ABOUT THE CUNY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Leading the Way

The City University of New York (CUNY) welcomes and supports veterans and future veterans, reservists, survivors and family members at its colleges and recognizes the contribution that they make as citizens and students.

The CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs serves as an information source, advocate and guide for over 3,000 student veterans. We are dedicated to fostering a sense of community and assisting our student veterans and reservists, throughout their experience at CUNY.
CUNY offers 1,750 academic programs, more than 230 majors leading to associate and baccalaureate degrees and more than 160 graduate-degree majors.

Our aim is to help you find a curriculum appropriate to your needs, so that your college experience will be as rewarding as possible. All CUNY colleges welcome veterans and future veterans, whether you are a first-time college applicant, returning to college to complete your degree, or looking to change or advance your existing career. Here are a few programs geared toward adult learners and veterans:

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE PROGRAMS**
- CUNY BA: Unique & Interdisciplinary Studies
- School of Professional Studies (SPS)
- CUNY Online Baccalaureate at SPS
- Murphy Institute for Worker Education & Labor Studies at SPS

**INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS**
- BMCC Evening/Weekend Associate Degree Programs
- The City College Center for Worker Education
- Queens College Adult Collegiate Education Program (ACE)
- Lehman College Adult Degree Program

For more information, visit: [www.cuny.edu/undergraduate](http://www.cuny.edu/undergraduate)

**ACCESS**
The University comprises 11 four-year colleges, seven community colleges, the Macaulay Honors College, the CUNY Graduate Center, the CUNY School of Law, the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, the CUNY School of Professional Studies and the CUNY School of Public Health.

We want to make certain your time with us is both rewarding and fulfilling. Housed in and around the greatest city in the world, CUNY offers an incredibly wide variety of ways to enrich your life outside the classroom including athletics, clubs and community service opportunities. Visit [www.cuny.edu/explore](http://www.cuny.edu/explore) for more information.

**UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION**
Applying to CUNY is made easy with a few simple steps: Explore, Prepare, Apply.

**Explore CUNY:** Discover information on academic programs, student life, tuition and fees, financial aid and more. Visit [www.cuny.edu/explore](http://www.cuny.edu/explore) to get started.

**Prepare to Apply:** It is important that you first find out what information will be needed to apply to the college and program of your choice. Download and complete the Admission Application Worksheet, along with a Quick Guide to Apply for Veterans and Future Veterans, at [www.cuny.edu/prepare](http://www.cuny.edu/prepare) to get started.

**Apply to CUNY:** Visit [www.cuny.edu/apply](http://www.cuny.edu/apply) to fill out and submit your Admission Application.

**After You Apply:** After you submit your application, be sure to review deadlines and notification dates, send in your required supporting documents, request your Veterans Fee Waiver and check your application status. Visit [www.cuny.edu/afteryouapply](http://www.cuny.edu/afteryouapply) for more information. Following your acceptance into CUNY, you should be prepared to take the CUNY Assessment Tests to measure your readiness for college success in areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.

Visit [www.cuny.edu/academics/testing.html](http://www.cuny.edu/academics/testing.html) for more information and preparation practice tests.

**GRADUATE ADMISSION**
Veterans wishing to apply to graduate programs and those seeking graduate non-matriculated status should apply directly to the college of their choice. For more information, visit [www.cuny.edu/graduate](http://www.cuny.edu/graduate)
The Post-9/11 GI-Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI-Bill.

The President of the United States signed Executive Order 13607 – Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members on April 27, 2012. The CUNY Central Office of Veterans Affairs is committed to establishing and maintaining the Executive Order throughout the university, providing student veterans increased resources on campuses during the application process and throughout your student career. For more information visit: www.gibill.va.gov.
At CUNY there are many options for financial assistance for veterans. If you seek financial assistance, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You may apply as early as January 1 prior to the academic year you are planning to attend. New York State residents should also complete a Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) application for NY state aid assistance available at [www.hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com). Visit [www.cuny.edu/financialaid](http://www.cuny.edu/financialaid) for further information on financial aid programs. The following pages list the many financial aid opportunities available to veterans at CUNY.

**Federal Aid**

**POST 9/11 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT (Chapter 33)**
The Post 9/11 GI Bill took effect on August 1, 2009. The new chapter provides up to 36 months of educational benefits for individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Eligibility for benefits is extended to 15 years from the last period of active duty. Benefit entitlement is determined by length of active duty service after September 10, 2001. In addition to tuition and fees (not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution), there are provisions for a monthly housing allowance equal to E-5 basic allowance for housing with dependents (based on college zip code) and a yearly stipend of $1,000 for books and equipment.

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship amended the Post 9/11 GI Bill to include the children of service members who die in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Eligible children are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level, have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on their 18th birthday, and may be married and over 23 and still be eligible.

**MONTGOMERY GI BILL ACTIVE DUTY (Chapter 30)**
The MGIB program provides up to 36 months of education benefits payable for 10 years following release from active duty. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved. To apply, use VA Form 22-1990 or apply online at: [www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp](http://www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp)

For more information, visit: [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

**MONTGOMERY GI BILL SELECTED RESERVE (Chapter 1606)**
The MGIB-SR program provides up to 36 months of education benefits to members of the Selected Reserve, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserves, and the Army and Air National Guard. This program does not require a person to serve on active duty to qualify. To apply, obtain a Notice of Basic Eligibility (DD Form 2384 or 2384-1) from your
unit and complete VA Form 22-1990. To apply online, visit: www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp

For more information, visit: www.gibill.va.gov

RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Chapter 1607)
REAP is an education program that provides up to 36 months of education benefits to members of the Selected Reserves, Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and National Guard who are called to active service. The educational assistance allowance payable under REAP is a percentage of the MGIB rate based on the number of continuous days served on active duty. To apply, complete VA Form 22-1990 and indicate you are applying for REAP. To apply online, visit: www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp

For more information, visit: www.gibill.va.gov

VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Chapter 32)
VEAP is available if you first entered active duty between January 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985 and you elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. Your contributions are matched on a $2-for-$1 basis by the government. To apply, complete VA Form 22-1990 or apply online at: www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp

For more information, visit: www.gibill.va.gov

SURVIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Chapter 35) Dependents’ Educational Assistance provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans who died or are permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. Spouses have 10 years from the date the VA establishes eligibility to use the benefit. Surviving spouses of veterans who died while on Active Duty have 20 years from the date of the veterans’ death to use the benefit. Children may use the benefit while they are between the ages of 18 and 26. Time limits can be extended under certain circumstances. To apply, complete VA Form 22-5490 or apply online at: www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp

For more information, visit: www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp

For more information, visit: www.gibill.va.gov

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT (Chapter 31)
The VR & E Program aids veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find and keep suitable jobs. If any training is needed, the VA will pay your training costs, such as tuition and fees, books, supplies, equipment and, if needed, special services. While in training, the VA will also pay a monthly benefit called a Subsistence Allowance to help with living expenses. Those who are eligible for both VR & E (Ch. 31) and the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Ch. 33) may choose that bill’s monthly housing allowance instead of the Subsistence Allowance. To receive an evaluation for VR & E services, a veteran must have received, or be scheduled to receive, a discharge that is other than dishonorable and have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10 percent. To apply, complete VA Form 28-1900 or apply online at: www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp

For more information, visit: www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp

For more information, visit: www.gibill.va.gov

www.cuny.edu/veterans
Eligible veterans receive full undergraduate tuition coverage at CUNY through NY State’s Veterans Tuition Award (VTA).

**VETERANS RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRAP)**
Allows qualifying veterans to receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty rate. To qualify veterans must be: 35-60 years old; unemployed on the day of application; not dishonorably discharged; and must not be eligible for another VA education program or be receiving VA compensation at the 100% rate due to unemployability. Participants must be enrolled in a VA-approved program of education offered by a Community College or Technical School. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certification and train the veteran in a high demand occupation as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL).

For more information, visit: www.benefits.va.gov/VOW

**VETERANS WORK-STUDY PROGRAM**
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs work-study program recipients must be receiving full-time G.I. Bill benefits to be eligible. Up to 750 hours per year, starting at the federal minimum hourly wage, are available to eligible veterans.

For more information, visit: www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/wkstud.htm

**TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE**
The Department of Veterans Affairs will pay up to $100 per month for your tutorial assistance in addition to your regular monthly education benefits. The limit for tutorial assistance is $1,200. If you are training under Chapter 33 or Chapter 35, VA will not charge you any entitlement for tutorial assistance. If you are training under Chapter 30, 32 or 1606, VA will not charge entitlement for your first $600 of tutorial assistance. For tutorial assistance over $600, VA will charge one month of entitlement whenever you receive an amount equal to the full-time monthly rate you get for going to school.

For more information, call the VA’s toll-free number: 1-888-442-4551

**TUITION ASSISTANCE (TA) PROGRAM**
Armed Forces Tuition Assistance is a benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to 100% for the tuition expenses of its members. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application process and restrictions.

For more information, visit: www.military.com/education

**MYCAA MILITARY SPOUSE CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNTS**
The MyCAA program offers a maximum financial benefit of $4,000 with a fiscal cap of $2,000. Programs of study are limited to Associate Degrees, Certification and Licensures. Spouses of active duty service members in pay grades E-1 – E-2, W-1 – W-2, and 01 – 02 as well as the spouses of activated Guard and Reserve members within those ranks. The MyCAA Program does not include Coast Guard spouses.

For more information, visit: https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa
The GI-Bill provides up to 36 months of educational benefits for individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

NEW YORK STATE VETERANS TUITION AWARD (VTA) provides aid to eligible veterans matriculated in an undergraduate or graduate program or an approved vocational training program within NYS. Eligible veterans for this program are NYS residents honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces who have served in:

- Vietnam/Indochina between 12/22/61–5/7/75
- Persian Gulf on or after 8/2/90
- Afghanistan during or after 9/11/01
- Vets who served in hostilities after 12/22/61 and received an Armed Forces, Navy or Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal

Eligible veterans receive full undergraduate tuition coverage at CUNY through NY State’s Veterans Tuition Award (VTA). CUNY part-time students receive awards that are prorated by credit hour. Students have to apply yearly for payment by completing the FAFSA, TAP and NYS Veterans Tuition Award Supplement.

For more information, visit: www.hesc.com (then go to “Military Corner”)

NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ARNG FTA), formerly the ACES Program, is not specifically a veterans program but offers NY ARNG soldiers from $250 per semester hour to $4,500 annually per soldier, not to exceed the cost of the course or program taken. The institution must be accredited but may include public/private colleges, universities, vocational, technical or trade schools within and outside of NYS. ARNG also funds non-degree study at accredited institutions. While professional degrees are eligible, doctoral programs are not.

For more information, visit: www.dmna.state.ny.us/education

MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIP (MSRS) offers awards for spouses, children and financial dependents of a service person whose parent/spouse was severely and permanently disabled or killed at any time on or after 8/2/90 and was a state resident at that time. The awards allow for direct costs (tuition, fees, on-campus room and board, commuter student allowance, books, supplies and transportation) at a public/private university up to the cost of CUNY tuition. The MSRS award may not exceed the cost of attendance and additional awards may result in its reduction.

Students must complete the FAFSA, TAP application and the NYS Military Service Recognition Scholarship Supplement.

For more information, visit: www.hesc.com (then go to “Military Corner”)

State Aid
NYS REGENTS AWARDS FOR CHILDREN OF DECEASED AND DISABLED VETERANS will grant $450 to eligible students whose parent(s) served during specific periods of time and died or suffered 40 percent or more disability, or are classified as missing in action or prisoner of war. Parent(s) must be current NYS residents or have been NYS resident(s) at the time of death/classified status. The FAFSA, TAP application and NYS Children of Veterans Award Web Supplement is required. Students born with spina bifida whose parent(s) is a Vietnam veteran are also eligible and should contact HESC for detailed application instructions. Students should also request a Scholarship & Grant Payment Application to request payment.

For more information, visit: www.hesc.com (then go to “Military Corner”)

RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE AND RETENTION PROGRAM (RIRP) is a tuition benefit for active NYS National Guard members. It provides eligible, qualified applicants who have completed advanced individual training within the NYS Military Forces (Army and Air National Guard, Naval Militia) the cost of tuition up to $4,350 per calendar year. It will cover tuition after all other financial aid has been applied to charges. Students complete the FAFSA, TAP and DMNA96-1 form (available from one’s individual National Guard unit).

For more information, visit: www.dmna.state.ny.us/education

Note:

NYS residency eligibility for awards is waived for a dependent or spouse of the service person who is on full-time active duty and is stationed in NYS.

Questions regarding eligible service or documentation may be directed to the HESC Scholarship Unit at 1-888-697-4372.
CUNY values the training and experience you received during your military service. Each institution will evaluate your military experience as it applies to their academic requirements for a specific program, at their own discretion. The first step to obtaining credits is to request a Joint Services Transcript (JST). The JST makes it easier for veterans, and CUNY, to read and award applicable college credits. Visit https://jst.doded.mil to view an unofficial transcript or request and official copy. Each CUNY college has a veteran liaison who will assist with the transfer of credits and other steps needed to complete your enrollment and obtain your benefits. Visit www.cuny.edu/veterans for more information.

**Army**

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION REGISTRY TRANSCRIPT SYSTEM (AARTS) captures academic credits from military training and standardized tests with descriptions and college credit recommendations developed by the American Council on Education (ACE). Officers must use form DD-295 (Application for Evaluation of Learning).

For more information, visit: [http://aarts.army.mil](http://aarts.army.mil)

**Navy and Marines**

THE SAILOR/MARINE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION REGISTRY TRANSCRIPT (SMART) is an academically accepted record that is validated by ACE.

For more information, visit: [https://smart.navy.mil/smart/welcome.do](https://smart.navy.mil/smart/welcome.do)

---

**Air Force**


**Coast Guard**

THE COAST GUARD INSTITUTE (CGI) requires each service member to submit documentation for all training, along with an enrollment form, to receive a transcript.

For more information, visit: [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/active_duty/go_to_college/official_transcript.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/active_duty/go_to_college/official_transcript.asp)

---

*Please note: During the upcoming 2013-2014 school year, the Army and Coast Guard transcript systems will be merged into the Navy/Marine transcript system. The transcript will be called Joint Services Transcript or JST. From 2013 the JST will be available for all branches except for the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF).
In-State Tuition for Out-of-State Veterans at CUNY

The CUNY Board of Trustees recently passed a resolution which will provide veterans with Out-of-State resident status with an In-State Tuition benefit for 18 months from their first day of classes beginning in the Fall 2013 semester. This applies to Freshman, Continuing and Transfer student veterans with an other than dishonorable discharge however, at this time excludes reservists and National Guard.

In order to continue receiving In-State Tuition these students must have established New York State residency (as defined in the CUNY Tuition & Fee Manual) by the end of the 18 month period. Also, there is no retroactive benefit for prior semesters.

Grades

A student who is called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States after having attended regularly for 13 or more weeks or having completed 85 percent of the term’s work through acceleration may be given full credit for each course in which he or she has a grade of C or better.

Readmission Fee

Upon return from military service, a student will not be charged a readmission fee to register at the same college.

Special Continuing Problems

If students are unable to resolve their issues at their home campus, they may contact CUNY’s Office of Veterans Affairs at (646) 664-8835.

Refunds

Students called to active duty or drafted who do not meet attendance requirements sufficient to earn a grade are entitled to a 100 percent refund of tuition and fees, except application fees.
Visit Our Website

The CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs website is a virtual one-stop source of information for returning military veterans and their families. It is a guide to educational benefits, entitlements, counseling, advocacy resources and the latest news, which will aid you in attaining your academic, personal and professional goals.

Other things you can do on our site:
- Reserve a seat for an upcoming CUNY Veterans Affairs event
- Link to our Facebook page (group: CUNY Student Veterans)

For more information, visit: www.cuny.edu/veterans

Veterans Events

Throughout the year, CUNY offers a number of events for Veterans to attend and learn about student life at our colleges, the admission process and financial aid and benefits.

Contact the CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs

ACTING UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

Stephen Clark, MA
CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs
555 West 57th Street, 14th Floor Suite 1401
New York, NY 10019

(646) 664-8835
Stephen.Clark@cuny.edu

To contact the Office of Veterans Affairs team, email: veterans@cuny.edu

Did You Know?

CUNY is one of America’s Top Military-Friendly Universities
as rated by Military Advanced Education Magazine for the 4th Consecutive Year.

www.cuny.edu/veterans
**Other Veterans Resources**

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**  
(877) 222-VETS (8387)  
www.va.gov

**VA Benefits Hotline**  
(800) 827-1000

**VA Education & Training Hotline**  
(888) 442-4551

**NYS Department of Labor**  
(800) 342-3358  
www.labor.ny.gov

**VA Life Insurance Hotline**  
(800) 669-8477

**VA Medical/Health Care Hotline**  
(877) 222-VETS

**Health Benefits Provided by VA**  
(877) 222-VETS

**VA’s Gulf War Helpline**  
(800) 749-8387

**DOD Gulf War Veterans Hotline**  
(800) 796-9699

**DOD Direct Veterans Hotline**  
(800) 497-6261

**Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs**  
(212) 442-4171

**NYS Division of Veterans Affairs**  
(888) VETS-NYS  
www.veterans.ny.gov

**NYS DMNA Education Office**  
(518) 272-6349  
www.dmna.state.ny.us

**HESC**  
(888) 697-4372  
www.hesc.com

**Veterans Crisis Line**  
(800) 273-8255 Press 1  
www.veteranscrisisline.net
Quick Guide to Apply

☐ Step 1: Explore CUNY

☐ Step 2: Prepare to Apply

☐ Step 3: Apply to CUNY

☐ Request Your Veterans Fee Waiver
   All veteran and future veteran applicants are eligible to receive a CUNY Fee Waiver to cover the Application Processing Fee. After you submit your Admission Application, be sure to select the “PAY LATER” option on the payment options screen.

☐ Step 4: After You Apply

☐ Send Your Supporting Documents

☐ Enroll in the Post-9/11 GI-Bill

☐ Apply for Financial Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov

☐ Apply for Additional Veterans Benefits
   ☐ New York State TAP at www.hesc.com
   ☐ New York State Veterans Tuition Award at www.hesc.com
   ☐ New York National Guard Tuition Benefit before the deadline (if eligible) at www.dmna.state.ny.us/education/

☐ Step 5: After You Are Admitted

☐ Provide Proof of Military Status to College

☐ Apply for GI-Bill Education Benefits

☐ Apply for DoD Tuition Assistance

☐ Provide Transcript of Military Training and Experience

☐ Apply for Veteran Work-Study

☐ Join Your College’s Student Veterans Organization!

To download the full version of this guide, please visit www.cuny.edu/prepare
Four-Year Colleges

Baruch College
Brooklyn College
The City College of New York
College of Staten Island
Hunter College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Lehman College
Medgar Evers College
New York City College of Technology
Queens College
York College

Community Colleges

Borough Of Manhattan Community College
Bronx Community College
Guttman Community College
Hostos Community College
Kingsborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community College

Honors College and Graduate & Professional Schools

Macaulay Honors College
CUNY Graduate Center
CUNY Graduate School Of Journalism
CUNY School Of Law
CUNY School of Professional Studies
CUNY School of Public Health

Welcome Center

cuny.edu/veterans