

# **Servicemembers Opportunity colleges (SOC) Degree Network**

## **What is the SOC Degree Network System?**

The SOC Degree Network System (SOCAD, SOCNAV, SOCMAR, and SOCCOAST) is a group of degree-granting colleges and universities that have pledged to help servicemembers and their adult family members complete college degrees by adopting military-friendly policies that often exceed those of SOC Consortium member institutions.

The Student Agreement issued by all SOC Degree Network System member institutions provides a complete evaluation of the servicemember's prior learning, including courses from other colleges and universities, military training school courses, military occupational experience, and nationally recognized tests, as well as clearly identifying requirements for completing the degree. The institutions that participate in the SOC Degree Network System have been selected by the Voluntary Education Service Chiefs of the participating Service branches (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard) based on identified education needs of servicemembers.

## **Why is a Student Agreement important?**

A SOCAD, SOCNAV, SOCMAR, or SOCCOAST Student Agreement gives you an upfront, cumulative evaluation of everything you've done that can be credited toward your college degree. Most importantly, it lists what courses and degree requirements you must still take to graduate from your home college. You will not have to be re-evaluated each time you go to another military installation or if you take courses from a college other than your home college. As long as you complete the academic residency required by your home college (usually 25 percent of the program), you can take approved courses from other colleges to complete your degree plan as you relocate during your military career.

Keep your Student Agreement, update it as you complete degree requirements, and avoid taking unnecessary courses by referring to it each time you register. You can think of your Student Agreement as a "contract for degree" between you and your home college. Spouses and adult children of servicemembers are also eligible to participate in the SOC Degree Network System and receive Student Agreements.

## **Will all my previously earned credits be accepted when I enroll in a SOC Degree Network System degree program?**

Not necessarily. There is no guaranteed course transferability for academic work completed prior to enrolling in a SOC Degree Network System Degree. Transfer credit must satisfy specific degree requirements of the home college. You will work with your home college adviser after enrollment to ensure that future course selection (from your home college or approved courses from another institution) will meet degree requirement.

**Should I request a new Student Agreement when I transfer to my next duty assignment or take courses at a different college?**

No. Your Student Agreement remains in effect as a “contract for degree” as long as you continue working on the degree listed on that Student Agreement. Continue communicating with your home college to ensure that courses you take at other colleges (as a nondegree seeking student or visiting student) will transfer to the home college to fulfill the degree requirements on your Student Agreement.

If your home college is a SOC Degree Network System Core member institution, you can take advantage of the two-way guaranteed transferability of courses assigned a SOC DNS Course Category Code to make it easy to transfer courses from other colleges back to your home college. Check with your university for specifics.

**How does the SOC Degree Network System guarantee course transfer?**

Students use the SOC DNS Transferability Tables (Chapter 8: SOC DNS Handbooks) to locate pre-approved substitutes for courses they are unable to take from their home colleges. Any college with a course listed in the Transferability Tables under a particular SOC DNS Course Category has already reviewed the other courses assigned to that category and agreed to accept them in transfer. Your Student Agreement should list any courses that have been assigned to SOC DNS Course Categories.