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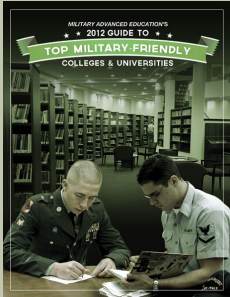
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UNIVERSITY CORNER: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



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Darren Crone, Ed.D.
eLearning Director
The University of Texas at Dallas
School of Management

Q: Please provide a brief overview of the University of Texas at Dallas.

A: UT Dallas is part of the world-renowned University of Texas system. This campus was established more than 40 years ago specifically so engineers at Texas Instruments [TI] could earn a quality master's degree without leaving Dallas, where TI is headquartered. Over the past 40 years, UT Dallas has evolved into a full university with an enrollment of 18,000, from freshmen to doctoral students. The School of Management is now the largest of UT Dallas' seven schools and is accredited by the AACSB—the most prestigious of the business school accrediting programs.

Q: What online degrees do you offer and how do these programs fit in with military personnel—either active duty or transitioning to civilian life?

A: This is not an "easy" place to earn a degree. The university as a whole—and the School of Management specifically—is known for its strong analytics focus. However, if students are looking for a degree that will prepare them for greater responsibilities, whether in the military or out, this is the place to come.

The degrees we offer that are fully online—an M.B.A. as well as master's in accounting or information technology and management [ITM], and soon, supply chain management—are particularly suited to those continuing on with their military careers or transitioning into civilian life. Our ITM program is

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ranked number 18 nationally among all universities; our supply chain management program, which is almost fully online, is one of only six nationwide in partnership with the U.S. Army's National Logistics Curriculum, and our M.B.A. is ranked among the top 40 nationwide.

Q: What do you think are the key issues facing higher education today?

A: Obviously, one of these issues is accessibility. More and more students are nontraditional, meaning they don't fit the stereotypical 18- to 22-year-old dormliving college student profile.

Nontraditional students fit well at UT Dallas and at the School of Management. Across the board, all of our degrees offer significant components online. Military members planning to transition into civilian life within the next few years, for instance, could start a degree online and then move to Dallas—an area with affordable living costs—to finish up on campus. As a state, Texas embraces the armed forces and veterans.

Q: How is UT Dallas School of Management meeting the challenges of online education for the military?

A: We grant high-quality degrees. We want to make sure all students—military or not—are prepared for future careers. Our faculty is top-flight, our curricula and faculty research are recognized nationally. Whether attained online or in the classroom, these degrees have merit.

Our courses are asynchronous—meaning you will not have to “attend” class at a specific time. Course materials consist of pre-recorded multimedia lectures, discussion boards, projects, simulations, group work and exams.

Every person who connects to this university via the Internet is as important as any student who walks through the doors. We have many layers of online support— from an e-newsletter I write specifically for our online students to 24/7 technical support via phone and Internet to a blog for our School of Management online students.

Our professors like having military and former military students in their classes. These are motivated individuals who take their jobs as students seriously. I can't tell you how often I've heard a professor say how great it is having someone connected with the armed forces in their class. We know your schedule will not always be predictable and high ops tempo is a fact of life in today's military. Our professors have experience teaching deployed students and understand this. UT Dallas online classes are flexible and our faculty and staff will work with you.

At UT Dallas, the professors who teach on-campus courses also teach their online counterparts. Also, professors design their courses as opposed to using an off-the-shelf curriculum from an outside company.


Q: Any closing thoughts?

A: This is Texas, home to some of the world's largest military bases. For students who have separated from the military and want to hone their civilian credentials, I can tell you we generally have an easier time placing our graduates who have military backgrounds. Employers in Texas know and respect military service.

For active duty students, we make it worth their while to take online classes at UT Dallas by ensuring the degree they earn will make them fully competitive in the armed forces and in civilian life.

I served as a combat cameraman in the USAF and completed much of my education online. The director of our online M.B.A. program, Colonel Larry Chasteen (Ret.), was a B-52 pilot in the USAF. One of our financial aid advisers, Buddy Sherbet, works solely with active military and veterans. He served with the U.S. Navy on the flight deck of the USS Coral Sea during the Vietnam conflict. We have about 600 students who are veterans or active duty. It may not be obvious to a casual student that these connections with the armed forces exist at UT Dallas, but they do. And frankly, I'm proud of it. ♦

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