Washington Veterans to Technology (WaV2T) Frequently Asked Questions

Contents

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 for funding through VET TEC and are not eligible 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 weekly. Detailed information and training plans for each pathway can be [located on our webpage](#) under the **Certificate and Program Pathways** dropdown.

6. **Is WaV2T a Department of Defense approved SkillBridge program/Career Skills Program?**
   Yes, WaV2T is an approved SkillBridge and Career Skills Program in accordance with:
   - The **Memorandum of Understanding** (MOU) between the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) of the U.S. Department of Defense and Saint Martin's University, signed January 12, 2022
   - The **Memorandum of Agreement** between Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Saint Martin's University for WaV2T Career Skills Program (Agreement Number IM-W56DRM-21713), signed August 8, 2021

7. **What should I expect to learn while in the program? Who is this program right for?**
   What you will learn varies by pathway. This program is right for transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses who have an interest in technology and want to start or continue their career in IT. Review our detailed learning path documents (see **Learning Paths** section).

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 in a classroom environment. 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 (see **Proof of Eligibility Document Requirements** section). 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 must 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 for WaV2T. 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 in the future.

14. **What criteria do you look for in potential students applying to the program?**
    We value the following qualities in our prospective students:

    - *Interest in IT and Technology*: An innate curiosity about technology and its applications.
    - *Initiative*: Proactive learners who take the lead in their education.
    - *Willingness to Learn*: Openness to continuous learning and adaptability.
    - *Problem-Solving Skills*: Ability to approach challenges systematically.
    - *Collaborative Spirit*: Effective teamwork and communication skills.
    - *Passion and Motivation*: Genuine enthusiasm for technology.

15. **Do I need to have previous experience in programming before applying?**
    Some background experience can help but is not required at this time. 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 students for job searching and interviews.

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 using their VA benefits 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 should review the Career Skills Program/Skillbridge Approval Requirements section on our webpage to ensure that all requirements for their command approval packet are met and submitted correctly.

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** section). 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

- o 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
- o 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 admission will be granted until the command approval is received.

Learning Paths

24. **What learning paths do you offer?**
We currently offer three pathways:
- Server Cloud Application (SCA)
- Cloud Application Development (CAD)
- Cybersecurity Administration

25. **What specific topics are covered in each learning path?**
For information about the topics covered in each pathway, please review the documents at the links below
- [SCA](SCA)
- [CAD](CAD)
- Cybersecurity

26. **What careers do these learning paths lead to?**
The IT industry has many diverse career opportunities. Our pathways aim to prepare students for roles aligned with the content and skills focused on in each pathway. Careers by pathway can 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 learning objectives content for 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 which are 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 later 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 under Academic Calendar and Deadlines. 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 when you submit your application. You are not locked into your pathway selection, and if you would like to change your selected pathway after reviewing more information, please contact us before your selected term starts and we will be happy to change it if space is available.

33. **What is required to apply?**
You must be an eligible applicant to apply for the program (see **Program Eligibility**). 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 upload 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. If you encounter technical issues, please email your materials 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.

Completed Application

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.

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 and date. 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. Ensure you are in a quiet place with few distractions for a smooth interview experience.

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 typically 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 if 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. If a significant time has passed between application windows, we may contact for a short follow-up interview to update our information.

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 a CSP or SkillBridge representative 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 are applying while active duty and do not have your DD 214.

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 Microsoft Software and Systems Academy (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 and Starting the Program

48. **What do I need to do after I've been accepted?**
Active-duty approval: If you are still waiting for 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.

Ensure your funding method is secured: For all admits and conditional admits using any VA benefits, request your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) from the VA no later than 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks) before the start of the term. This will mitigate delays in your benefits after starting the course.

After the term starts, your enrollment credits are entered by SMU's VA certifier using the CoE to verify your enrollment. It is imperative that students understand their VA benefits and are responsible for ensuring their CoE is submitted to SMU before the term starts.

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, receive student ID cards, 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) for eligible military spouses

   To find out more about VA benefits, visit VA.gov and review a comparison chart for different VA funding methods here.

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 in 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 by industry partners 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 (TA)?**

   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 may decide not to use their veterans benefits and must pay the full tuition rate out of pocket, as they do not demonstrate financial need due to the availability of VA funding options. Payment plans can be set up through student financial services.

59. **I transferred my 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 identified as demonstrating financial need and could 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 be able 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 Student Financial Services Office and paid online through your self-service student account portal

Please Note: Our team is continuously working to improve and expand this FAQ to provide you with the most up-to-date information. Due to our small team and various ongoing projects, this FAQ is expanded as time allows. However, rest assured that we are committed to keeping this resource current and relevant. If you have any specific questions not covered here or suggestions for topics you'd like to see covered in the future, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Contact Us
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