CARNEGIE MELLON MILITARY VETERANS & ROTC COMMUNITY

Carnegie Mellon University is a “military friendly” campus according to the G.I. Jobs website. With over 200 CMU students, faculty and staff identifying themselves as veterans, members of the military community contribute to the vitality and hard-working spirit of our campus. For almost 30 years, CMU has hosted a successful Naval ROTC program, a part of the Steel City NROTC Unit. This consortium includes students from the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University. CMU’s renowned educational experience and its financial stability provide military veteran and ROTC students with the tools to solve complex problems and shape the world before, during, and after their military experience.

Student veterans: Financial aid

Veteran and military students utilize federal benefits, including Yellow Ribbon funding and fee remissions. In 2015-2016, Carnegie Mellon had 84 Post-9/11 G.I. Bill beneficiaries. Shown below is funding received by the 80 undergraduate and graduate students receiving veterans'/military benefits.

2015-16

Veterans Affairs
Direct Funding

$1.4 million

Institutional
Gift Aid/Grants

$1.4 million

Sources: CMU Student Accounts Office & U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (www.benefits.va.gov)

ROTC students: Financial aid

Carnegie Mellon Naval ROTC (NROTC) students participate in the Steel City NROTC Unit, one of 61 units and consortiums across the United States. CMU students active in the Army or Air Force participate in a joint ROTC program through the University of Pittsburgh. Of the 16 ROTC students studying at Carnegie Mellon in 2016-2017, 15 received full tuition scholarships.

2016-17

15 of 16

Undergraduate NROTC scholarship recipients receive an institutional grant of $8,000 for room and board from Carnegie Mellon - this is in addition to the scholarship funds provided by the Navy.

Source: CMU ROTC & Veterans Affairs Coordinator

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Campus services & local environment

Along with the many local veterans’ organizations around Pittsburgh, there are three student organizations on campus: the Heinz Veterans Association, the CMU Student Veterans and Family Association, and the Tepper School of Business Military Veterans Association. CMU is also one of 2,119 colleges and universities that participates in the “8 Keys to Veterans’ Success,” which is a voluntary initiative through the Departments of Education, Veterans Affairs and Defense. The program involves universities that have committed to supporting veterans as they pursue their educational and employment goals. A website dedicated to CMU’s veterans and military community was established in 2014 (www.cmu.edu/veterans).

Career opportunities for veterans

In October 2014, Forbes magazine ranked Pittsburgh as the #1 city for veterans just starting out. Factors considered included colleges/universities, G.I. Bill enrollment, job growth and health resources, and companies that put an emphasis on hiring vets (including Heinz, Alcoa, FedEx, PNC Bank and Wellpoint).

CMU consistently ranks high in undergraduate degrees popular with veterans: Business Administration, Engineering, Information Technology, and Operations and Logistics.

Spotlight on CMU NROTC students

Midshipman David Trzcinski is a junior majoring in Mechanical Engineering. In addition to NROTC, Trzcinski is a two-sport varsity athlete. He said CMU has provided the opportunity for him to develop his leadership skill set and that his experience so far has been challenging but also very rewarding. Trzcinski can attest to CMU’s label as military friendly. “CMU has many professors who are veterans, as well as being situated in a city with a strong history of serving our country. This provides many outlets of support for students who are in officer ascension programs, as well as active duty and veteran students,” he said. Trzcinski chose CMU because he believed “it would provide me (with) the technical, professional, and leadership skills in order to make the most of my career and potential.” After graduating, he plans on becoming a Surface Warfare Officer.

Midshipman Third-Class Evan Glauberman is a sophomore majoring in International Relations and Politics with a minor in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. Glauberman said CMU has been instrumental in helping him accomplish his goal of commissioning as a Naval or Marine Corps Officer. “Professors and school organizations are almost always willing to accommodate me when important NROTC events conflict with class or extracurricular activities,” he said. Glauberman agreed that CMU is a military friendly school and he said other students are curious about the purpose of the ROTC program and excited to learn about it.