

Mission Possible: Ball State's Student Veteran Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- **December 13-16** – Finals week. To see your final exam schedule, please click [here](#).
- **December 17th**: Last day of Fall Semester
- **January 9th**: Spring Semester begins

***SVO will be collecting toys for Tots for Tots until **December 16th**. You may drop toys off at the following locations:

- Lucina Room 204 (Veterans Affairs Office)
- The Learning Center (North Quad 350)
- Theater Department's Main Office AC 306
- Theater Department's Dance Office AC 306

Five Questions With...

Blake Hoppes

Military Affiliation: Army National Guard. My MOS is 25B

Major: Computer Science

Hobbies: Skateboarding, Writing, Video Games

Favorite Military Memory: Favorite Military memory would have to be the first time I got to shoot a M240B. Before joining the military, I had never really fired anything let alone a machine gun. So shooting that was just an awesome experience and was really thrilling. I loved it.

Advice to other student veterans: Get in a routine and stick with it. Once you get into the flow of things, it will make everything easier and you won't even really have to think too much about your day.

Ball State University

An end of the semester message from Beck Hannaford

I wanted to take a moment and express my appreciation to the Ball State Veterans and Family Community for all that you have accomplished this past semester. Our goal has been to establish a relationship of trust with each student, and to offer professional support and encouragement so that every student can graduate from Ball State University. With this end in mind, we conducted the first Veteran's orientation program, established our SALUTE Honor Program, enjoyed tailgating at the BSU Army Football Game, hosted Ft. Leonard Wood soldiers during the campus visit, and held what I think is the greatest Veteran's Day Celebration in the history of Ball State—certainly the largest in my 5 year tenure in the Veteran's office. Also, our work study student Hondo Tamez wrote, and presented at the Military Family Research Institute Grant Competition and won \$2,000 for the Ball State Student Veterans

Organization. And, tonight, we are celebrating at Greek's Pizza to relax before final exams. These successes were the result of hard work and dedication by our team members Dr. Jennifer Haley, Dr. Jackie Harris, Mr. Gary Ritz, and GA Alyssa Heggen. We also owe a debt of thanks to our entire SVO leadership team of Kenneth Winner, Hondo Tamez, and Blake Hoppes. Finally, none of this would have been possible without the financial support of the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue. You may not realize it, but Ball State students have access to more support services than any other college or university in Indiana. Bar none. Thank you all for a great semester.

But our work is not done. We still have "room for development" in the area of student retention and gradua-

tion. Too many of our brothers and sisters did not reenroll this past August, perhaps falling victim to transition issues, or a lack of focus. For these Veterans and family members, we will continue our efforts of support and encouragement with the goal of empowering every student to earn a diploma from Ball State University.



Congratulations on a great semester. Merry Christmas to all! We look forward to working with you next semester.

-Beck Hannaford, SCO Ball State University

The "Basics": Nailing Essay Exams

Essay exams give students the opportunity to *show off*. You can select from your knowledge examples and details of what you have learned rather than select from your teacher's choices so use this test format to your advantage.

Prepare in several ways: Read the assigned materials carefully; Take and study good lecture notes; Review and

put the material in your own words; Make maps and webs to connect concepts; Practice writing responses to questions you predict may be on the exam.

Once you have read and understand the question, write your answers in paragraphs. Start with an introduction which restates the main points of the question. For the

body of the response add details and examples to support your main points. At the end, write a summary or concluding remark of one or two sentences. More secrets for writing exam questions will be revealed next week. For additional study skills tips, see [hyperlink](#).