Veterans + Academic Goals = CUNY

Explore veterans opportunities at CUNY.
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The City University of New York (CUNY) welcomes and supports veterans, reservists, survivors and family members on its campuses 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 to all student veterans. We are dedicated to fostering a sense of community and developing a channel of communication among student veterans and reservists, faculty, staff and administration.

www.cuny.edu/veterans
CUNY offers 1,750 academic programs, more than 230 majors leading to associate and baccalaureate degrees and more than 160 graduate-degree majors.

» PROGRAMS OF NOTE:
- CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies — a flexible program that leads to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree. Students design their own programs of study with guidance from faculty. Each student in the program is matriculated at one CUNY college but can take classes at any CUNY campus. For more information visit: www.cuny.edu/cunyba.
- CUNY Online Baccalaureate — offers two majors: a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Culture and an innovative Bachelor of Science degree in Business. Both programs use an interactive online format to take full advantage of current technologies. They also provide flexible and convenient ways for working adults to complete their baccalaureate degree. For more information visit: www.cuny.edu/online.

» ATHLETICS
CUNY competes in 14 men’s and women’s intercollegiate sports. Each year more than 2,500 student-athletes participate on the athletic teams of CUNY institutions. Four-year college varsity teams compete in the NCAA. Community college teams belong to the NJCAA.

» ADMISSIONS
Explore CUNY. CUNY consists of 11 four-year colleges, six community colleges, the Macaulay Honors College and five graduate and/or professional schools. Veterans are invited to explore the many opportunities available at CUNY, such as our incredible academics and vibrant student life.

Prepare to Apply to CUNY. Veterans seeking to apply should prepare by completing an Admission Application Worksheet. The worksheet is guide for applying to CUNY, covering everything from the admission review process to supporting documents. To download a worksheet visit www.cuny.edu/prepare.

Apply to CUNY. You may apply at www.cuny.edu/apply.

After you apply, you must submit all your required supporting documents by the application postmark deadline. CUNY operates on a rolling-admission basis; colleges and programs may close prior to the deadline. For more information visit www.cuny.edu/afteryouapply.

CUNY waives the application fee for veterans applying for undergraduate and graduate admission. Visit cuny.edu/veterans for more information.

Veterans seeking graduate admission or non-matriculated status at CUNY should visit: cuny.edu/graduate.
**CUNY** offers access to a wide variety of opportunities at an affordable cost. New York State residents receive in-state, yearly tuition at the 11 four-year college and six community colleges. Out-of-state residents receive tuition per credit at all CUNY colleges. For more information and current **CUNY** tuition rates, visit [www.cuny.edu/financialaid](http://www.cuny.edu/financialaid).
Students are advised to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It is the basic requirement for federal aid consideration. This can be done online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or by obtaining a paper application from your local library, high school or college financial aid office. The FAFSA can be filed as early as January 1st. Students can estimate their tax information and make any necessary corrections later.

New York State residents should also complete a Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) application for state aid assistance. The application is available online at: [www.hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com).

### State Aid

**NEW YORK STATE VETERANS TUITION AWARD (VTA)**

awards 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 up to 98 percent of the cost of undergraduate tuition. CUNY part-time students receive awards that are prorated by credit hour. If a student receives TAP and it exceeds tuition, TAP will be reduced accordingly.

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](http://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.dmna.state.ny.us/education

**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 HESC at 1-888-697-4372.

www.cuny.edu/veterans
Eligible veterans receive up to **98 percent** of the cost of undergraduate tuition through NY State’s Veterans Tuition Award (VTA).

**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.

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

**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...
The new G.I. Bill provides up to 36 months of educational benefits for individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.
benefit called a Subsistence Allowance to help with living expenses. To receive an evaluation for VR & E services, a veteran must have received, or will 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.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/

» 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 at: 1-888-442-4551
CUNY values the training and experience you received during your military service.

Each one of our institutions 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 transcript from your military service. Each service will provide unofficial personal copies and will send colleges an official copy of your transcript at no charge.

**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/](https://smart.navy.mil/)

**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: [www.uscg.mil/hr/cgi/downloads/forms/cg_form_1564.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hr/cgi/downloads/forms/cg_form_1564.pdf)

www.cuny.edu/veterans
Mobilization/Activation/Deployment

CUNY supports students who are called away to duty during their college career. The college’s registrar is the initial point of contact for a military-related interruption of attendance.

Students may also seek the help of the veterans affairs representative on their campus, the Student Services Office, or the campus Ombudsman.

For more information, visit: www.oefoif.va.gov and cuny.edu/veterans.

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.

Refunds

Students called to active duty 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.

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 (212) 652-2002.
VETERANS RESOURCES AT CUNY

Visit Our Website

The CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs website (cuny.edu/veterans) 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)

Meet Our Team

UNIVERSITY COORDINATOR FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS
Wilfred Cotto
CUNY Office of Student Affairs
101 West 31st 12th Fl.
New York, NY 10001
(212) 652-2002
Wilfred.Cotto@mail.cuny.edu

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF DISABILITY & VETERANS AFFAIRS
Stephen Clark, MA
CUNY Office of Student Affairs
101 West 31st 12th Fl.
New York, NY 10001
(212) 652-2011
Stephen.Clark@mail.cuny.edu

VETERANS ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR
Mark O’Connor
CUNY Welcome Center
Grace Building
42nd St. between 5th & 6th Aves.
Manhattan
(212) 290-5674
Mark.O’Connor@mail.cuny.edu

To contact the Office of Veterans Affairs team, e-mail: veterans@mail.cuny.edu

www.cuny.edu/veterans
OTHER VETERANS RESOURCES

CUNY Central Veteran Affairs
(212) 652-2002

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
(877) 222-VETS (8387)

VA Benefits Hotline
(800) 827-1000

VA Education & Training Hotline
(888) 442-4551

NYS Department of Labor
(800) 342-3358

VA Life Insurance Hotline
(800) 669-8477

VA Medical/Health Care Hotline
(877) 222-VETS (8387)

Health Benefits Provided by VA
(800) 222-8387

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 Veteran’s Affairs
(212) 442-4171

NYS Division of Veterans Affairs
(888) VETS-NYS

NYS DMNA Education Office
(518) 272-6349

HESC
(888) 697-4372

Leading the Way
☐ APPLY to CUNY before the semester application postmark deadline
   VISIT: cuny.edu/deadlines

☐ REQUEST an application fee waiver from the CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs if you are applying for undergraduate admission
   EMAIL: vetwaiver@mail.cuny.edu

☐ FORWARD transcripts from all previous colleges or post-secondary institutions attended to CUNY/UAPC.
   VISIT: www.cuny.edu/afteryouapply

☐ ENROLL in the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill (Chapter 33) or the MGIB (Chapter 30) online through
   VISIT: vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp

☐ FILE FAFSA before deadline
   VISIT: www.fafsa.ed.gov

☐ APPLY for NYS TAP
   VISIT: www.hesc.com

☐ APPLY for NYS Veterans Tuition Award
   VISIT: www.hesc.com

☐ APPLY for NY National Guard Tuition Benefit before deadline (if eligible)
   VISIT: www.dmna.state.ny.us/education/

☐ APPLY for G.I. Bill Benefits at your home college by providing a “Certificate of Eligibility” to your college’s certifying official from the VA
   VISIT: cuny.edu/veterans

☐ PROVIDE copy of DD-214 or DD-2384 (issued by your unit) to your college’s certifying official and the VA

☐ APPLY for Veteran Work-Study
   VISIT: www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/wkstud.htm

☐ JOIN your college’s student veterans organization (and if they don’t have one, create one by visiting your college’s student affairs office)
   VISIT: cuny.edu/veterans
To learn more about CUNY, please visit www.cuny.edu/explore