Jan7. Participant 2 – Maimouna, 25-34, MD, Army.

STEM Wizard Update Discovery Research Discussion Guide

**KEY FINDINGS**

* **STEM Scholarship recipient - used form in December to apply for STEM scholarship.**
* **Found out about scholarship on GI Bill Facebook group.**
* **FB Group admin was helpful and answered a lot of questions about eligibility**
* ***ASSUME she linked directly to the form from the FB Group.***
* **Thought the process was easy, “very smooth”.**
* **Not sure non-STEM scholars will know what STEM means. In FB group,** A lot of people who were asking questions weren’t STEM majors and they didn’t know what STEM is.
* *Thinks it would be helpful to have schools with qualifying programs let students know about the scholarship.*

**Educational background**

How did you go about applying for educational benefits? (paper form, online, worked with SCO, etc) [A bit beyond our scope, however it may help us understand their comfort level with online forms]

***First time used paper. After that online forms on my own.***

What type of degree are you pursuing?

***B.A. in Science, Biochemistry.***

How far through the program are you?

***Graduating this May.***

Approximately how many months or years of educational benefit do you have remaining?

***Don’t have a lot. Using STEM Scholarship. Applied in December 2019 and got approved.***

***Process was very smooth.***

***Heard about STEM through the GI Bill Facebook group.***

***Used the online form to apply for STEM.***

[If STEM] Do you have any interest in obtaining a teaching certification after you graduate?

**Set the stage**

Let's look at the "How do I apply" section of this page.

What would you expect to happen when you click the green "Find your education benefits form" button?

***Different options would come up about my benefits.***

Feel free to click the button. What are your thoughts on this question?

What would you expect to happen if you clicked each of the 3 radio buttons?

a. Let's explore the radio button options… Could you talk me through what you think “Apply for new benefit” means?

- if you already have a benefit and you want a new one.

b. What about “Update my current benefits”?

*- if you want to change something about the benefit you’re using.*

c. What does “Applying to extend my benefit using the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship” mean to you?

*- applying for the STEM program scholarship*

a. [If they've heard of it] Where did hear that?

***Heard about STEM through the GI Bill Facebook group.***

b. [If they haven’t heard of the STEM Scholarship] What do you think the STEM scholarship might be?

What are your thoughts on who might be eligible for the STEM scholarship?

*Before, thought maybe it could be an associate’s degree but found out it had to be bachelors.*

*Would be good to prompt the schools who have the program to let students.*

*Doesn’t think that people who aren’t in STEM would know what STEM is.*

Given the information you have now, how likely would you be to apply for the STEM scholarship? (Consider probing around their thought process for applying or not when they’re not sure if they’d be eligible.)

If you wanted to learn more about the STEM scholarship and who might be eligible for it, how would you go about doing that? (allow them to explore the site, if relevant)

If you were actually applying for education benefits, what additional information would help you know which option you’d want to choose here?

[If on the Eligibility page] What would you expect to happen if you clicked the "Learn more about how to apply for educational benefits" link?

APPLICATION

* What’s the STEM Scholarship (learn more)
  + Pretty good explanation

Looks like we have 5-10 minutes left, so I want to pause and give my colleagues on the phone an opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

[Additional questions from any observers on the phone]

* What do you recall about when you submitted your STEM Scholarship application?
  + Surprisingly, it was fast and really easy. I didn’t have to download anything.
  + Got it from the first time.
  + Had a friend who was stressing because he just has 2 months, he was going
  + Do you remember if you were logged in? I was logged in.
  + Saw it on FB then looked it up. Asked Q’s on the FB page… Admin would answer the questions.
  + A lot of people who were asking questions. A lot of people weren’t STEM majors and they didn’t know what STEM is.

Thank you for the scholarship! It means a lot to me and my family. I was going to use loans and now I don’t have to.

Do you have any questions for us?