

These are 10 possible reasons why a veteran might need to attend a more expensive school - to better accommodate their service-connected disabilities or overcome historical societal barriers in employment for example. Remember they don't HAVE to approve the more expensive school but if you're able to present that school as more accommodating for your SCD's than the less expensive school while simultaneously presenting the less expensive school as one that will hinder you reaching your vocational goal, they should be convinced to approve it. But it has to be feasible and logical based on YOUR situation, so be thoughtful about your approach .....Nic 😊

## **Disability-Related Accommodations**

1. Comprehensive Disability Support Services – Higher-cost schools may offer better accommodations such as assistive technology, note-taking services, adaptive testing, and on-campus therapy tailored to veterans with PTSD, TBI, or mobility impairments.
2. Smaller Class Sizes for Individualized Attention – Veterans with cognitive challenges (e.g., memory issues from TBI or attention difficulties from PTSD) may require smaller class sizes, which are often found at private institutions that charge higher tuition.
3. More Accessible Campus Infrastructure – Schools with higher tuition may have better ADA-compliant facilities, such as wheelchair-accessible buildings, ergonomic classrooms, and easily accessible dorms, crucial for veterans with mobility impairments.
4. Robust Mental Health and PTSD Support – Schools with higher tuition often invest in specialized mental health services for veterans, including trauma-informed counselors and dedicated veteran support groups.
5. Flexible Attendance Policies & Online Options – More expensive schools may offer hybrid or fully online programs, allowing veterans with chronic pain, PTSD, or medical appointments to continue their education without compromising their health.

## **Career & Societal Barriers**

6. Stronger Career Placement & Employer Networks – Some veterans, especially those who are minorities or women, face systemic barriers when transitioning to civilian jobs. Prestigious or well-connected schools provide access to elite hiring networks, improving employment outcomes.
7. Better Name Recognition to Overcome Biases – Veterans who belong to historically disadvantaged groups (women, racial minorities, disabled individuals) may face unconscious hiring bias. A well-known, highly-ranked school can help mitigate this bias by giving them an academic credential that carries more weight.
8. Specialized Programs for High-Demand Careers – Some high-paying fields (such as law, STEM, or healthcare) require specific degrees from well-funded programs with industry partnerships that may not exist at lower-cost schools.

9. Higher Graduation Rates & Support Systems – Research shows that first-generation students, minorities, and women veterans often have lower graduation rates at underfunded institutions. Schools with better resources improve retention and graduation outcomes, leading to higher long-term earning potential.

10. Stronger Alumni Network for Career Mobility – Attending a higher-cost school with a strong alumni network can provide mentorship, job referrals, and networking opportunities that disproportionately benefit veterans who may not have traditional civilian career connections.

## **Conclusion**

For veterans with disabilities or those facing systemic hiring challenges, choosing a more expensive school *can be* a necessary investment to secure the accommodations, support, and career opportunities they need to thrive in the civilian workforce.