

Veteran Student Interview Protocol

Interviewer: Mark Anthony Brennan

Date:

Location & Format: Online Via Zoom

Participant Name:

Opening Script:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. I am working on a project that supports veteran and military-affiliated students here at UTSA. This interview aims to gain a deeper understanding of your experiences with the Center for Military Affiliated Students (CMAS) services and your academic journey. Your feedback will help us shape future programming and training for faculty and staff. There are no right or wrong answers—please share whatever you feel comfortable with. You can skip any question or stop at any time.

Do I have your permission to continue with the interview?

Yes No

Do I have your permission to record this session?

Yes No

Interview Questions

Background & Transition to Campus*

1. Can you tell me a bit about your military background and what led you to pursue higher education at UTSA?
2. What was your transition like from military service to college life?
3. Were there any good or bad surprises when you first started at UTSA?

Experiences with CMAS*

4. How did you first become aware of CMAS?
5. What services or support have you used through CMAS?
6. How has CMAS impacted your experience at UTSA?
7. Which moment or event from CMAS caught your attention the most?

Academic & Campus Life*

8. Have you faced any challenges in the classroom related to your veteran identity or background?

9. What could professors do to be more supportive of veteran students?

10. Have you taken any classes where you felt especially included or seen as a veteran?

PTSD, Moral Injury, and Mental Health (Optional)

11. (Optional) Have you experienced PTSD or Moral Injury in your academic journey?

12. What helps you manage those challenges while attending college?

13. What do you wish more people on campus understood about PTSD or Moral Injury?

Looking Forward*

14. What advice would you give to a new veteran student at UTSA?

15. If you could design something to help veteran students succeed, what would it be?

16. What role should veteran voices play in shaping UTSA programs and policies?

Micro-Credential (Optional)

17. We are developing a veteran-focused micro-credential to educate faculty and staff on how to support military-affiliated students effectively. Would you be open to sharing your story or experiences as part of this project?

18. (If so) How would you feel most comfortable participating (e.g., video testimonial, short audio interview, or anonymously)? _____

Notes:

Red = Required (1 question, minimum required from each section), Green = Optional