

# Gold standard: OU earns highest possible ranking for support of student veterans



May 26, 2020

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For the fourth consecutive year, Oakland University received a gold ranking, the highest possible rating for veteran-friendliness from the [Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency](#) (MVAA). The organization recognizes institutions of higher learning for dedication to student veterans and dependents using their G.I. Bill and other educational benefits.

Based on a variety of factors, the schools on this year's list were grouped into bronze, silver and gold levels of recognition. To earn a gold-level designation, schools need to fulfill at least six of these seven evaluation criteria:

- Established process for identification of current student veterans
- Veteran-specific website
- Active student veteran organization or club

- Veteran-specific career services, resources, advising and/or outcome monitoring
- On-campus veterans' coordinator and/or designated staff point of contact
- System to evaluate and award credit based on prior military training and experience
- Monitoring and evaluation of student veteran academic retention, transfer and graduation rates

Oakland met all seven criteria and also fulfilled 15 out of the 16 criteria listed on [MVAA's dashboard](#) – one of only four schools in the state to do so.

“This is a huge honor for Oakland University and for me personally,” said Eric Wuestenberg, coordinator of Veterans Support Services. “My staff and I strive to make Oakland the best veteran-friendly school, not only in the State of Michigan, but in the whole United States because we feel that's what our military-connected students deserve.”

To learn more about veteran support services at Oakland, view the website at [oakland.edu/veterans](http://oakland.edu/veterans) or call (248) 370-2010.