

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Those who have served in the military know that the easiest and quickest road to a destination may not always be the best path to follow. The same is true when it comes to higher education.

There are numerous factors to consider when choosing a college and determining what type of degree to pursue. While exploring colleges, it may be more tempting to enroll in the institution that offers you the most credits for your military training and experience. But while that may look good on paper, it may not be the smartest route.

"You have to ask yourself what are your goals. If the cred-

its are towards a degree that you don't want or aren't going to be able to use, that may not be the best decision for you," says David Chase, who recently retired as assistant vice president, site operations and military distance learning for Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

Chase recommends determining what kind of degree is needed to pursue your career goals, what types of educational venues are available and realistic for your skills and needs, what support systems are in place to ensure student success, and the reputation and accreditation of the college or university. ☺



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IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Here are five questions to ask when choosing a college or university:

1) WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?

What is motivating you to go back to school? What is the best way to meet those goals? Make sure the degree that you decide to pursue is the one that can help you reach your goals and objectives.

2) WHAT ARE YOUR SKILLS AND ABILITIES?

If you need support services to get you up to par academically, make sure the college has the services that you need.

3) WHAT IS THE BEST AVENUE OF LEARNING FOR YOU?

"There are many online programs and while many people perceive that as being easier, that may not be the best mode of education for everyone. Some people need the classroom support and other support services to succeed," Chase said.

4) WHAT ACCREDITATION DOES THE COLLEGE HAVE?

At the very least, students should make sure the institution has regional and degree-specific accreditation. All colleges should be willing to share that information with students. Do research online to compare college choices.

5) WHO WILL BE YOUR ADVISOR?

It is important to know your point of contact early on, Chase said. Use that person to answer questions, help with your course of study and find additional support services if necessary.