Pathway #2 – **Graduate** Veteran Success Pathway

Our goal is to empower veteran students to succeed throughout their academic journey and to be well prepared to thrive after graduation. This resource is designed to support your transition to the university by highlighting events, programs, services, and key considerations that can help you make the most of your collegiate experience academically, professionally, and personally. [This is not a holistic, steadfast guide, more of a guided suggestion].

	Transition & Support	Resources & Benefits	Connection & Community	Academic Success	Career Design
Empower (Early Stage)	❑ Complete your Empower & Thrive check-in call with a CVSC Staff Member during your first semester. ❑ Visit the CVSC (either in person or through virtual drop-in hours), meet the staff, and learn how to utilize the services they offer. ❑ Consider joining the Empower & Thrive Peer Mentoring Program as a mentee to be paired with a peer mentor for additional support within your first two semesters at UF. ➢ Create a Veteran Tactical Plan (VTP) during your first semester to identify how your values, interests, and experience will help with reaching your goals (with the support of your Empower & Thrive Peer Mentor) **OR** Explore other tools to help you develop an IDP in line with your chosen career path, like myIDP through ScienceCareers.org, Imagine PhD, or the UF Grad School's IDP Template ❑ Attend a "Tactical Planning: Planning Your Route for the Semester & Beyond" Workshop with the CVSC ❑ Explore what your local community has to offer with the support of UF's Off Campus Life office. ❑ Complete GradStart (UF's new Graduate Student Orientation) to familiarize yourself with resources.	❑ Send the first page of your ***Certificate of Eligibility (COE)*** to military-benefits@ufl.edu (UF's School Certifying Official) as soon as possible once you've been approved to utilize education benefits by the VA. ❑ Attend either of the CVSC's "Campus Navigation" or "Community & Connection" presentations to get a baseline of what resources are available to you as a UF student. ❑ Review the VA educational benefits you're entitled to and make an affordability plan for after you have utilized them all. ❑ Explore possible funding opportunities with support of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and Prestigious Awards; funding opportunities can be found through the UF Graduate School and non-UF sources, SFA's Scholarship Search Tool, Scholarship Universe, and UF Libraries' Grants and Fellowships Opportunities Guide. ❑ Within 120 days of the next semester, complete your Term Certification through UF's Office of Veteran Services (the school certifying officials).	❑ Identify and build relationships with your professors, mentors, and staff. Discuss personal and professional goals and establish mutual expectations. They may author potential letters of recommendation in the future. ❑ Identify and engage in at least one meaningful experience each semester, such as: ➢ Student Actives and Involvement through GatorConnect, ➢ Leadership & Volunteerism opportunities through Gators for Good ➢ Service-Learning opportunities through Brown's Center for Leadership, the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, and the Student Engagement Office ➢ Experiential Learning through the C3's Experiential Learning Dashboard ➢ Serving on and/or participating in Graduate Student Council ➢ Research Opportunities through one of UF's approximately 180 Centers & Institutes ➢ Internships, Co-Ops, and Work Based Learning Experiences through the C3 or in your local community ➢ If eligible, obtaining a VA Federal Work Study position at an approved worksite. ❑ Identify & explore professional associations, societies, or conferences within your field of interest. ❑ Join the UF Veterans & Military-Connected Student Association (VMCSA) and attend at least one general body meeting before you graduate.	❑ Meet with your Graduate Advisor / Primary Investigator (PI) once a semester to ensure you are on target, build your schedule around your interests and goals, and grow your professional community. ❑ Consider if there are graduate certificate programs or UF's Passport to Great Teaching certificates you would be interested in pursuing and review the application requirements, and how they may affect your benefits. ❑ Attend a "Time on Target: Building Healthy Routines" Workshop with the CVSC & GatorWell. ❑ Proactively engage in tutor/academic enrichment opportunities through free or paid services. ➢ Tutorial Assistance through the VA Education Benefits ➢ Office Hours with Professors & TAs ➢ CLAS Tutor Hub ▪ Tutoring ▪ Supplemental Instruction ▪ Language Studio ▪ Standardized Test Prep ▪ Resources & Workshops ▪ Video Resources ❑ Schedule a meeting with the Writing Studio, and/or the Office of Graduate Student Professional Development to hone your writing skills. ❑ Connect with the UF Libraries most in-line with your major and learn how to use citation manager software with support from the UF library experts. ❑ Review your Disability Rating and consider if you would benefit from additional classroom accessibility & assistance from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for either in-class or out of class support.	❑ Schedule a Grad Success Individual Consultation with the Graduate School Success Team for tailored professional development support & resources. ❑ Explore UF's active Teaching & Research Centers, and identify those you may be interested in getting involved with. ❑ Login with your UFL information and explore the Beyond Graduate School and/or the Beyond the Professoriate training platforms to make the most out of your education investment, explore career options and learn job search strategies. ❑ Create an account on the Career Connection Center (C3) Career Hub, engage in Self-Guided Career Planning, and meet with C3 to retool your resume and LinkedIn profile to reflect your professional goals. Build your network by making at least 10 connections. ❑ Attend at least one (1) co-sponsored CVSC & C3 workshop over Translating your [Military] Experience workshop at least once during the academic year. ❑ Ask a faculty or staff member to be your academic and professional mentor, and to provide future letters of recommendation within your first year. ❑ Identify & participate in at least one professional association, organization, or conference within your field of interest that offers opportunities for students (list servs, events/workshops, open meetings, etc.)

Practice (Mid Stage)	❑ Update your Veteran Tactical Plan (VTP) every year to align with your identified values, interests, and short/long term goals	❑ Within 120 days of the next semester, complete your Term Certification through UF's Office of Veteran Services (the school certifying officials).		❑ Conduct a degree audit through One.UF and track your program milestones via Graduate Information Management System (GIMS) to see how far along in your degree plan you are and what additional requirements you have prior to graduation. ❑ If you are considering on pursing a graduate certificate program, meet with your graduate advisor/PI to understand how it would impact your graduation timeline. ❑ Talk to your instructors about your research interests, electives, and strategies for success in your classes.	❑ Have a personal statement or cover letter reviewed by the C3 at least once during the academic year, and consider applying to a micro-internship, research assistantship, or UF graduate assistantship or fellowship. ❑ Pursue a digital badge/certification to highlight the knowledge, skills, and experience employers and/or doctoral programs value. ❑ Visit the Dial Center for Speech and Communication Studies Public Speaking lab to develop communication skills necessary to share ideas and information with those in and outside of your discipline. ❑ Attend an internship/career fair or graduate school fair for your career area of interest.
Thrive (Late Stage)	❑ Update & revise your Veteran Tactical Plan (VTP) the fall before you graduate to align with your identified values, interests, and post-graduation goals. ❑ Consider joining the Empower & Thrive Peer Mentoring Program as a mentor to support incoming veteran students within their first two semesters at UF. ❑ By your second-to-last semester, considering how your career opportunities may influence potential living arrangements with UF's Off-Campus Life office for assistance.	❑ Review the VA educational benefits you're entitled to and make an affordability plan for after you have utilized them all. ❑ If you're planning to pursue additional graduate/professional schooling and you still have educational benefits available, reach out to your future schools/programs to learn how to active/utilize your benefits at their institution. ❑ Explore community resources and programs for Veteran & military-connected individuals in the area in which you intend to live in post-graduation.	❑ Participate in one CVSC Focus Group for developing veteran & military-specific programs in line with your goals and interest as a student. ❑ Consider joining the UF Military Alumni Association to stay connected with your fellow Gator Veterans post-graduation.	❑ Review the Graduate Schools' final semester checklist for students completing a Thesis or Dissertation, if your program requires you complete one. ❑ If you're program requires a thesis, devise a thesis-writing schedule with support of GatorWell and/or the Office of Graduate Student Professional Development. ❑ The semester before your anticipated graduation, meet with your graduate advisor/PI to ensure all graduation requirements will be met. ❑ Apply for graduation by your programs listed deadline. ❑ Consider participating in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition. ❑ If planning to advance to a PhD program apply for doctoral fellowships and grants.	❑ Review your CV/resume with the C3, Graduate school, mentors and colleagues and create an ePortfolio. ❑ Connect with UF [Military] Alumni on the GatorNetwork or LinkedIn for industry contacts, and meaningful professional relationships. ❑ Attend as many internship/career fairs for your career area of interest as you can. ❑ Identify prospective employers and create a job or doctoral programs/application strategy at least 8 months before graduation. ❑ Prepare for graduation by planning to complete licensing exams, applications, and self-marketing activities. ❑ Analyze the C3's Labor Market Data, O*Net's MyNextMove for Vets, and MIT's Cost of Living Calculator to begin forming a financial plan post-graduation.