

The Army's Virtual Gateway to Education – Anytime, Anywhere



VIA

Council of College and Military Educators (CCME)

Date: 28 January 2015

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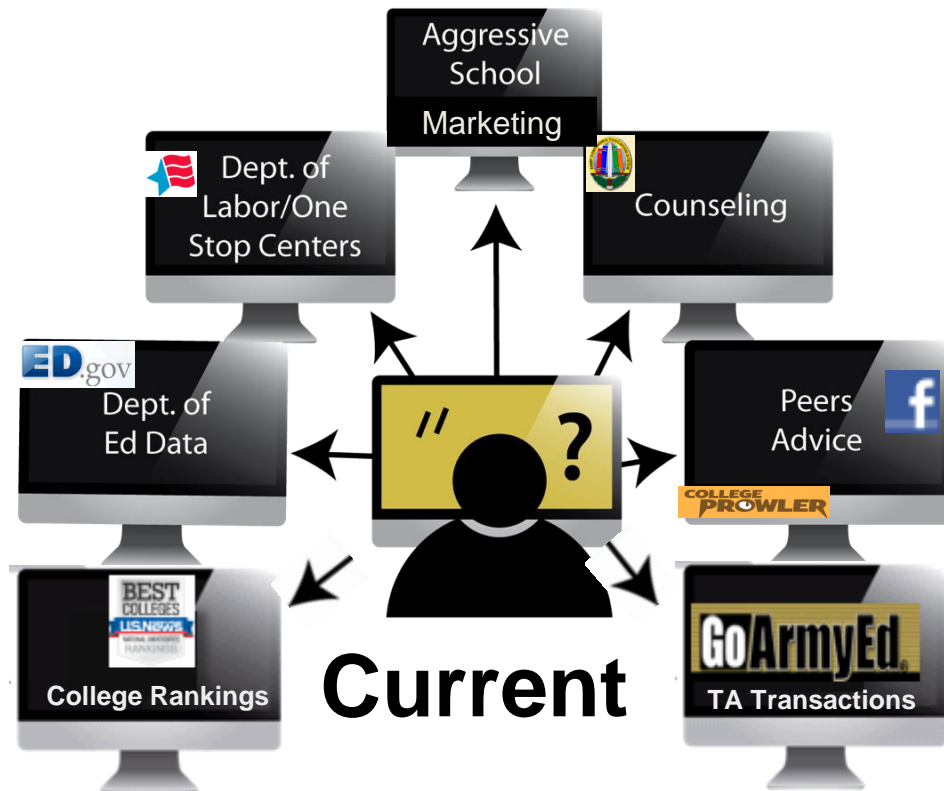
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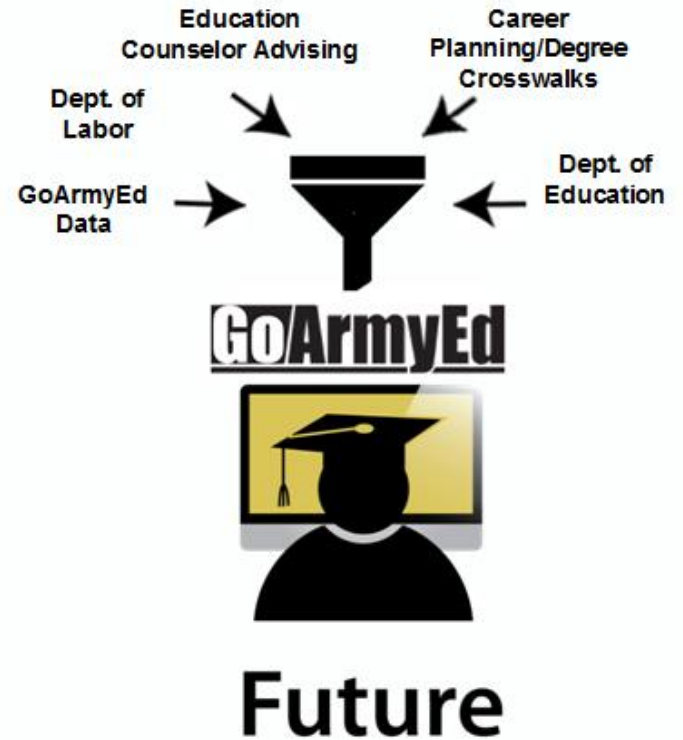
VIA Overview

- On 26 September 2015 GoArmyEd will release VIA
- VIA is a decision support tool that will help Soldiers preparing to use Tuition Assistance benefits to:
 - Identify a long term career goal
 - Choose a degree plan that prepares them for their career goal; and
 - Select a “best fit” and “best value” school offering the Soldier’s preferred degree plan
 - Fit will be based on factors such as alignment with a Soldier’s location, learning modality preferences, and admissions criteria
 - Value will be based on cost factors such as tuition and fees and quality factors such as Soldiers retention rates
- The primary objective of VIA is to help Soldiers make better informed decisions about their education goals to increase degree completion rates at their selected schools

Why VIA



Many separate data sources in multiple locations of varying quality & accessibility to help guide career and degree planning & decisions



Access to unbiased decision support data and integrated education planning tools in GoArmyEd to help increase student retention rates and degree completion rates

VIA Stakeholders

The primary VIA stakeholders include:



Soldiers wishing to start using Tuition Assistance (TA) benefits or Soldiers already using TA that wish to change their degree



Army Education Counselors who will leverage data from VIA to provide richer advising sessions and inform degree/school approval decisions



Colleges and Universities in GoArmyEd who will be asked to supplement data sourced from Department of Education, Department of Labor, and GoArmyEd with additional data about their school and degrees. Schools will benefit by attracting Soldiers to their school who have more carefully considered their degree selections

What are the Data Sources for VIA



U.S. Department of Education



How Does VIA Compare to Other Research Tools

There are existing Web-based tools such as O*NET (Career Planning), College Navigator (School Research), and other career and degree planning tools that enable consumers to research careers and/or schools, so what makes VIA unique?

1. **VIA is integrated with GoArmyEd** so Soldiers can be required to use VIA before using TA benefits to ensure they have made better informed decisions about their future. The Army cannot enforce usage of other available tools.
2. **VIA uses data from GoArmyEd** about Soldiers and schools to further personalize recommendations.
3. **VIA guides Soldiers through a complete decision process**, linking career goals to degree goals and to personalized school recommendations. Many existing tools only guide users through parts of the decision process.
4. VIA provides the Army greater confidence about the Army's **return on investment** for TA benefits through **robust reporting**.