

# Redlegs get more college credit for Army education, training

By Sharon McBride, USAFAS Public Affairs Officer

In the past, Field Artillery Soldiers were not able to get much college credit for their military occupational specialty (MOS) specific professional military education (PME), but now that’s all changed.

Recently, an American Council on Education (ACE) MOS evaluation team made the trip to Fort Sill to re-evaluate Field Artillery PME for possible college credit, said Matthew Youngkin, a project officer with the United States Army Field School (USAFAS).

USAFAS trains approximately 9,000 Soldiers per year on Field Artillery tactics, techniques and procedures.

The first assessment of Field Artillery PME occurred sometime in the early 90’s.

“A lot has changed since the 90s,” said SGM Alexis Shelton, the Field Artillery Proponent Sergeant Major. “We were overdue for an evaluation.”

For several weeks, the team worked closely with Field Artillery representatives and civilian college faculty members from accredited institutions to carefully analyze the content, scope, and rigor of Field Artillery classes and programs, said Youngkin.

The re-assessment went well and now as of August 2016 Field Artillerists can get credit for their PME, said Shelton. Once a Soldier has reached a recommended rank and achieved the associated skill set, up to 21 credits can be applied towards a lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree or up to 18 credits can be applied towards an upper-division baccalaureate degree.

The following Field Artillery MOSs, at the Staff

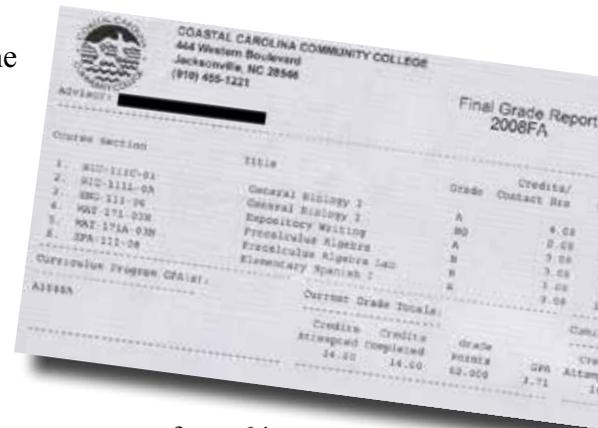
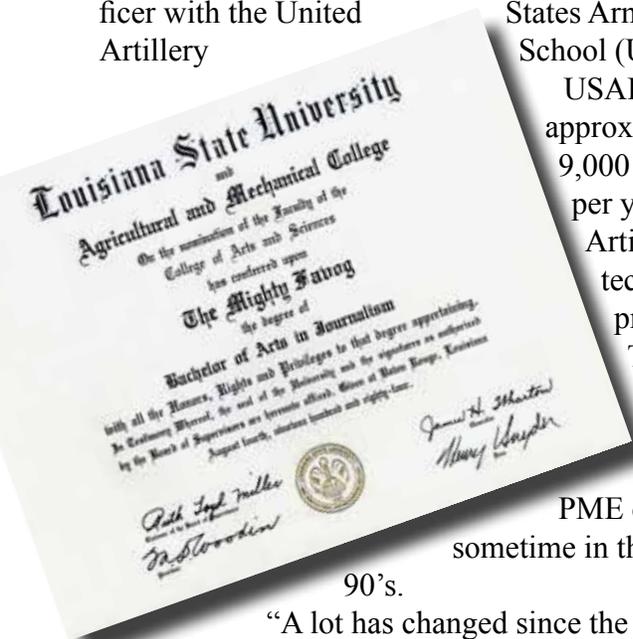
Sergeant (Skill Level 30) and Sergeant First Class (Skill Level 40), have been re-assessed and now potentially count for more college credit:

- MOS-13B** – Cannon Crewmember;
- MOS-13D** – Field Artillery Automated Tactical Data Systems Specialist;
- MOS-13F** – Fire Support Specialist;
- MOS-13M** – Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS/HIMARS) Crewmember;
- MOS-13P** – Multiple Launch Rocket System Operations/Fire Direction Specialist;
- MOS-13R** – Field Artillery (FA) Firefinder Radar Operator;
- MOS-13T**– Field Artillery Surveyor/Meteorological Crewmember.

Additionally, **MOS-13Z**- Field Artillery Sergeant Major (Skill Level 50) and Command Sergeant Major (Skill Level 60), and **MOS-131A**- Field Artillery Training Technician (Warrant Officer) have been updated.

Typically, one course in college is equal to three semester hours or three credits. The average number of college credits needed to complete an academic program averages from 64 credits for a two-year associate degree to 120 credits for a four-year bachelor’s degree. Some programs or schools require more, some less.

“This is a great thing,” said Shelton. “This enables our NCOs and Warrant Officers to either get a great start on a college degree or get additional credits to finish up getting a degree.”



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However, it is important to remember it is up to each institution to decide what ACE credit recommendations for college credit can be accepted, modified, or rejected. Whether an academic institution accepts the credit recommendations depends on its policies and procedures for transfer credit, the program of study, and the degree requirements, explained Michael Dodds, the Education Services Officer at the Fort Sill Education Services Division.

The first step for Soldiers seeking a degree should be requesting their Joint Services Transcript (JST) on the web @ <https://jst.doded.mil>. JST is an academically accepted document approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to validate a service member's military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations.

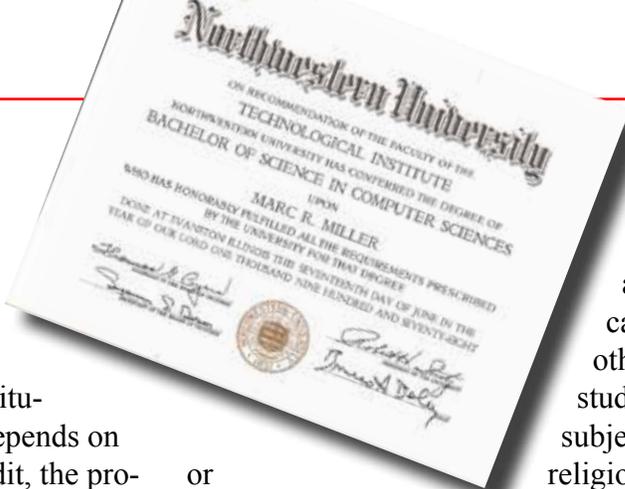
The JST includes:

- *Personal service member data*
- *Military course completions—all courses that have been evaluated by the American Council on Education (ACE), with full descriptions and credit recommendations*
- *Military occupations—full descriptions, skill levels, and credit recommendations*
- *College level test scores—CLEP, DSST, NCPACE, ACT/PEP, and Excelsior*

If after requesting their JST, and if the new credits for FA courses aren't reflected, Soldiers must submit a trouble ticket on the JST website.

Follow the prompts located on <https://jst.doded.mil> to submit "Joint Services Transcript Corrections." The JST website receives updates every week.

Each major will have what's called "core classes" to earn credit to graduate within a chosen major, explained Dodds. In addition to these core requirements, students are asked to take a set number of elective courses that can be exclusively tied to their major. However, sometimes the electives will be "free," meaning they are not connected to a major focus of study. For example, a student pursuing a degree in



English might have a few classes that can be taken in any other field. This lets students take classes in subjects like art history religious studies, said

or  
Dodds.

"This lets students pursue other interests they may have, giving them a more 'well-rounded' education," said Dodds. The more "free" the electives are, the greater the chances of receiving all the recommended ACE credits. For example, a 13B30 "Staff Sergeant" FA Cannon Crewmember may be able to receive three credits in "Supervision," three credits in "Communications," three credits in "Introduction to Mechanical Systems," three credits in "Computer Essentials," three credits in "Data Communication and Network Fundamentals," and three credits in "Electromechanical Troubleshooting and Maintenance" for a total of 18 semester hours or credits towards a lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree.

"All of these ACE recommended credit could possibly count as free electives," said Dodds.

According to Shelton that's a win/win for everyone. "That's 18 credits out of 60 knocked out for an associate's degree, or 18 credits knocked out of 120 for a lower baccalaureate degree," said Shelton. "ACE credits save Soldiers time and money by giving them a head start in pursuing a degree."

The JST and its associated ACE credits are accepted by more than 2,300 colleges and universities across the nation. Academic programs accepting ACE credits are available in a wide range of fields, including Business and Management, Cyber Security, Education and Teaching, Healthcare and Science, Information Technology and Computer Science, Liberal Arts and Communications, and Public Safety.

Dodds said it is beneficial to ask the admissions counselor about the school's policy for accepting ACE credit recommendations before committing to a major or specific degree program. Some schools, if asked, will provide an 'unofficial evaluation' prior to enrollment. An even better option is scheduling an appoint-

Course	Credits	Grade	GPA
12.000	3.00		
8.000	3.00		
12.000	3.00		
8.000	3.00		
8.000	3.00		
2.000	3.00		
2.000	3.00		
Total Credits Earned: 21.00			
Total Credits Completed: 30.00			
Grade Point Average: 2.75			

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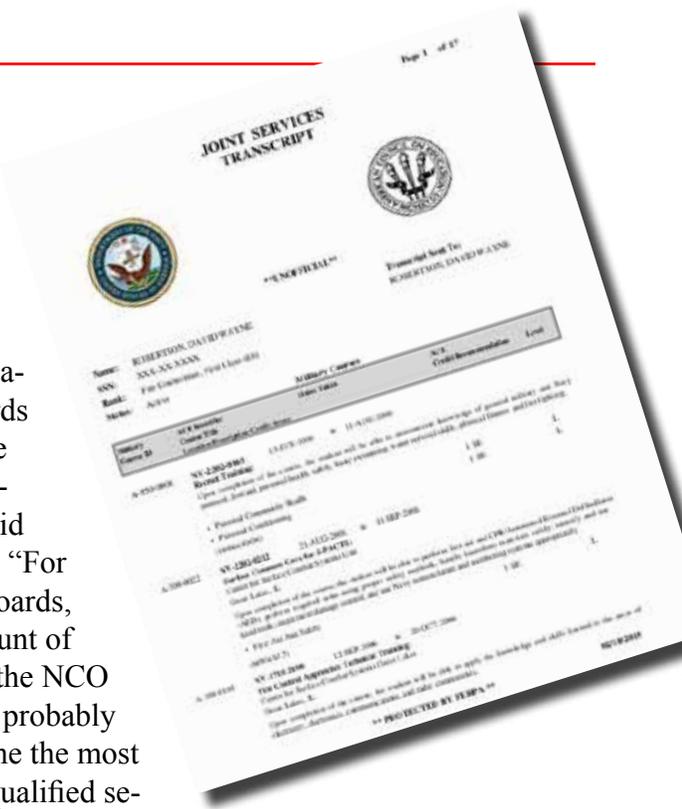
ment with guidance counselor at an U.S. Army Education Center.

“They will break it all down for you,” said Dodds. In addition to getting assistance with requesting a JST, guidance counselors can provide advisement and assistance in developing Army careers, determining educational goals, requesting transcripts (High School, College, AARTS), applying for admission to on-post universities, enrolling in basic college courses, information on how to obtain tuition assistance, how to receive testing services, what pre-commissioning services are available, and information on what Veterans Education Benefits are available and how to apply.

Besides setting yourself up for a great career after the Army, getting a college degree can help with FA promotions, said Shelton. A completed degree can net the maximum civilian education points at a promotion

board.

“I know the Sergeant Major Boards are more competitive,” said Shelton. “For future boards, the amount of college the NCO has will probably determine the most highly qualified selected for promotion.”



## Here is the entire list of **NEW** recommendations for possible college credit for Field Artillery Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs) provided by the American Council on Education (ACE).

### MOS-13B Cannon Crewmember

**Recommendation, Skill Level 30 (Staff Sergeant)**

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
 3 semester hours in supervision, 3 in communications, 3 in introduction to mechanical systems, 3 in computer essentials, 3 in data communication and network fundamentals, 3 in electromechanical troubleshooting and maintenance.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
 3 semester hours in risk assessment.

**Recommendation, Skill Level 40 (Sergeant First Class)**

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
 3 semester hours in supervision, 3 in public speaking, 3 in communications, 3 in introduction to mechanical systems, 3 in computer essentials, 3 in data communication and network fundamentals,

3 in electromechanical troubleshooting and maintenance.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
 3 semester hours in leadership, 3 in management, 3 in project management, 3 in risk assessment.

### MOS-13D Field Artillery Automated Tactical Data Systems Specialist

**Recommendation, Skill Level 30 (Staff Sergeant)**

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
 3 semester hours in supervision, 3 in communications, 3 in data communications and network fundamentals, 3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair, 3 in computer essentials, 3 in network fundamentals.

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In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in risk assessment.

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 40 (Sergeant First Class)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
3 semester hours in supervision,  
3 in public speaking,  
3 in communications,  
3 in data communications and network fundamentals,  
3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair,  
3 in computer essentials, and 3 in network fundamentals.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in leadership,  
3 in management,  
3 in project management, and  
3 in risk assessment.

## **MOS-13F Fire Support Specialist**

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 30 (Staff Sergeant)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
3 semester hours in supervision,  
3 in communication,  
3 in computer essentials,  
3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair,  
3 in data communications and network fundamentals,  
and  
3 in land navigation.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in risk assessment.

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 40 (Sergeant First Class)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
3 semester hours in supervision,  
3 in public speaking,  
3 in communication,  
3 in computer essentials,  
3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair,  
3 in data communications and network fundamentals,  
3 in land navigation.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in leadership,  
3 in management,  
3 in project management, and  
3 in risk assessment.

## **MOS-13M Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS/HIMARS) Crewmember**

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 30 (Staff Sergeant)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category,  
3 semester hours in supervision,  
3 in communications,  
3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair,  
3 in computer essentials,  
3 in heavy equipment operations,  
3 in electromechanical troubleshooting and maintenance.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in risk assessment.

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 40 (Sergeant First Class)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
3 semester hours in supervision,  
3 in communications,  
3 in public speaking,  
3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair,  
3 in computer essentials,  
3 in heavy equipment operations, and  
3 in electromechanical troubleshooting and maintenance.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in leadership,  
3 in management,  
3 in project management, and  
3 in risk assessment.

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## **MOS-13P Multiple Launch Rocket Systems Operations/Fire Direction Specialist**

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 30 (Staff Sergeant)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:

- 3 semester hours in supervision,
- 3 in communications,
- 3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair,
- 3 in computer essentials,
- 3 in network fundamentals, and
- 3 in land navigation.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in risk assessment.

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 40 (Sergeant First Class)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:

- 3 semester hours in supervision,
- 3 in public speaking,
- 3 in communications,
- 3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair,
- 3 in computer essentials,
- 3 in network fundamentals, and
- 3 in land navigation.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in leadership,  
3 in management,  
3 in project management, and  
3 in risk assessment.

## **MOS-13R Field Artillery (FA) Firefinder Radar Operator**

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 30 (Staff Sergeant)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:

- 3 semester hours in supervision,
- 3 in communications,
- 3 in radar systems,
- 3 in electromechanical troubleshooting and maintenance,
- 3 in data communications and network fundamentals,
- 3 in computer essentials.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in risk assessment.

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 40 (Sergeant First Class)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:

- 3 semester hours in supervision,
- 3 in public speaking,
- 3 in communications,
- 3 in radar systems,
- 3 in electromechanical troubleshooting and maintenance,
- 3 in data communications and network fundamentals,
- 3 in computer essentials.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in leadership,  
3 in management,  
3 in project management, and  
3 in risk assessment.

## **MOS-13T Field Artillery Surveyor/Meteorological Crewmember**

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 30 (Staff Sergeant)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:

- 3 semester hours in supervision,
- 3 in communications,
- 3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair,
- 3 in computer essentials, and
- 3 in land navigation.

### ***Recommendation, Skill Level 40 (Sergeant First Class)***

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:

- 3 semester hours in supervision,
- 3 in communications,
- 3 in heavy equipment maintenance and repair,
- 3 in computer essentials,
- 3 in public speaking,
- 3 in land navigation.



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In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category,  
3 semester hours in leadership,  
3 in management, and  
3 in project management.

**MOS-13Z Field Artillery (Skill Level 50) Sergeant Major and (Skill Level 60) Command Sergeant Major**

**Recommendation, Skill Level 50**

In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
3 semester hours in supervision,  
3 in public speaking,  
3 in communications.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in leadership,  
3 in management,  
3 in project management,  
3 in organizational behavior.

**Recommendation, Skill Level 60**

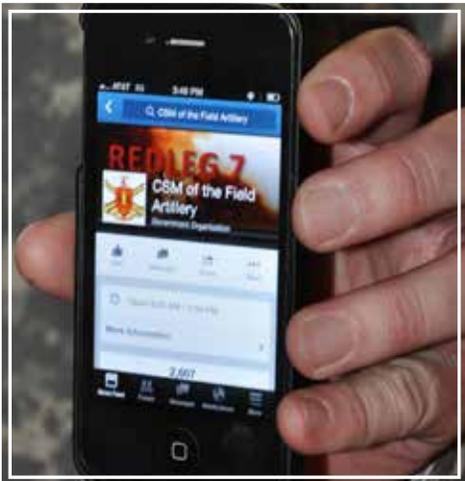
In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
3 semester hours in supervision,  
3 in public speaking, and  
3 in communications.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in leadership,  
3 in management,  
3 in project management,  
3 in organizational behavior.

**MOS-131A Field Artillery Targeting Technician (Warrant Officer)**

Recommendation  
In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category:  
3 semester hours in supervision,  
3 in public speaking,  
3 in communications,  
3 in radar operations,  
3 in network fundamentals,  
3 in land navigation.

In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category:  
3 semester hours in leadership,  
3 in management,  
3 in project management,  
3 in change management,  
3 in organizational behavior,  
3 in strategic management.



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