

DANTES
DOD VOLED PROGRAMS

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Academic College & Career Readiness with OASC & CPST

By Michelle Alexander, DANTES, Editor

According to the U.S. Department of Education, about a third of American students require remedial education in reading, writing, and math skills. Students must have the necessary knowledge and skills in math and english to qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing postsecondary coursework or job training without the need for remediation. In the military, strong academic skills are needed to succeed in training and for advancement in every occupational field. The Department of Defense (DoD) offers several options to support military students seeking to improve their academic skills. The Online Academic Skills Course

(OASC) and College Placement Skills Training (CPST) are designed for individuals who want and need to build their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills to pass exams, excel in their jobs, advance their careers, or continue their education. Through simple and quick registration, Service members, DoD civilians, and their family members have access to both courses online 24/7, at no cost.

How are they different?

OASC includes 71 online lessons designed to address basic academic skills. Last year, more than 26,000 Service members used OASC to improve reading compre-

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hension, math, and vocabulary skills. Many used their new skills to improve their word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, arithmetic reasoning, and mathematics knowledge scores on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT). Improving AFQT scores often helps Service members qualify for advanced training opportunities in their current occupation, reclassification into a new occupational field, or become eligible for officer and warrant officer candidate training.

CPST is designed to prepare for college level coursework with 116 available lessons. More than 10,000 Service members used CPST last year to improve their skills in English and language arts, essay writing, and college level math last. The goal of CPST is to ensure that students are able to successfully place into college level math and English courses and avoid the extra time and tuition costs associated with taking non-credit bearing, developmental courses.

How are they the same?

OASC and CPST are two different courses with one registration. Although they are separate courses, they have the same design. Both courses offer pre-assessments to determine a student's strengths and weaknesses. The courses are self-paced and customized according to answers on the pre-assessment. Personalized learning paths are designed for each student with lessons that specifically address their weaknesses. Participants may choose an abbreviated review with shortened lessons or add to their customized lesson path. Lessons are supported by interactive exercises such as drag-and drop matching, video game style multiple choice and dynamic flash cards. Quizzes and practice problem sets also

help students gauge their mastery of the material. OASC and CPST post-assessments demonstrate how well a student has improved after taking the courses. OASC and CPST not only offer skill-building lessons, quizzes and tests, but also provide helpful articles covering such topics as "How to Beat Test Stress" and "Last-Minute Study Tips " that support military student success.

Both courses are available at no cost to all active duty, guard, and reserve military members (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard), DoD civilians, and their family members. Users have the ability to take both courses with the same login and they can return and access the course at any time.

Manage Your Students

Education center personnel have the ability to manage their students and receive additional training as OASC and CPST course administrators. As an administrator, personnel can run reports to see how students on their installation are progressing through the courses and how they are performing on the pre-assessments, practice sets, and post-assessments. These reports cover all Service members, DoD civilians, and family members assigned to the military installation. In addition to reporting, administrators can also access course content such as assessments, lessons, quizzes, and practice sets/tests. Detailed explanations for each question in the course are available to assist in providing students additional support. Online training is available to teach administrators how to use both the student and administrator portals. For more information, go to: <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/oasc-cpst.html>. 🎓

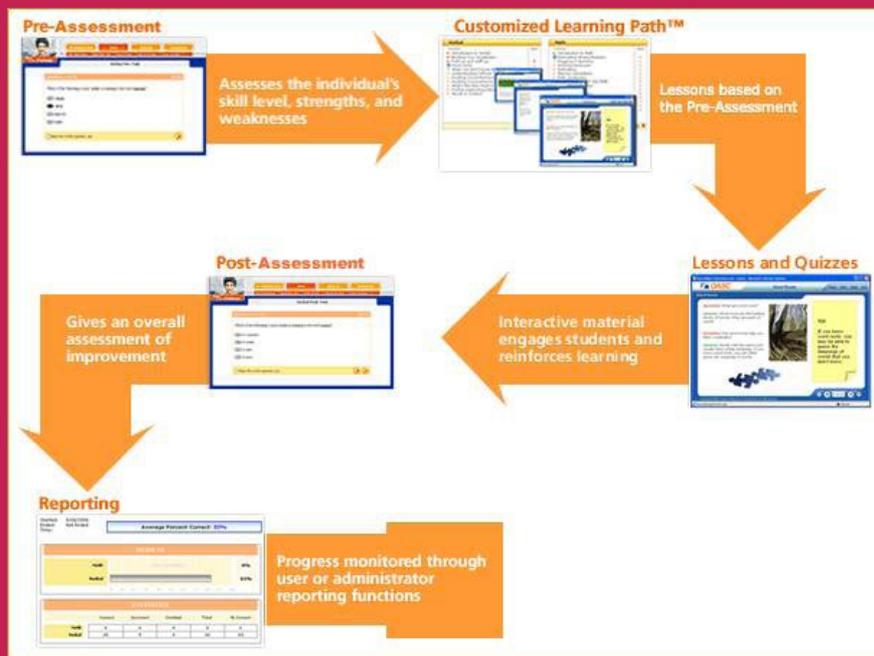


Features and Benefits

Now that you know the difference between OASC and CPST, check out the Features and Benefits and the Course Flow to get your students started!

FEATURES	BENEFITS
Pre-Assessment evaluates strength and weaknesses in each subject area and designs customized lessons	Learners can strengthen areas of weakness and reinforce concepts they already know
Interactive games, exercises, and flash cards	Reinforces learning using a range of learning styles
Practice sets/tests and quizzes	Learners can assess their progress throughout the course with instant feedback to ensure they understand the material
Post-Assessment/Practice Tests to measure end-of-course performance	Administrator can monitor progress through data reporting against the Pre-Assessment. Students can gauge progress comparing practice test scores.
Self-paced	Self pacing allows learners to progress at a comfortable level and retake sections as necessary
Short, medium, and full-length course versions	Different course lengths fit any student's schedule and accommodate time constraints
Completely online	Learners can access the course 24/7 from any internet-connect computer

COURSE FLOW



There are a variety of tools and promotional material available to help education center personnel understand, use, and promote OASC and CPST at <http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/DantesNet/prommat.aspx?sponsor=12894> or click on the graphics below:



Administrator Training



Why CPST?



Why OASC?



OASC & CPST Administrator Tools



OASC & CPST Poster

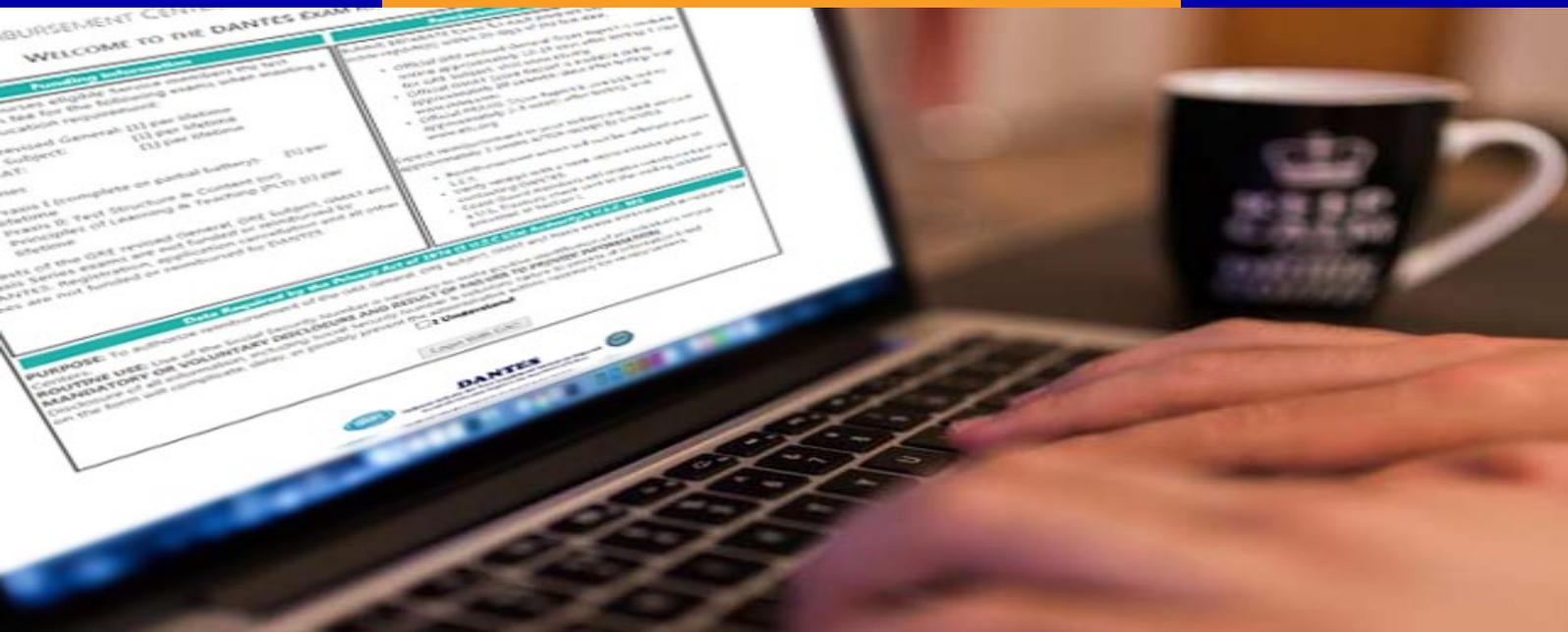


User Experience Handout



OASC & CPST Small Stock Handout Cards*

*These baseball card sized customer handouts are available to order from DANTES during open ordering season.



Hot News

Important 2015-2016 SAT Scoring Deadline Policy Change

In preparation for the FY17 release of the redesigned SAT, the College Board announced an important change to the end-of-year 2016 scoring deadline policy. Effective immediately, answer sheets for the SAT73 (primary) and SAT74 (alternate) exams will ONLY be scored when received PRIOR to the new, 29 July 2016 deadline!

Be advised, SAT answer sheets and registration forms received by Prometric in Nottingham MD, AFTER the new, 29 July 2016 deadline, will NOT be scored. Schedule any remaining 2015-2016 SAT73 (primary) and SAT74 (alternate) administrations promptly, to ensure all returned test materials are received by Prometric no later than 29 July 2016.

There is NO change to the policy that SAT73 (primary) and SAT74 (alternate) exams must be administered PRIOR to 1 July 2016, to be eligible for scoring and on time reporting. Administered SAT test materials received by Prometric AFTER the new, 29 July 2016 deadline, will be invalidated.

Follow instructions in the DEPH when returning controlled test materials. Material requests for the redesigned SAT will not be fulfilled until outstanding 2015-2016 SAT73 (primary) and SAT74 (alternate) materials have been cleared from the DANTES Test Site's inventory by Prometric.

Contact the Examinations Program with any questions or concerns regarding this 2015-2016 policy change, at exams@navy.mil.

DAIMS available to DANTES ATCOs

DANTES Academic Information Management System (DAIMS) is now available to currently appointed DANTES Alternate Testing Control Officers (ATCOs).

To register your CAC ID and request an account in DAIMS, visit <https://daims.doded.mil> - after agreeing to the security statement, select "Use My CAC." DO NOT select the NON-CAC USER "Register Username and Password" link.

Account requests will be (manually) processed in the order received and may take several weeks to complete. Please be patient and contact your TCO for testing support materials!!

Until the ATCO accounts have been activated, DANTES TCOs are responsible for providing documents and materials required to support DANTES-sponsored testing.

NOTE: If the DANTES test site is suspended, the DANTES TCO has departed without notice or replacement, or the DANTES TCO has not registered for an account in DAIMS, your DANTES ATCO account will not be activated.

Test Examiners are not currently authorized to register in DAIMS, but will be notified at a later date when registration is authorized. Contact exams@navy.mil for further information. 🎓

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a DANTES-managed Department of Defense program that helps Service members and Veterans begin a second career as a teacher, in K-12 public, charter or Bureau of Indian Affairs schools – giving them the opportunity to use their leadership skills, knowledge and experience to have a positive effect on our nation’s youth.



<https://www.proudtoserveagain.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/TTT.DANTES/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/topic/troops-to-teachers>



Tabetha Hammond Returns Home to Teach

By Kimberly Hiebert, in cooperation with Tabetha Hammond



Army Major (Ret) Tabetha Hammond served her country proudly for 24 years. Upon retirement, she returned to the school she graduated from and continued to give back to her home community and proudly serving again. “Becoming a teacher is all I ever wanted to do. My first years in the Army, I volunteered at a local elementary school,” beams Hammond.

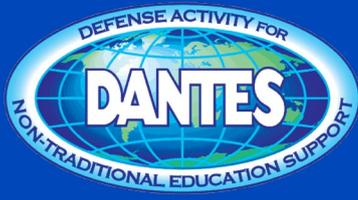
Hammond joined the Army one month after her high school graduation and deployed in support of Desert Storm, Iraq, Kuwait, graduated from Officer Candidate school and mobilized for 9/11. Throughout her Service in the Army, she recalls having visited many places, developing fantastic relationships, and creating life lasting experiences that she shares with her students. She started her certification process with Troops to Teachers (TTT) while still in the Service after attending Southeast Regional Director Bill Kirkland’s briefing. Troops to Teachers was there to provide Hammond with incentives to take the required GACE exams, which Georgia requires for a teaching certificate. “The TTT website and communication from the Georgia state office on lists of vacancies was invaluable,” says Hammond.

“Don’t give up if you don’t hear immediately from a school about a position you’ve applied for. I

attended several job fairs, sent resumes, spoke with several principals and visited many schools. Get to know people, let them know who you are and what you desire. By using personal contacts, I was able to interview for a position that turned out to be a perfect fit. I am teaching at a school which was not on my radar, but feel blessed that the school actually chose me,” smiles Hammond. “Henry County High School has been an amazing homecoming and the administration is very involved with the staff and students to ensure everyone succeeds.”

“I have been married to my Army-issued husband, Danny, for more than 20 years. We have an extremely driven daughter, Demi, currently a sophomore at the University of Alabama and a dynamic 7th grade football, baseball and basketball player, Phillip,” says Hammond.

“Teaching is a very rewarding occupation. I feel like I make a difference for a child every day. I make it a goal to make their days better. It is important to me that each child be made to feel special, be treated fairly and be listened to,” says Hammond. “Sometimes we forget what it is like to smile and enjoy life and my kids remind me every day how short life actually is,” finishes Hammond. 🎓



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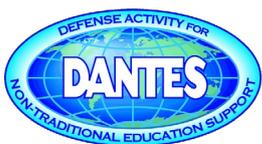
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DANTES Information Bulletin

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