

Veterans Administration Work Study Opportunity

William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences

The William Joiner Institute (WJI) Veteran Work Study position(s) will work in direct support of the WJI's efforts to enhance the support and service veteran's and their families receive across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A research study completed in June 2020 by the WJI and UMass Boston's Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging for the Town of Natick, MA, identified several important recommendations, of which one included creating an updated contact list to conduct a comprehensive census/survey of veterans (Natick in this case) to gain a broader understanding of age, gender, race, socioeconomic status, and contact information. The work of these work study positions will enable the WJI to initiate this process at a state-wide level. This will also support several other recommendations the Town of Natick study made including a public recruitment campaign, outreach events, social media campaigns, and other activities related to supporting veterans and their families.

These positions (two or more) will work on the development of a database of Veteran contact information and Veteran Service Officer (VSO) challenges. The veteran contact and VSO information collected will be used to support the development and execution of a state-wide survey of veterans, their families and VSOs to identify common state-wide veteran challenges or opportunities for improving veteran services, connectivity, communications and awareness. Specific duties will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Connecting with the VSOs in each city or township within the Commonwealth to collect veteran contact information.
- Capturing VSO challenges in communicating with, or reaching, their veterans in their respective areas of responsibility.
- Building a database with web-interface that will 1) protect contact information from unauthorized disclosure; and 2) enable veterans to access and update information.
- Supporting the development of a social media campaign to attract and identify veterans that don't self-identify as veterans to get them connected.
- Other tasks may include working cross-function with the other two work study positions as appropriate, if needed, and/or if available within the authorized hours to complete a specific task.

To participate in the VA Work-Study Allowance Program, student must be receiving benefits under one of the following education programs:

- Title 38, U.S.C., Chapter 30: The Montgomery GI Bill
- Title 38, U.S.C., Chapter 31: Vocational Rehabilitation
- Title 38, U.S.C., Chapter 32: The Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program
- Title 38, U.S.C., Chapter 33: The Post-9/11 GI Bill / Fry Scholarship
- Title 38, U.S.C., Chapter 35: Dependents' Educational Assistance Program
- Title 10, U.S.C., Chapter 1606: The Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve

The student must be enrolled in and pursuing an approved college degree, vocational or professional program of education at a rate of 3/4 time or greater.

Applicants should send a resume and a one-page narrative of why they are interested in one of these positions to the Interim Director of the William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences at Ana.Alejandro001@umb.edu.