

**Point Paper  
On  
Defense Transition Services/Soldiers to Scholars (DTS/STS)  
For  
UCF Faculty Senate**

- The mission is to assist qualified military veterans in obtaining their undergraduate and graduate degrees in critical need areas, education (or their teaching certification), health care (nursing), and social work.
- To be accepted into the program participants must have an Honorable Discharge from the military, been out of the military, preferably for less than five years, and pass a background check.
- To achieve its mission DTS/STS works with military installations throughout the southeast, the Veteran's Administration, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, the UCF College of Education and the UCF College of Health and Public Affairs to assist deserving veterans.
- In line with the President's goal of increasing the diversity of the University and the recognized need for male role models for minority children, DTS/STS places an emphasis on recruiting African American males.
- Provides assistance to all military veterans regardless of sex, race or religion. Through its programs DTS/STS seeks to increase diversity in education, help alleviate the nursing and social services shortages.
- Provide mentors and tutors for at risk children in the inner city.
- Soldiers to Scholars are required to provide five hours per week working with at risk children in the inner city.
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA
- Complete a minimum of 24 credit hours per year, undergraduate, and 15 credit hours per year, graduate.
- Participants may live in designated housing located in the Parramore area of Orlando.

- Receive rental subsidy because STS designates where they must live.
- Subsidy comes from a grant from the Florida Housing and Finance Authority.
- A textbook subsidy is offered to those living in designated apartments.
  
- DTS/STS subsidizes the tuition for participants so they can afford to go to school and mentor the children.
  
- Currently 30 participants
  - 71% male, 29% female, 79% African-American, 11% Hispanic, 10% Caucasian.
  
- GPA UCF – 3.22
  
- Partial listing of activities/programs by DTS/STS
  - Provided mentoring and role models at Pineloch Elementary, Eagles Nest Elementary, Orange Center Elementary, Rio Grande Charter School, Rock Lake Elementary, Memorial Middle School, Carver Middle School, Jones High School, Evans High School and Oak Ridge High School.
  - Worked with elementary schools listed above to raise their FCAT scores.
  - Participants provided over 7800 (FY 2008) hours of mentoring.
  - STS after school program had several different activities including, a reading program, a fencing program, boxing program, golf and a capoeira program.
  - During the summer STS teamed with Orange County and the Metro Place Apartments to provide a free lunch program at our learning facility.
  - Participated in the Orlo Vista Elementary Career Day.
  - Started a program they called Boys Talk. They discuss grooming, hygiene, self control and self discipline along with several other topics.
  - Working with Orange Center and Pineloch Elementary schools, STS provided free spaghetti dinners for parents and children to increase their involvement at the elementary school and talk about our program.
  - Historical site visits to St. Augustine and Fort Pulaski for children participating in the after school program.
  - Visits to Mayport NS and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay.
  - Health Fairs at the DTS/STS center.
  - Halloween parties.
  - Started a Peer Mediation Program at Jones High School, Carver Middle School and Pineloch Elementary.
  - Started a GLOBE science program.