Veteran Student Support Services (VSSS) is the primary office on campus for serving student veterans.

Vision
Our vision is for student Veterans, active duty personnel, National Guards and Reserve members, and their qualifying dependents to succeed at Illinois and reach their full potential as ethical leaders and engaged citizens.

Mission
The mission of Veteran Student Support Services (VSSS) is to serve student Veterans, active duty military personnel, National Guard and Reserve members, and their qualifying dependents by providing excellence in outreach, student support services, and advocacy.

Values
• VSSS aspires to the highest standard of quality in our communications, services, and outreach.
• VSSS strives to create transformational learning experiences guided by the best scholarship and proven approaches available.
• VSSS attempts to embrace the campus’ commitment to diversity by providing opportunities that showcase the pluralism within our student Veteran community.

Services for student Veterans
VSSS at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is committed to the success of each student Veteran, active duty military person, National Guard and Reserve member, and their qualified dependents. From supporting your integration to campus life, to succeeding in the classroom the following resources are designed to enrich student Veteran’s experience.

• **Orientation:** Each semester VSSS welcomes new student Veterans to campus. Our orientation offers student Veterans an opportunity to learn about vital academic resources and support services, while meeting fellow student veterans.

• **Mentoring:** VSSS reaches out to new student veterans on campus. Our peer mentoring program is designed to help ease student Veteran's transition to campus by connecting her or him to another well trained, student Veterans who has already transition to campus successfully.

• **Student Veteran Lounge:** Many of our student Veterans live off campus and commute for classes and co-curricular activities. The Student Veteran Lounge is a great place to study between classes, meet and socialize with other Veterans, and access resources and referrals for Veteran student services on campus.

• **Programming and Outreach:** In an effort to enhance the experience of student Veterans and provide support and advocacy for them on campus, VSSS provides a wide array of programming and outreach. All of our services are free and open to student Veterans, active duty military personnel, National Guard and Reserve members, and their qualified dependents.

Community impact
Over 20 military connected students visited Barkstall Elementary School as an outreach program to teach our younger generation about what it means to be a veteran and how veterans give back to the community.

AY 2015-16 highlights
• VSSS recruited, hired, and trained five undergraduate student workers to staff the Veteran Student Lounge and assist with outreach and programming.
• VSSS and Career Services presented at the 2016 NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students.
• VSSS partnered with the Illini Veterans and the Career Center to offer a highly successful, five part career development series for military connected students.
• In FY 16 the University of Illinois was designated “Best for Vets” by the Military Times and “Top College and University” by Military Advanced Education for a second year in a row.
• VSSS hosted two Veteran Ally workshops that educated over 40 staff and faculty members about issues our military connected students face.
• In AY 2015-16 VSSS served 320 military connected students with 48 being female and 272 being male. VSSS also supported 160 military connected family member students using GI Bill benefits on campus.
• The three top colleges within the University of Illinois military students are choosing are the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (81), College of Engineering (48), and the College of Business (47).
• Out of the 320 military connected students, 198 (62%) were in an Undergrad program and 122 (38%) were in a Graduate or Professional program.