Overview

What is the purpose of the MBA Pathway program?
The unemployment rate among US military veterans exceeds that of non-veterans of equivalent age and education by as much as 20%. A very small portion of our country’s population serves in the Armed Forces, and many civilian employers are not familiar with the knowledge and experience that service members and veterans possess that can be applied to post-service careers. Also, service members and veterans may not be familiar with the needs of civilian employers or how best to present their military training and experience when seeking employment. The MBA Pathway is a pilot program that attempts to address this gap by helping active and veteran service members use their military training and experience to accelerate the completion of a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Management degree and ease their transition to the civilian workforce.

What makes the MBA Pathway program different?
The MBA Pathway provides veteran and current members of all branches of the US Armed Services an opportunity to use graduate-level military training recognized by the American Council on Education (ACE) toward the completion of an MBA degree. A new online course titled Leading in a Civilian Context (LCC) will be added, and will contain lessons that help students translate their military training and knowledge into skills that are understood and valued by civilian employers, and apply their leadership skills and experience to jobs outside of the military.

Admissions

Are there any special admissions requirements for the MBA Pathway?
In addition to the standard MBA admission requirements, applicants must provide copies of Joint Service Transcript (JST) or USAF (Air University or CCAF) transcripts that document credit earned through military training. No entrance testing (i.e., GMAT or GRE) is required.

To request transcripts:
Army, Navy and Coast Guard service members can request a copy of their JST at https://jst.doded.mil/

How many credits can I transfer to the MBA Pathways program?
A minimum of 24 (of 48) credits must be earned by completing Empire State College coursework. The remainder can be completed through transfer of appropriate ACE-recognized military credit, transfer of graduate credit from another college or university (9 credits maximum) or completion of Independent Direct Assessments (IDAs) to demonstrate prior knowledge of functional subject matter. Military and transfer credit must be less than seven years old at the time of admission. Please see the MBA Web pages for more information about the use of transfer credit and their application to an MBA degree.

Note: The prerequisite undergraduate coursework for MBA admission (Accounting - 3 credits); Economics (Micro and Macro, 3–6 credits) and Statistics (3 credits) is separate from the limit of 24 transfer credits shown above, and may be more than 7 years old at initial admission to the MBA program.
You mentioned accelerating the completion of my MBA. How long will this take me?
Every student’s timeline is different, depending on the number of transfer and IDA credits that apply to the degree requirements. It’s realistic to expect that you could complete the MBA Pathway in three years or less on a part-time basis, even with minimal use of prior learning credit.

Sounds great, but how am I going to pay for this?
GI Bill or active-duty Tuition Assistance benefits may be available to help pay for your degree. Financial assistance may also be available through your civilian employer, or through Federal or state student aid or loan programs. Military and Veteran MBA candidates pay a flat fee of $551 per credit (most courses are 3 credits), plus required books, materials, a $350 fee for each residency, and travel and lodging costs to attend residency programs. Please contact our Office of Veteran and Military Education at military.programs@esc.edu or 518-587-2100 ext. 2779 to learn more.

Curriculum
Do MBA Pathway students take different coursework?
The Leading in a Civilian Context (LCC) course replaces Executive Assessment and Development from the standard MBA curriculum and has a two-day residency during the first month of the course. LCC will also provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate prior learning through the use of IDAs. The remainder of the MBA Pathway curriculum is identical to the standard MBA program.

What’s a residency?
Our MBA program includes four required online courses that are supplemented by two-day residency programs, which are held in either Saratoga Springs or Albany, NY. Credit for these courses cannot be provided through transfer or IDA credit. During the residencies, students attend lectures, presentations, discussions and activities that reinforce their online coursework, and help students build professional and social bonds to MBA faculty members and fellow students.

Are MBA specializations available?
Students can complete Graduate Certificate coursework in Financial Management and Analysis, Global Brand Marketing, Health Care Management, Human Resource Management, Non-Profit Management or Project Management to fulfill the 3 electives in the MBA curriculum. Elective courses in International Business, Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Communications are also available.

Application
When can I get started?
Preliminary credit reviews are available at no cost through our Office of Veteran and Military Education (OVME). For more information contact OVME at military.programs@esc.edu or 518-587-2100 ext. 2779.

How do I get started?
Please contact Graduate Admissions at 800-847-3000, ext. 2429 for information about Empire State College MBA programs, or questions about the admission application process.
Student Contacts

Office of Veteran and Military Education (OVME):
Credit reviews, GI Bill or military benefits, Pathway program features.
Call 800-847-3000, ext. 2779, or email MilitaryPrograms@esc.edu

Graduate Admissions:
Preliminary eligibility verification, admissions process and deadlines,
information sessions, application status and follow-up.
Call 800-847-3000, ext. 2429, or email Grad@esc.edu.
Applications are only accepted online, at http://suny-empire.esc.edu/admissions/graduate/

NYS Veterans Services Counselor:
Paul Stote
Call 518-581-5338 or email Paul.Stote@veterans.ny.gov

Financial Aid:
Program and Eligibility information other than GI Bill or Active Duty Tuition Assistance.
Call the Student Information Center at 800-847-3000, ext. 2285,
or email FinancialAid@esc.edu
Empire State College FAFSA Code 010286

Collegewide Student Services:
Disability services and accommodations, academic support,
student life and engagement, career resources, health and wellness.
Call 800-847-3000, ext. 2201 or email Disability.Services@esc.edu

Student Accounts:
Billing, payment, third-party sponsorship and financial aid processing, refunds.
Call the Student Information Center at 800-847-3000, ext. 2285,
or complete the online Student Accounts Question Form at www.esc.edu/asksa