Washington Veterans to Technology (WaV2T) Frequently Asked Questions

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General Program Information
1. What is the WaV2T program?
WaV2T is a 16-week in-person program that provides computer science and information technology education, training, and professional development to active-duty service members in their last six months of service, veterans with an honorable or general discharge, and spouses of active-duty military or eligible veterans.

2. Are you associated with the Veterans Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) program? No, while the names are similar the WaV2T program is not affiliated or associated with VET TEC.

3. Can I use VET TEC to pay for this program? No, Saint Martin’s University is an institution of higher learning (IHL). IHLs are not eligible VET TEC providers.

4. Is WAV2T a full-time program? Yes, the WaV2T program is a 16-week full-time, face-to-face program Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

5. What is the course schedule? Detailed schedules vary between each term and each cohort. The overall schedule includes three courses during the first eight weeks and three courses during the second eight weeks. The schedule also includes designated professional development time slots. Detailed information and training plans for each pathway can be located on your webpage under the Certificate and Program Pathways dropdown.

6. Is WaV2T a DOD-approved SkillBridge program/Career Skills Program? Yes, WaV2T is an approved SkillBridge and Career Skills Program.

7. What should I expect to learn while in the program? Who is this program right for? What you will learn varies by pathway, review our detailed learning path document for more information. This program is right for transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses who want to start or continue their career in IT.

8. Is this an internship or apprenticeship? WaV2T is an employment skills training program and includes technical training, academic courses, and professional development incorporated throughout the course. Students do not participate in any on-the-job training or work with an employer during the program.

9. What level of technical education or experience is needed for WaV2T? No level of technical education is required for admission, other than the math prerequisite. However, we do encourage applicants to study broad foundational material for the pathway they have applied for prior to the start of the term.

10. Does WaV2T offer remote cohorts in different time zones? No, at this time we only offer in-person courses in Washington state at our Lacey campus and our classroom on Joint-Base Lewis McChord.
11. Do I have to find a job in Washington state?
   No. Students attend our program in person but we provide assistance in finding job opportunities nationwide.

12. Can I work while in the program?
   Due to the high workload and time commitment to the program, it is not recommended that students work for the duration of the program. Students must attend the program in-person Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00pm at either our Lacey, WA campus or our classroom on Joint-Base Lewis McChord.

13. Do you offer evening, self-guided/paced, or part-time cohorts/enrollments?
   At this time we do not offer any evening, self-guided/paced, or part-time cohorts. We are continually growing the program and as we receive feedback about what students are looking for we may consider additional delivery methods for the program.

14. What criteria do you look for in potential students applying to the program?
   To have an interest in IT and technology, curiosity, initiative, and willingness to learn.

15. Do I need to have previous experience in programming before applying?
   Some background experience can help but is not required. We send out pre-study materials once you have submitted your application. This is provided as a guideline to building up foundational knowledge and understanding. You are not required to test on this information prior to entering the program.

16. What sets your program apart from others?
   The WaV2T program provides in person learning focused on preparing students for a career in the computer science field. We currently offer three different pathways. Students earn college credit, learn professional development skills which prepare for job searches.

17. Do you cover housing or living expenses?
   WaV2T does not directly cover housing or living expenses. Residence halls on our Lacey campus are available at no cost for active duty service members and $2,800 for veterans or military spouses.

Program Eligibility

18. Active-Duty Service Members
   Active-duty service members within 180-days of their end of service date are eligible to apply for the program. Service members must meet with their Career Skills Program or Skillbridge provider to start the command approval process.

19. Veterans and Retired Military
Veterans and Retired Military are welcome to apply for the program. Proof of service DD Form 214 Member-4 must be submitted. The application and math requirements must be completed as well.

20. National Guard and Reserves
Guard and Reserve members are eligible to apply for the program. Proof of service must be submitted (See Proof of Eligibility Document Requirements below). Command approval is not required if not on active orders. Guard and Reserve members cannot be on active-duty orders while enrolled in the program, unless approved by their command. WaV2T supports your drill attendance requirements while enrolled, and recommends you share your drill schedule with your instructors and Career Development Managers.

21. Do Active-Duty Spouses, Veteran Spouses, and Military Dependents qualify for WAV2T?
Active duty spouses and veteran spouses are eligible to apply for WaV2T. Military Dependents are not eligible at this time.

22. Do current or past government employees qualify for WaV2T?
No, current or past government employees are not eligible to apply for WaV2T.

Proof of Eligibility Document Requirements
23. What prerequisites do I need to provide?
All applicants must submit the following prerequisites:

- **WaV2T application** submitted through our webpage or access the application [here](#) to get started
- **Proof of Service** – see Proof of Eligibility Document Requirements [here](#)
- **Math** – College Algebra equivalent may be met through one of the methods below:
  - Upload unofficial transcript(s) showing a college algebra course (or similar) with a final grade of C or higher
  - Saint Martin’s University math placement exam completion with passing score of 22/32 or higher. Students will have access to the placement exam in a follow up “Next Steps” email once their initial application has been submitted.
  - College algebra course - Take a college algebra course with Saint Martin’s or another university. Send the course description to us if attending another university. The course must be complete with a letter grade to meet the prerequisite. Applicants may upload their unofficial transcript to their application. Contact the SMU-JBLM team for more information about course options at SMU.
- **Command approval (active duty only)** must be submitted before the application deadline. Applicants who submit all other required documents will be moved into the interview queue. If accepted, a conditional admit will be granted until the command approval is received.

Learning Paths
24. What learning paths do you offer?
We currently offer three pathways:
25. What specific topics are covered in each learning path?
   For information about the topics in each learning path review our detailed learning objectives here.

26. What careers do these learning paths lead to?
   The IT industry has many diverse learning paths. Our pathways aim to prepare students for roles based on the content of each pathway. Careers by pathway include:
   - Server and Cloud Application - junior network administrator, datacenter support technician, network engineer, system administrator, and more
   - Cloud Application Development - cloud application developer, software engineer, application software developer, full stack engineer, and more
   - Cybersecurity Administration - information and security analyst, security engineer, penetration tester, and more

27. Which learning path should I choose?
   Choosing your pathway should depend on multiple factors including: your background, experience, interests, and goals. We recommend reviewing the content of each of our current pathways and researching career outlooks to identify which fits best. If you still aren’t sure just reach out to us at WaV2T@stmartin.edu and we’d be happy to speak with you about the best pathway for you.

28. What certifications will I earn through the program?
   Students have the opportunity to study for and take IT certification exams while in the program alongside their regular course instruction. Depending on the pathway, students receive exam vouchers for certifications relevant to their area of study and what is sought after by companies who want to hire IT professionals. Currently, students in all pathways receive at least one CompTIA exam voucher and one AWS exam voucher. WaV2T reserves the right to update or change this offer at any time.

Application Process

Getting Started

29. How do I apply to the program?
   You can apply to our program by starting an application here. You will have the opportunity to upload your prerequisite documents once you’ve started your application, or you may submit your application and return at a later time to upload your remaining prerequisite documents.

30. Is there a cost to apply?
   There are no costs associated with the application process. Applicants who plan to stay in the residence halls must pay a $200 refundable deposit when submitting a housing application.
31. How far in advance can I apply? When does the application window open?
You can apply to the program anytime for the terms published on our webpage. If you do not see dates for the term you want to apply for, applications are not open. Continue to check back for upcoming terms.

32. I don’t know what pathway I want to apply for, can I leave it blank on the application?
We recommend that you select the pathway you are most interested in to apply to when you submit your application. You are not locked into your pathway selection until you start the program. If you would like to change your selected pathway after reviewing more information please contact us and we will be happy to change it.

33. What is required to apply?
You must be an eligible applicant to apply for the program. The next step is to create an account and begin the online application. The application will automatically save if you logout so you can return and submit the application at a later time if needed. Once the application is submitted you can continue to submit the remaining prerequisite requirements.

34. Where do I submit my prerequisite documentation (e.g., Command Approval, Transcripts, etc.)?
You can upload all prerequisite materials directly to your application or email to wav2t@stmartin.edu

35. How far in advance do I have to submit all my prerequisite materials?
You can submit your prerequisites anytime up to the application deadline for the term you are applying for. We encourage applicants to submit their materials as soon as possible as pathways fill up closer to the application deadline. If a pathway is full then you will be placed on a waitlist.

36. What do I do once I have all my documentation submitted?
You will receive an email when we have received and verified all of your documentation. We will reach out to schedule the pre-program interview and will provide an admissions decision shortly after. If you are applying early and another cohort is scheduled before yours the interview and admissions decision may be delayed.

37. I uploaded all my documentation, why do my checklist items still show as ‘awaiting’?
We must manually review some materials, like transcripts. Other requirements, like the math placement test score, do not automatically update on your application. We process a large volume of applications and must manually verify and check those requirements. Please allow 3-5 business days to see updates on these prerequisite items.

38. All my prerequisite items are checked off, when do I do the interview?
Once all prerequisite materials are met, your application will enter our interview queue. Once in the interview queue, someone from our admissions team will reach out with an interview time
Application interviews are prioritized by the upcoming term. We work to schedule interviews for all applicants within 10 business days from entering the interview queue.

Occasionally during times of low staffing, busy periods, or holidays, interview scheduling may be paused. In this case, interviews will be scheduled after these periods pass. Low staffing periods include the university winter break during the last two weeks of December. Busy periods include the last two weeks of a current cohort and the first three weeks of a new cohort.

39. **What should I expect from the WaV2T interview?**
   The interview will be over the phone and consists of verifying information from your application, questions about your background, and behavioral questions. Interviews typically last 15-30 minutes and there is time for you to ask any questions you have for us as well.

40. **Are interviews conducted virtually or in person?**
   All interviews are conducted over the phone.

41. **I am overseas and do not have a US phone number to receive calls, how will I be able to interview?**
   In this situation we may consider a few options. If you have an international phone number we can still contact you. If you are training and will return to the US within the application window, we may reschedule the interview to a time after you return.

   In consideration of time zones, we will make every effort to schedule the interview for a time that works best for both parties.

42. **When do I find out if I’ve been accepted?**
   Applicants receive a decision letter within 3-5 business days of the interview.

**Application Process - Miscellaneous**

43. **Can you guarantee my spot in a specific cohort?**
   We are limited by the number of seats in our classrooms. If classes fill for the term you applied for, we will place you on our waitlist, or if you want to move to a later term, we can defer your application to any open future term. Occasionally students drop the course before the start date, and students on the waitlist will be notified by order of date added to the waitlist if a space becomes available.

44. **Do I need to submit another application if I miss the application window or the cohort I want is full?**
   No, we will give you the option of joining our waitlist or deferring your application to a later term. You will not need to resubmit an application, prerequisite materials, or conduct another interview if you completed one already.

45. **My transition window doesn’t line up with the program dates. How can I still attend the program?**
Sometimes transitioning service members may be eligible for a waiver that will allow them to start a CSP or SkillBridge program earlier than their 180-day window. We recommend speaking with your CSP or SkillBridge counselor to discuss waiver options.

Service members may be able to use regular leave to start the program by taking enough leave to bring them to the start of their 180-day window. Active duty service members on transition leave on or before the start date of their selected term do not need CSP or SkillBridge approval.

Our program is also open to veterans. You may apply and attend WaV2T as a veteran. We can still accept your active-duty proof of service if you do not have your DD214.

46. I'm medically separating, and I don't know my separation date, how can I participate?
   If you have a general idea of when you will separate, you may apply for a term within that window. If your separation date is later than anticipated just let us know and we can defer your application to the next term.

47. I thought you delivered the MSSA program at Saint Martin’s University?
   Saint Martin’s University successfully delivered the MSSA program from 2013 to 2021. As Microsoft moved to an online-only model for the MSSA, Saint Martin’s University created the Washington Vets to Tech program to continue to provide in-person training and instruction to transitioning service members and veterans. We have also expanded eligibility to military spouses.

Orientation

48. What do I need to do after I've been accepted?
   If you are still waiting on CSP or SkillBridge approval, you must upload that to your application or email it to us before the deadline for the term you are applying for. If your admissions letter specified “conditional admit” and you have not received an admissions letter indicating “admit” only, we have not yet received your CSP or SkillBridge approval.

   For all admits and conditional admits, request your Certificate of Eligibility from the VA no later than 30 days before the start of the term. This will ensure there is no delay in your benefits after starting the course. Your enrollment credits are entered over the week or weekend by SMU’s VA certifier before the start of the term if time allows. The enrollment credits trigger the housing allowance and book stipend money to be released to the student. In addition, once enrollment is certified, the VA will start texting and emailing the students to set-up your self-verification texts. Instructions for this can be found in your acceptance letter.

49. What do I wear to the program?
   Business casual attire is expected.

50. When is orientation for the program?
   Orientation is typically held during the first scheduled day of each term at our Lacey campus.
51. What happens at orientation?
   Students will sign up for their classes, register their vehicles, meet the WaV2T team, tour the Lacey campus, and review the 16 week course calendar.

52. Do I need to sign up for classes or buy books before the course starts?
   No. Students will sign up for courses during orientation and will receive books and materials within the first week of classes.

53. What materials do I need for the program?
   All materials and software are provided in the classrooms. You may bring any additional materials you would like (paper, pens, etc), or your own laptop. If you bring your own laptop, you may need to download additional software to participate in your classes.

54. Do I need my own computer?
   No, computers are provided in the classrooms. You may bring your own computer but may need to download additional software to participate in your classes. You will have access to your classrooms on the Lacey campus outside of course hours. While not required, a home computer or laptop may be beneficial to work outside of the classroom.

Program Funding

55. What funding is available?
   Most funding is through veterans benefits. Listed below are the primary methods of funding for participants. The primary mode of funding is either the Post 9/11 GI Bill or the Montgomery GI Bill, and WaV2T will use four months of your benefits.
   - Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
   - Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30)
   - Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E Chapter 31) for eligible veterans with a disability rating, or service members medically separating with a projected disability rating, will fully fund the program. We will work with you and your VR&E counselor to provide any required information.
   - Dependents’ Education Assistance (DEA Chapter 35)

   To find out more about VA benefits, visit VA.gov and review a comparison chart for different VA funding methods here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/comparison_chart.asp

56. Can I use veterans benefits while active duty?
   Yes! You can apply for your veterans benefits and use them while active duty.

57. I thought Skillbridge/CSP programs were free?
   Different programs are funded various ways to ensure there is no out-of-pocket cost for transitioning service members. Some programs are funded by the provider or externally funded to cover costs of their program participants. WaV2T is primarily funded through veterans benefits like the GI Bill which fully funds tuition and fees for the program.
58. I don’t want to use my GI Bill, can I use Tuition Assistance?
No. In this case, TA does not fully pay the tuition and fees while the GI Bill fully covers the program. Students would still need to use their VA benefits if using TA, and the program would still use four months of your veterans benefits.

Students do not have to use their veterans benefits, and students who do not wish to use their benefits must pay the full tuition rate out of pocket. Payment plans can be set up through student financial services.

59. I transferred by veterans benefits to my dependents, how do I fund the program?
Service members who transferred all or part of their veterans benefits to their dependents may be eligible for funding assistance. Please contact the WaV2T team so we can discuss your specific situation and go over additional options.

60. I do not have any VA benefits, what other funding is available?
For students demonstrating financial need, there are other funding options available:
- **Washington Innovation and Opportunity Act** (WIOA) may assist with funding for active duty service members or their spouses
- **Scholarships** may be available based on financial needs
- **Payment plans** for any remaining tuition amounts not covered can be set up with the Finance Office and paid online through your self-service student account

61. Is the program free?
The WaV2T program has no out of pocket costs for most of our students, and is typically funded through VA benefits. Other methods of funding are available for individuals without these benefits.