

# OU retains gold ranking among state's veteran-friendly schools

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has recognized Oakland for providing excellent services and support to student veterans.



📅 February 13, 2019

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For the third straight year, Oakland University received a gold ranking, the highest possible rating for veteran-friendliness from the [Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency](#) (MVA). 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 out of the seven evaluation criteria. Oakland was among a select number of schools that met all seven criteria, listed below.

- Established process for identification of current student veterans
- Veteran-specific website
- Active student-operated veterans club or association
- 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

“This is a great honor for Oakland University, and I am humbled to be able to play a part in receiving this well-deserved recognition,” said Eric Wuestenberg, Coordinator of OU Veterans Support Services. “Earning the MVAA’s Gold-level status for another year signifies that we continue to provide support to our military-connected students at the highest level possible, and they deserve nothing less.”

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. Visit the Office of Veterans Support Services in 112 Vandenberg Hall.