> Students need to supply a CSI Veterans Certifying Official with a hard copy of the form. A student also needs to change his or her major with the CSI Office of Admissions and Records.

Change of Personal Information

Students need to notify a CSI Veterans Certifying Official if they change their name, phone number, and/or address. Students also need to notify the CSI Office of Admissions and Records.

Repeating a Course

Courses that are failed or for which the grade does not meet minimum requirements for graduation may be repeated and certified for VA purposes once.

Course Add/Drop

If a student drops or withdraws from courses he or she is receiving VA Benefits for, those benefits may be reduced effective the date the withdrawal occurs. A student must notify a CSI Veterans Certifying Official when they drop, withdraw or add a course.

Incomplete Grades

If a student receives an incomplete (I) grade in a course, he or she has one year to complete the course. If after one year the course is not completed, the Department of Veterans Affairs will be notified and an overpayment may exist. If after one year the course is not completed, the grade will automatically be changed to an F, the Department of Veterans Affairs will be notified and an overpayment may exist.

Failing Grade

The Department of Veterans Affairs will only be notified of a failing grade (F) if the student stopped attending the class (as reported by the instructor) and an over payment may exist.

Developmental Courses

Students may receive VA Benefits for a developmental course only if they have placement scores that place them into the developmental course. Student may not take a developmental course online if they wish to receive VA Benefits. They must instead take the course in person.

Scott Lindquist
Student Advisor

What is Your College Education Worth?

Recently, I have come across veterans who fear they need to drop out of school because their GI Bill will run out. They feel there is no way they can comfortably survive being a student with no financial help from the GI Bill. Currently the Post 9/11GI Bill (Chapter 33) pays for tuition, books/materials, and a housing allowance for approximately four years. Unfortunately, not many veterans start or are ready to start school immediately after they are discharged from the military. Unfortunately, if they do not start in a certain time period, they lose the benefits of the GI Bill. So if this happens to you, what are your other options? There are plenty of additional resources that can be used to pay for college: Grants from your college, Federal Pell grant, grants or scholarships from your state, scholarships, subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans, and Federal work study.



Let's start with scholarships and grants. Grants and scholarships are FREE money and can vary from scholarships for vegans to scholarships for people who are really tall. Apply to as many as possible! Grants are issued on a need basis and scholarships are issued on a merit or need basis. Scholarships and grants can come from the state, the federal government, school, or even private organizations. Organizations that offer scholarships for veterans, military, and/or family include American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veteran of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. There are other military scholarships offered by smaller organizations. More information about scholarships can be found at the [CSI Scholarship webpage](#).

The next option is work study. If you are eligible for work study, you can work part time or full time at school and get paid. Jobs can vary from a laboratory assistant to working in the book store. You will earn at least the current Federal minimum wage. However, the hours are limited. You cannot earn more than your total Federal Work Study award. This is a great opportunity because you get paid, but the job works around your school schedule.

Another option are subsidized and unsubsidized loans. A subsidized loan is a loan that your school determines the amount you can borrow and it cannot exceed your financial need. You do not need to pay back these loans or interest until you decide to drop below six credits, after six months of leaving school, or after a deferment period. Unsubsidized loans are given on no basis of financial need, however, the school still determines the amount you can borrow. You will have to pay the interest of this loan while in school. Current interest rates for these loans are 3.4% for subsidized loans and 6.8% for unsubsidized. Repayment of these loans does not occur until six months after you have graduated or you drop below six credits. Typically, repayment plans vary from 10-25 years. be forgiven, canceled , or discharged such as the Teacher Loan Forgiveness or Public Service Loan Forgiveness. For more information, go to <http://studentaid.ed.gov/>.

Receiving a degree is extremely important in today's job market. Do not give up on school because of money. Getting an associate's degrees affords you many benefits. In 2001, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, people with an associate's degree are more likely to find jobs, earn 26% more than a high school grad, and the unemployment rate is 30% lower. Don't stop at an associates. Higher the degree you obtain, more the benefits you will see. So, before giving up on school due to finances, look at your options. For more information about grants, scholarships, work study and student loans; visit the [CSI Financial Aid Office website](#) or contact them directly (208-732-6273 csifinancialaid@csi.edu).

Important Links:

FAFSA

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

Financial Aid

<http://www.csi.edu/prospectiveStudents/studentServices/financialAid/>

Scholarships

<http://scholarships.csi.edu/>



Questions about the CSI Veterans club? Contact them: csiveteransclub@gmail.com



CSI Student Veterans Club:
"Like" us on Facebook



Brittney Gray
Veterans Club Advisor



A Letter from your School Certifying Official

Greetings and welcome to the fall 2012 school year!

I hope everyone had a great summer. I want to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Tara Nunnelley and I am the newest member of the VA School Certifying team here at the College of Southern Idaho. I started my career at CSI August 2010 as a Student Services Specialist and have been working with Veterans Education benefits since July 2011. My office is located in the Admissions & Records Office in the Taylor building.

Just a few reminders for the school year:

If you are using VA education benefits, after you have spoken with your major advisor and registered for classes, **fill out the CSI VA Certification form and submit to the Front Line Staff in the Admissions & Records Office.** This MUST be done every semester to continue receiving benefits.

If you are a post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) recipient, monitor your MyCSI account to ensure your tuition is being paid accordingly. If it not showing up on your account by August 31st, please come in and speak to one of the school certifying officials to complete a CSI Tuition Loan Agreement (TLA). ***We also must have a copy of your most current Certificate of Eligibility on file one can be obtained either online at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal> or by calling the VA regional processing office at 888-442-4551.**

If you are a recipient of any other GI Bill program (Chapter 30, 31, 35, 1606 and 1607) and are unable to pay your tuition in full, feel free to stop by the Admissions and Records office and sign a Tuition Loan Agreement. The first ¼ of your tuition balance + \$50 processing fee is required upon signing.

Be sure to notify the School Certifying Official of any changes in your enrollment (add/drop/withdraws), major changes throughout the semester.

I encourage students to get involved in clubs and organizations. Getting involved is a great way to meet people with the same interests and make the most out of your college experience. A list of clubs and organization on CSI's campus can be found online here at: http://www.csi.edu/prospectiveStudents/_studentServices/studentActivities/clubs/

Feel free to contact me or Carol with any questions or concerns with your benefits. My open hours are M-F 8:00am until 12:00pm and Carols are M-F 1:00pm until 5:00pm.

I hope you have a wonderful fall semester!

Tara Nunnelley
Student Services Specialist
School Certifying Official

College of Southern Idaho Veteran Services Contacts

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Visit us Online:
<http://www.csi.edu/veteransServices/>

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Suicide Prevention Hotline
1-800-273-8255