

**OFFICE OF MILITARY AND VETERAN SERVICES - SFAC HIGHLIGHT SUMMARY - Budget Cycle FY25**

**1. Did you receive any new funding for this year? If so, how is it being used? Present your budget worksheet.**

The Capt. Wendell M. Wilson Office of Military and Veteran Services (OMVS) received \$10,000 in base funding starting in FY22. In FY23, OMVS also received one time funding of \$7,000 for student work-study wages. All funds prior to FY22 have been from E&G funding sources. In FY24, UHCL is providing and replacing E&G funding sources with \$67,099 in Student Fee Funding. The funding returns back to the Division of Student Affairs for the OMVS salary, fringe benefits, and longevity pay for staff providing programming. No new funding was provided for FY24.

OMVS will utilize the \$67,099 in funding to support staff developing and creating programming while continuing to use the \$10,000 in base funds to host several community events, speaker engagements, student veteran socials, and programming. The funding will help breakdown potential misconception people may have concerning military-connected students. All programs and events will be open to all students, but will focus on military and veteran related topics.

During the past year, OMVS used \$3,237 of the \$10,000 in base funding for events and programs such as Veteran's Day, 2 Veteran Meet and Greets, Boots to Suits Programming, and Veteran giveaways. The one-time funds of \$7,000 in student work-study wages will not be requested again and \$6,020 was spent.

**2. Summarize the usage of your services. What areas/programs saw increases or decreases?**

The Capt. Wendell M. Wilson Office of Military and Veteran Services, provides crucial help, advice, educational support, and career counseling to all students in need. In addition, we assist veterans, and non-veterans, in securing their education benefits and VA support. The office is staffed by veterans and civilians that are committed to creating a veteran-friendly campus that is safe, healthy, and productive to all students.

The campus Veteran certification process has continued to grow, and OMVS continues to implement new initiatives to reduce the time needed to complete the certification process. In FY23, an additional Coordinator was added to support the certification process.

In the second year of receiving SFAC base funding, OMVS has yet to gain a baseline understanding of programming for the office. However, Veteran students have shared that they would like to see more community building events and better outreach not related to the certification process. Below is a list of events that took place outside of certification services in FY23.

**OMVS Events from FY23**

Veteran's Day - Community

VA Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training - Community

Visit with Retired Veterans - Community

Homeless Veteran Donation Drive - Community

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership - Community

Ellington Field Family Day - Community



Office of Military and Veteran Services Meet and Greet - Campus  
VA Benefits Townhall Meeting - Campus  
PTSD Awareness Curated Movie - Campus  
Boots to Suits - Campus  
Artist in Arms Art Show - Campus

**3. Describe the student satisfaction with your services.**

Overall student satisfaction has steadily improved with the new changes made to the UHCL certification process. Because of the changes, the office has had an opportunity to focus more on student engagement and support outside of the certification process. Unfortunately, due to staff issues in FY23, specific data on overall satisfaction, outside of the certification process was not collected. However, OMVS is planning several programs and events throughout the FY24 year that will be assessed by the team.

**4. What has your department done to increase or improve services? Specifically, what did you learn in your assessment that is impacting your services now?**

During FY23, OMVS increased its schedule of sponsored and co-sponsored events. OMVS increased its presence in several resource fairs, both on and *off* campus, as well as other non-traditional campus events. For FY23, the office exceeded its participation; almost doubling its presence at on-campus events. The results fostered concrete plans to refine the OMVS offering of events as well as continuing made connections with campus and non-campus partners.

New events for FY23 included a first ever collaboration with a community organization, Artists in Arms, during which veteran student artists were allowed to tell their stories through art with a capstone public art showing hosting by the Bayou Theater. Additionally, OMVS partnered with the former Office of Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at UHCL to host a Veteran's graduation program.

OMVS did not have the opportunity to evaluate this year SFAC funding due to issues with staffing and turnover in the office. However, OMVS has found students requesting more social and education programs that help build community and offer support.

**5. Describe any new initiatives for the current year.**

OMVS has begun creating and implementing new programming that focuses on community building and retention of our military-connected students. Events include community building programs, veteran meet and greets, Veteran's day celebration, public speakers, and educational programming to help remove certain stereotypes about veterans. The OMVS, in collaboration with the Career Services office, received funding from Boeing to expand upon the Boots to Suits program and impact an even greater number of Veteran students. The OMVS participated in Weeks of Welcome hosting a veteran focused movie and hosted a breakfast meet and greet to kick off the academic year with Veterans.



**6. What challenges or opportunities do you foresee for the current year and next year?**

Many veterans attempt to make the leap to college immediately after transitioning from the military. Mostly because they want to quickly move to the next phase of their lives. However, they do this while still dealing with transition issues and sometimes before they are truly ready to take on the responsibility of school. In addition, despite the education benefits received from the VA, food insecurity and outside obligations can have a major impact on a veteran's success.

UHCL has the resources to help our military-connected students and support them in their education goals. OMVS will continue to do this by building a sense of community for these students, and helping them to better understand the importance of seeking help when needed.

**7. Did you have funds swept at the end of FV23? If so, how much and why?**

The Office of Military and Veteran Services had \$7,743 swept out of the \$17,000 total funded for OMVS at the end of FY23. The swept funds were due to staffing turnover and not having the team to create additional programming and events.

**8. Are you requesting new funding? One-time or Base? Present your budget request for next year and rationale.**

The office of Military and Veteran Services is requesting to continue receiving \$10,000 in base funding for program and outreach. Additionally, OMVS requests the \$67,099 for salary, fringe benefits, and longevity pay to support staff developing programming.

