



**UMUC**  
*Asia*



## **UMUC and SOC**



**Working Together to Help  
You Earn a College Degree**



**University of Maryland University College**  
*Serving Working Adults Worldwide*



## What is SOC?

The Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) is an association of American colleges and universities working together to help students in Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard communities achieve their educational goals. SOC member schools have agreements that enable students who live in various locations around the world and who may attend several different schools to complete degrees without undue loss of time or credit. The eight major SOC programs are:

SOCAD-2: Servicemembers Opportunity College Associate Degree for students at Army locations seeking A.A. degrees;

SOCMAR-2: Servicemembers Opportunity College Associate Degree for students at Marine Corps locations seeking A.A. degrees;

SOCNAV-2: Servicemembers Opportunity College for students at Navy locations seeking A.A. degrees;

SOCOCOAST-2: Servicemembers Opportunity College Associate Degree for students at Coast Guard locations seeking A.A. degrees;

SOCAD-4: Servicemembers Opportunity College for students at Army locations seeking B.S. and B.A. degrees;

SOCMAR-4: Servicemembers Opportunity College for students at Marine Corps Locations seeking B.S. and B.A. degrees;

SOCNAV-4: Servicemembers Opportunity College for students at Navy locations seeking B.S. and B.A. degrees;

SOCOCOAST-4: Servicemembers Opportunity College for students at Coast Guard locations seeking B.S. and B.A. degrees.

## **Do I earn my A.A., B.A., or B.S. degree from SOC?**

No. You earn your degree from the school of your choice by fulfilling that institution's requirements. University of Maryland University College (UMUC) and other SOC member schools have joined together and agreed to offer a variety of degree programs (called "networks") so as to maximize the transfer of your credits among SOC member schools.

## **How many colleges and universities are SOC members?**

Most of the colleges and universities serving the military community in Asia, Europe, and the United States belong to SOC. More than 80 colleges and universities participate in SOC associate degree networks, and over 60 institutions take part in SOC bachelor's degree programs. And SOC membership is increasing all the time.

## **How do SOC member schools and University of Maryland University College work together to help me complete my degree?**

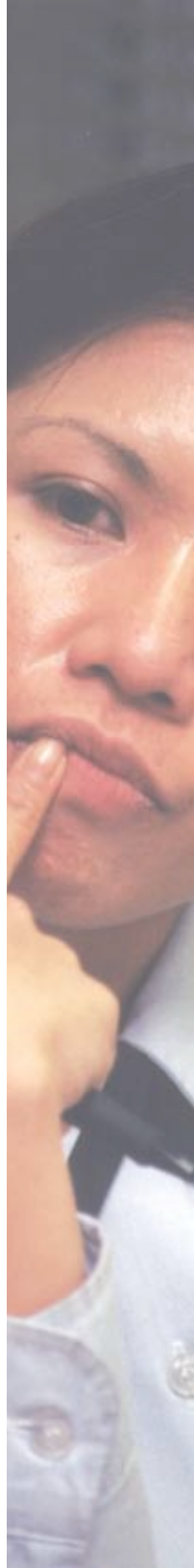
UMUC and other SOC members offer students these features:

### ***Credit Transfer***

UMUC and other SOC schools ensure that credit will transfer among member colleges in a given SOC degree program or "network." Moreover, SOC schools agree that the credit earned in the completion of a SOCAD-2, SOCMAR-2, SOCNAV-2, or SOCCOAST-2 two-year-degree program compatible with a SOCAD-4, SOCMAR-4, SOCNAV-4, or SOCCOAST-4 four-year degree program will meet at least 45 percent of the credit requirements for that bachelor's degree. Guidelines for these credit-transfer guarantees are carefully spelled out in the SOC handbooks.

### ***Limited Residency***

SOC member schools guarantee that students will have to complete no more than 25 percent of their degree requirements with the college or university granting the degree. For example, once you earn a minimum of 15 credits with UMUC Asia toward an A.A. degree or 30 credits toward a B.A. or B.S. and fulfill certain specific degree requirements, you can complete the rest of the degree requirements at other regionally accredited colleges and universities anywhere in the world.





### ***Military Credit***

Like the other SOC schools, UMUC awards credit for learning acquired through military training, service schools and Military Occupational Specialties (MOS)/Navy Ratings based on the recommendations of the American Council on Education (ACE), when such credit is applicable to the student's UMUC curriculum.

### ***Automatic SOC Agreements***

Like other SOC member schools, UMUC Asia, along with other units of UMUC, automatically issues the appropriate SOC Student Agreement when an eligible student requests an official evaluation.

### **In which A.A. degree networks does UMUC participate?**

Presently, UMUC belongs to the following associate degree (SOCAD-2, SOCMAR-2, SOCNAV-2, and SOCCOAST-2) networks:

- Accounting
- Computer Studies
- General Business
- Interdisciplinary Studies

### **In which baccalaureate degree networks does UMUC participate?**

UMUC belongs to the following bachelor's degree (SOCAD-4, SOCMAR-4, SOCNAV-4, and SOCCOAST-4) networks:

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Computer Studies
- Human Resources Management
- Information Systems Management
- Management
- Psychology

University of Maryland University College is continually joining new SOC networks. Be sure to watch for updates.



## Who can participate in a SOC degree program?

Under SOC regulations, all active duty servicemembers, family members and civilians in Army, Marine Corps, Navy, or Coast Guard communities are eligible to participate in these programs.

## How do I join a SOC degree program?

Request an official evaluation, and UMUC Asia will automatically send you the appropriate SOC Student Agreement. If you have completed at least 3 credits with UMUC with a 2.0 (C) grade point average, have paid the one-time application fee, and have no financial obligation to the University, you are eligible for a official evaluation and an automatic SOC Student Agreement.

## How do I get an official evaluation from UMUC Asia so I can obtain a SOC Student Agreement?

Here are the steps:

- (1) Have official transcripts from each college you have attended sent directly from the issuing institution to UMUC in Asia.
- (2) Have official test results of proficiency exams like CLEP or DANTES sent directly from the testing service to UMUC in Asia.
- (3) Have the learning you have acquired through your military experience evaluated (refer to the UMUC Asia *Catalog* under “Evaluation of Service School Training”).
- (4) Submit a “Request for an Official Evaluation” (UMUC Asia form UMR-232). This form is available through the Maryland Field Representative at your local Education Center or on the Web site at [www.asia.umuc.edu](http://www.asia.umuc.edu). GoArmyEd students who choose UMUC Asia as their home college do not need to submit this form.



## **Does this mean that once I have my SOC Student Agreement, I have met UMUC residency requirements?**

No. Completing 3 credits with UMUC with a “C” (2.0) GPA qualifies you for an official evaluation and an automatic SOC Student Agreement. For the residency requirement, you must complete a minimum of 15 credits with UMUC for an associate degree and 30 credits for a bachelor’s degree and fulfill several specific degree requirements.

See the current UMUC Asia *Catalog* for additional details.

## **Can I complete my degree with UMUC once I return to the States?**

Yes! Just complete the relocation form available at [www.asia.umuc.edu/relocate.html](http://www.asia.umuc.edu/relocate.html). Your records will be transferred to UMUC in Adelphi, Maryland. You can follow your SOC Student Agreement to complete your degree with UMUC. Credits you earn from UMUC anywhere in the world (Asia, Europe, Stateside and globally via UMUC’s online Distance Education program) count toward your degree requirements. UMUC’s DE option means that UMUC is everywhere you go; more and more students are completing their UMUC degrees through UMUC Stateside DE after they leave Asia. There is no time limit on completing your degree under your SOCAD Student Agreement as long as you have no break in enrollment of more than two years.

## **If I return to the States and want to take courses at other colleges or universities to transfer back to the UMUC degree program I started overseas, must I obtain prior approval?**

Not if you have a SOC Student Agreement issued by UMUC and if you take your subsequent course work at a SOC member school which participates in the same degree network. This is one of the great features of SOC. Your counselor can consult the SOC handbooks to determine which schools participate in which networks and which specific courses are guaranteed to transfer among SOC member schools. Just be sure to complete your minimum UMUC residency requirements while you are enrolled with UMUC and be sure that you have no break in enrollment of more than two years.

## **If I leave the service, is my SOC Student Agreement still valid?**

Yes! Once you start participating in a SOC program, you retain all benefits even if you leave the service. Just make sure you get a SOC Student Agreement first and be sure that you have no break in enrollment of more than two years.

If you have any further questions about SOC programs, talk with your ESO, Counselor or UMUC Asia Academic Advisor.



# HOW CAN SOC AND UMUC HELP ME?

## ***For Additional Information***

Talk with the Education Services Officer, Counselor, or UMUC Field Representative at your local Education Center. While you are there, be sure to pick up a copy of the current UMUC Asia *Catalog* and other informational brochures.

Information may also be found on the UMUC Asia Web site at: [www.asia.umuc.edu](http://www.asia.umuc.edu).

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