Meet SFC Spencer

Sergeant First Class Mikel Spencer lives in Tucson, Arizona, where he works as a human resources secondary coordinator at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. He served in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years before retiring from active duty. He began his college studies at Pima Community College before transferring in 2013 to The Extended Campuses of Northern Arizona University.

Moving up the Ranks

SFC Spencer enjoys his job at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs helping veterans find part-time jobs while they attend school. “Many times these jobs turn into full-time employment after the students graduate,” he says. “It’s their degree that qualifies them for that permanent position.”

This inspired him to pursue his bachelor’s degree. “I have lots of experience, but I didn’t have the education or college degree,” SFC Spencer says. “Having that degree is the difference-maker.”

Earning NAU’s 90/30 Public Administration degree to advance his current career was the best choice for SFC Spencer. “NAU really gave me flexibility, with the ability to take classes online classes or in the classroom when I needed them.”

NAU’s 90/30 program allowed SFC Spencer to earn 90 credits at his local college, then complete the final 30 credits of his bachelor’s degree at Northern Arizona University.

Why one veteran chose NAU to advance his public administration career

“Going back to school at NAU wasn’t nearly as challenging as I thought it would be. If I had to do it all over again, I’d do the same thing.”

Sgt First Class Mikel Spencer, Retired
B.S.I.S., Public Administration, 2014
From Service to Student

NAU’s Military and Veteran Student Center quickly connected with SFC Spencer. “NAU really took the time to explain my military benefits through the post-9/11 GI Bill,” he says. “These benefits were quite an incentive for me to finish my degree.” He credits the Military and Veteran Student Center for making his transition to NAU seamless. “NAU is a really great school if you’re a veteran student,” SFC Spencer says. “They take very good care of their veteran students, making sure that everything is done in a timely manner so that you can enroll when you want to start classes.”

Success In School and Career

SFC Spencer’s hard work hasn’t gone unnoticed. He’s made the Dean’s List. “I was so proud of myself when I saw my name on the list,” he says. His success doesn’t stop there. SFC Spencer is currently in the running for a supervisory administrative support specialist position with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Tucson, Arizona. “My experience coupled with my Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration will give me a competitive edge for this opportunity.”

Learn More

To find out more about NAU–Extended Campuses, including its degree options, locations and affordable tuition:

Visit: nau.edu/extended
Call: (800) 426-8315
Email: extended.campuses@nau.edu
Go: Visit your local NAU campus

NAU’s 90/30 Degree Options

This unique bachelor’s degree option lets students like you:

- **Save money** on tuition by transferring up to 90 credit hours.
- **Stay local** by completing your NAU credits online or at a local community college.
- **Advance your career** in Public Administration, Emergency Management, Business Administration and other growing fields.

Popular Fields of Study

- Arts & Humanities
- Business & Administration
- Computing & Technology
- Criminal Justice & Social Studies
- Education & Counseling
- Health Professions
- Hospitality
- Math & Science
- Parks & Recreation

Flexible Class Formats

**Online:** Learn anywhere with high-quality online classes.

**In-Person:** Take class in person at one of NAU’s 30+ campuses.

**Blended:** A mix of in-person and online coursework.