

Military and Veteran Success Center (MVSC) 2026/2027 Student Fee Application

Application Part I.

1 a. Narrative

- **Name of applicant:** Laura Barela, Director of Veteran and Military Success Center (MVSC)
- **Amount requested:** MVSC is not requesting a funding increase this semester. The current rate is \$1.85.
- **Missions of MVSC**

The mission of the MVSC is to offer a comprehensive higher education experience that meets the needs of our veteran students from transition to graduation. The staff of MVSC has established comprehensive services for active-duty service members, veterans, and dependents. This includes academic advising/mentoring, certification of veteran's education benefits and active-duty tuition assistance (TA) for each military branch, student advocacy, and opportunities for student engagement. MVSC processes billing of veteran's education benefits and TA and reconciles student accounts. MVSC provides excellence in customer service. The goal of the MVSC is to provide active-duty military, veterans, and dependent students with the resources and knowledge to be successful at Colorado State University Pueblo and reach their academic goals while creating an environment that allows military students to engage with others. MVSC advocates for the military affiliated population on campus and strives to continually implement and improve processes and procedures that will help students further their education goals. The MVSC serves approximately 420 students. The MVSC supports active-duty service members, veterans, and dependents.

This year the MVSC maintained the number of activities provided for students in the MVSC and saw an increase in student participation at these events held. These events included:

- Meet the Team Coffee Around the World event in September.
- Wing Party in October
- Veteran's Day Ceremony and reception
- Veterans Week Free Lunch at Pack Café
- Veteran's Day ceremony and reception
- Hot Coco and Cookies End of Semester Event
- Veteran Food Distribution

Activities planned for the spring 2026 semester include:

- Great Thaw Out Soup Buffet
- Spring Break Ice Cream Social
- Graduation Reception for veterans and dependents graduating this academic year.
- The MVSC continues to provide five scholarships each semester, (Fall and Spring).

Similar activities are planned for the next fiscal year to support our students and allow for campus-wide engagement. Expenses for these activities have been shifted to the MVSC general fund budget.

The MVSC continues to collaborate with our partners at Mt. Carmel Veteran Services, the Pueblo Military Affairs Committee, the Pueblo Advocacy Team, and other local agencies for continued collaboration.

The use of student fee funds for the MVSC in the 2026-2027 academic year include:

- Salary for full-time position of the MVSC Operations Manager.
This position oversees the billing process for students using veteran's education benefits and active-duty tuition assistance. This position ensures compliance with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. This position also serves as a School Certifying Official for veteran's education benefits and assists in overseeing daily operations and supervision of student employees.
 - i. The Operations Manager provides timely processing of benefits and assists with crediting student accounts.
 - ii. The MVSC can better serve our military affiliated students through different campus engagement events.

- iii. Having this position allows for more time to be spent by other staff in the office on education/training across campus regarding veteran's services and allows for collaboration with departments on campus.
- Salary for full-time position of the Academic Success Coordinator.
 This position is critical in the ability for the MVSC to service the needs of military students. This position provides academic advising. The coordinator not only assists military students with academic advising, but it also provides academic advising for all students during the Ready, Set, Enroll Events and for outreach activities at Pueblo Community College and Ft. Carson. It is the lead school certifying official for the department. This position previously was funded through the Mi Hente grant. Due to changes in federal funding, this grant is no longer available. Without this position the MVSC cannot continue with all the services we offer. Cutting any of the services provided by the MVSC will have an impact on military students.
- MVSC provides support to staff at the CSU Pueblo Ft. Carson Office. The Ft. Carson Office is now fully supervised by the MVSC. All Active-duty tuition assistance billing is done in the MVSC.
- In the 2026/2027 academic year the MVSC will continue its partnerships with community organizations as well as with other campus departments including Veterans Upward Bound Program (VUB). This program assists veterans who are transitioning into college by providing preparatory courses and study skills needed to be successful. The MVSC continues to increase student engagement of veterans on campus.
- The MVSC continues to see an increase in student traffic in the office.
 Students have been utilizing the veterans lounge and holding study groups throughout the semester. We are providing an environment where students feel welcome and enjoy socializing with other students. There has been an increase in usage of the veterans' lounge by non-military students.
- The success of Business Financial Services and MVSC collaboration is measured by the reconciliation and balancing of MVSC student

accounts each semester and by meeting VA and DOD mandates.
We continue to improve our processes in this area.

Proposed Budget for MVSC

The proposed budget for the MVSC Students Fees will be used to cover salary and fringe costs for the Operations Manager position and for the Student Success Coordinator. Costs related to student engagement, retention and recruitment have been moved to the university general fund account for the MVSC. The proposed budget for MVSC Student Fee for the 2026/2027 academic year is \$138,700.

Currently MVSC will have carry forward of approximately \$11497.00 from the 2024/2025 budget. In the fall the Student Fee Board approved the carry-over funds. The funds will be used to offset the salary for the Operations Manager position and the Student Success Coordinator. The table below provides a breakdown of the proposed budget.

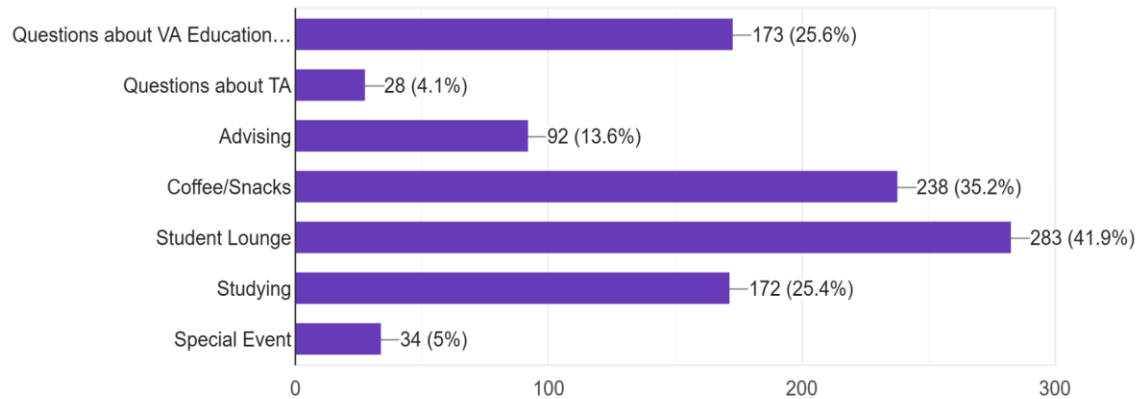
MVSC 2026 Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year	Activity	Budget
2027	Operations Manager Salary, Fringe	\$69994.41
	Academic Success Coordinator, Salary, Fringe	\$68979.00
Total		\$138,970.41
Estimated Credit Hours		
		\$135,050.00

MVSC Activity Stats

Reason for Your Visit

676 responses



Fall Events

Veterans Day Ceremony

- Approximately eighty-five people

Veterans Day Reception

- Approximately ninety people

Veterans Free Lunch Voucher

- Seventy-five people

MVSC Wing/Chips Party:

- Fifty people

Veterans Week Raffle

- Forty-three people

MVSC Q&A and Coffee Around the World

- Forty-eight people

Annual Veteran Food Distribution Event: Oct 26th

- One thousand people served and sixty-five volunteers

Halloween/Midterm Celebration: Oct.

- Thirty-two people

MVSC Cookies and Cocoa

- Thirty-five people