



Rick Hopcraft 2022-23 Veterans Scholar Mohamad Omar Diab

A U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, and currently Certification Coordinator at the CSU Fullerton Veterans' Resource Center, Omar is using his scholarship pursuing his Master's degree in Educational Counseling at the University of Southern California. *"I hope to become an academic counselor at a higher education institution to assist transitioning veterans to access academia, and effectively use their education benefits. The Rick Hopcraft scholarship came in at the perfect time, and I am truly appreciative. The financial assistance I received from the scholarship will help me achieve my goals."*

Mohamad Omar Diab was born in Renton, Washington, and attended public schools in Irvine, graduating from University High School in June 2014. Eager to serve his country, Omar enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served as an Aviation Ordnance Technician on the "Super Stallion" helicopter for four years while stationed at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar. During his service, Omar traveled to many parts of the United States, as well as a detachment to Okinawa, Japan, where he experienced a different culture than his own. Omar achieved the rank of Sergeant for his proficiency and maturity, was honorably discharged as a Sergeant in 2018, and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals for his actions.

After his service, Omar enrolled at Irvine Valley College (IVC). He started his academic journey while working as a VA Work Study in the Veteran Services Center. During his time at IVC, he supported veterans and military-connected families as they pursued their education. Omar assisted his fellow student veterans in identifying the benefits they could receive on and off campus, veteran activities, and events, as well as ensuring student veterans receive the help they need when facing any obstacles.

In May 2020, Omar graduated with honors from Irvine Valley College, earning an Associate in Arts with an emphasis on Social and Behavioral Sciences. Omar transferred to California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), and graduated with honors, earning his Bachelor's Degree in Human Services. Professionally, Omar has served as a VA school certifying official and academic advisor for the CSUF Veterans Resource Center. Additionally, Omar coaches High school football as a wide receiver and quarterback coach.

In his free time, Omar enjoys spending time with his wife, Camila, at the beach, and trying different restaurants. Other interests include auto mechanics, fishing, and off-roading. Omar has three unique cats named Ocean, Luna, and Loki.

