

Outreach to Military Veterans as PA School Applicants

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Educational Objectives



- ❧ Discuss the reasons why PA programs would focus outreach efforts on military veterans and service members.
- ❧ Describe the assets that military veterans bring to PA education and the PA profession.
- ❧ Describe barriers that military veterans face in the application and admissions processes for PA programs.
- ❧ Identify opportunities and barriers for PA programs seeking to reach potential military applicants to PA school.
- ❧ Formulate solutions to the challenges that PA schools may face in reaching this applicant pool.

Why Recruit Veterans and Service Members?

- National effort to facilitate the pathway from work as a medic or corpsman to a civilian PA career
- White House call for action and HRSA Helping Veterans Become PAs initiative
- Contributions to the classroom, program and profession
- History of the PA profession

Assets These Applicants Offer

- ☞ Teamwork
- ☞ Leadership skills
- ☞ Discipline
- ☞ Creativity
- ☞ Ability to handle stress

Barriers These Applicants Face

- ∞ Access to information
- ∞ Prerequisite coursework
- ∞ Earning baccalaureate degrees
- ∞ GPA requirements (e.g., early attempts at school)
- ∞ Geography
- ∞ Stereotyping

Examples of Outreach

- ❧ Education fairs
- ❧ Networking events or job fairs
- ❧ Information sessions or booths at base hospitals
- ❧ Information sessions or booths at VA hospitals
- ❧ Connections with on-base educational services
- ❧ Connections with on-base transition services
- ❧ Veterans service organizations: VFW, USO

Small Group Discussions

- ☞ Type and location of PA program
- ☞ Any nearby bases or service organizations
- ☞ Other PA programs in state or region to team up with
- ☞ Program resources or barriers
- ☞ Institutional resources or barriers

Reports

∞ Results of group discussions

∞ Wrap-up