

DANTES Programs and Related Information

Examinations

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) sponsors a wide range of examination programs to assist service members in meeting their educational goals. These examinations are administered on more than 500 military installations by the DANTES Test Control Officer (TCO), who is normally the Education Services Officer or Navy College Education Specialist on the installation. About 170,000 DANTES-sponsored examinations are administered each year to military personnel. Academic first-time exams are fully funded for active duty, Guard, Reserve, and Coast Guard members.

DANTES sponsored exams include the following:

- [ACT](#) – provides college entrance testing and a broad array of education and workforce development tools
- [College-Level Examination Program® \(CLEP\)](#) – provides the opportunity to earn credit for knowledge gained through prior course work, on-the-job training (OJT), professional development, cultural pursuits, or internships.
- [DSST](#) – allow students to receive college credits for learning acquired outside the traditional classroom such as from outside reading, OJT, or independent study.
- [Excelsior College Examinations \(ECE\)](#) – allow students to meet specific degree requirements and are accepted for college credit by over 900 colleges and universities
- [General Equivalency Diploma \(GED\)](#) – measures skills and knowledge similar to a high school course of study through a battery of examinations
- [Graduate Management Admission Test \(GMAT\)](#) – includes verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing questions through a computer-adaptive test (CAT)
- [GRE®](#)
 - The GRE General is a computer-based test (CBT).
 - DANTES funds only one administration each of the GRE General CBT and GRE Subject (paper-based) exams per lifetime for eligible service members.
 - GRE Subject exams taken at a national test center are not reimbursable.
- [Praxis Series Test \(PRAXIS\)](#)
 - PRAXIS I: Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST) consists of three separate tests: reading, mathematics, and writing.
 - PRAXIS II: Subject Assessment/Specialty Tests include over 100 tests in specific subjects and specialties such as the Principles of Learning and Teaching.
- [SAT Reasoning Test](#) – formerly called the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), a globally recognized college admissions test that almost all colleges and universities use to make admissions decisions
- [SAT Subject Tests \(SAT II\)](#) – give students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of a specific subject, such as math, science, or history

Tuition Assistance

The Department of Defense (DoD) Tuition Assistance (TA) program allows active duty service members to receive up to \$4,500 per year, with caps of \$250 per semester hour, to further their educational goals. TA can be used for courses and programs offered by institutions accredited by agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education. Each of the Services implements TA eligibility policies for their service members.

DANTES Advisors

Several special advisors serve as resources for DANTES. In Europe, Marti Readell, located at Heidelberg, Germany, serves as the point of contact (POC) for United States European

Command (USEUCOM) education services professionals and provides DANTES assistance to all military and civilian Education Office staff. In the Far East, Alan Matsushima is the POC. Alan is with the Air Force Education and Training staff, located at Headquarters, Pacific Air Force, at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. The Far East Field Office covers all Military Services in the Far East, Hawaii, and Alaska.

The DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor advises the Director of DANTES on voluntary education issues, needs, and requirements affecting all uniformed service members. Other responsibilities include delivering DANTES briefings, managing special projects, conducting courtesy visits to military installations DoD-wide, and providing outreach to service members and Voluntary Education Services communities on DANTES programs and services.

The DANTES Reserve Component Advisor provides the Director of DANTES direct field input on day-to-day operational status, needs, and requirements of Reserve personnel in the area of voluntary, off-duty education. Additional duties include conducting command briefings and presentations on DANTES Reserve programs and services, providing technical support and assistance to the Reserve Component Education Policy Officer, Under Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs for the Reserve Component Education Panel (RCEP), and providing ongoing training updates and quality assistance visits to the Reserve Components.

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges

[Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges \(SOC\)](#) provide educational opportunities to service members who had trouble completing college degrees due to frequent relocations. SOC functions in cooperation with fifteen higher education associations, the DoD, and the active and Reserve Components of the Services to expand and improve voluntary postsecondary education opportunities for service members worldwide. SOC is funded by the DoD through a contract, managed by DANTES, with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). SOC operating programs include

- [SOC Consortium](#) – appropriately 1,900 accredited colleges and universities providing Associate, Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees for service members and their adult dependent family members
- [SOC Degree Network System](#) – a subgroup of SOC Consortium member institutions selected by the Military Services to deliver specific Associate and Bachelor’s degree programs to service members and their families:
 - [SOCAD](#) –Army
 - [SOCNAV](#) –Navy
 - [SOCMAR](#) –Marine Corps
 - [SOCCOAST](#) –Coast Guard
- [SOCGuard](#) – a college outreach program that integrates postsecondary education with key Army National Guard (ARNG) activities and functions
- [Concurrent Admissions Program \(ConAP\)](#) – a partnership between the Army Recruiting Command and participating SOC Consortium colleges and universities to link new Soldiers to a college at the time of enlistment

Military Evaluation/Transcripts

The American Council on Education (ACE) provides a collaborative link between the DoD and higher education institutions through the review of military training and experiences for the award of equivalent college credits for service members. Registrars, admissions officers, academic advisors, career counselors, and DoD Voluntary Education professionals have a basis for recognizing military educational experiences in terms of civilian academic credit.

The Military Evaluations Program evaluates Service School and DoD courses, occupations, and classifications. Thousands of service members can earn college credit for their military training and occupation. Military personnel transcripts can be accessed through the following links:

- [Army](#)
- [Navy and Marine Corps](#)
- [Air Force](#)
- [Coast Guard](#)

Military Installation Voluntary Education Review

The DoD Voluntary Education Program, in operation since World War II, includes basic skills, vocational, and postsecondary programs; counseling; and testing services. ACE administers the [Military Installation Voluntary Education Review \(MIVER\) Project](#), providing an independent third party assessment of the quality of voluntary education programs provided to service members at military installations around the world. Since it began in 1991, the MIVER project has conducted more than 200 reviews of voluntary education programs on military installations.

Visiting teams are comprised of highly qualified college and university professors. Educations Centers and servicing institutions are evaluated on the following criteria:

- o effectively meeting the specific needs of the installation
- o the general goals of the Service operating the installation

Online Academic Skills Course

Peterson's [Online Academic Skills Course \(OASC\)](#) helps students build their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills, offering unlimited access, around the clock, for all service members (active duty, Reserves, and National Guard), all federal government employees, and family members. Currently, there are seventy-one available interactive lessons. Each student takes a pre-test to customize a learning path to meet their needs.

[Tutor.com](#) is a great compliment to OASC for deployed personnel, providing free tutoring services to eligible military families on a variety of subjects.

Counseling

Counseling programs provide interest inventories and career assessments used by Education Center personnel to provide career guidance and counseling services to service members. These tools help students determine which college programs and careers they may be suited to, helping to direct them in a course of study to reach their goals.

Effective FY11, the [Computer Assisted Guidance Information System \(CAGIS\)](#), currently [DISCOVER®](#), is designated as the only degree planning/career counseling instrument DANTES is authorized to purchase for use in the Service's Education Centers. Information on other counseling guidance materials and interest inventories is available on the [DANTES website](#).

Credentialing

Many service members may already have the experience and knowledge required to gain certification in their occupational specialty. Credentialing (certification and/or licensure) documents a person's level of competency and achievement in a particular area. This can provide an alternate educational route for personnel not wishing to pursue a degree. [Credentialing programs](#) are managed through Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) with over eighty credentialing agencies.

DANTES Information Bulletin

The [DANTES Information Board \(DIB\)](#) is an online newsletter, providing the latest information on DANTES programs, reference publications and audiovisual aids, examinations, training, and other voluntary education resources to active duty and Reserve military education personnel, DANTES test centers, Service program headquarters, and academic institutions serving the military. It also provides a conduit for education personnel to share innovative program usage ideas, human interest stories, and their creative promotions. Surveys and feedback indicate the DIB is a valuable tool to help education personnel administer DANTES programs and to keep personnel current on voluntary education developments.

Distance Learning /Independent Study

The DANTES Distance Learning (DL) Program provides information on multiple programs offering a wide range of non-traditional educational opportunities. These opportunities are critical for service members and their families needing alternatives to fulfill course and/or degree requirements when classroom courses are unavailable or when work schedules, duty locations, and frequent moves do not permit traditional class attendance. Students can use DL to take high school, college, technical, or vocational courses. Students learn at a distance using a combination of textbooks, lessons, workbooks, video and audio tapes, computer conferencing, CD-ROM, the Internet, satellite TV, cable TV, and email. Independent study, also called directed study, also provides an alternative to traditional classroom learning. Typically, a student and the instructor agree upon the subject content and objectives for the student to further research outside of school. Because of frequent deployments and a highly mobile lifestyle, DL and independent study continue to grow in popularity with service members and their families. Service members and their families can access more information on the [DANTES website](#) or by contacting their [installation's Education Center](#).

DoD Worldwide Education Symposium 2012

Worldwide is the premiere professional development and training event in voluntary education, held every three years since 1994. The 2009 event, in Atlanta, drew over 2,500 participants, with the majority representing the DoD. The next symposium is scheduled for 23-27 July 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the theme will be "Educating the Force—Joint Effort, Joint Success." At the request of DoD, DANTES coordinates the planning committee for each symposium.

Reference Publications

DANTES purchases and distributes [educational reference materials](#) at no cost to military Education Centers throughout the DoD. These materials cover a multitude of topics, including degree programs, financial aid, college majors and careers, accreditation information, Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, Internet information, and more.

Training

DANTES offers workshops for Education Services Officers (ESOs), military education specialists, counselors, college representatives, and testing contractors:

- [Test Control Officer \(TCO\) Academic Testing Course](#) – offered online only
- [Regional Workshops](#) – three-day workshops held up to twice per year around the country
- [Services Workshops](#) – "DANTES 101" offered in a three-day format held onsite in Pensacola, Florida

Troops to Teachers

[Troops to Teachers](#) provides counseling and referral services to military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher. The DANTES Troops to Teachers office helps applicants identify teacher certification requirements, programs leading to certification, and employment opportunities. Every state is serviced by a Troops to Teachers state or regional office. This program has helped nearly 13,000 eligible military personnel in public and charter schools to begin new careers as teachers.

Links to Each Military Service Voluntary Education Program

- [Army Continuing Education](#)
- [Army University Access Online](#)
- [Marine Corps Voluntary Education](#)
- [Navy College Program](#)
- [Air Force Voluntary Education](#)
- [Reserve Component Voluntary Education](#)
- [Coast Guard Voluntary Education](#)