



Department of Veterans' Services

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Student Veteran Resource Guide

The NYC Department of Veteran Services (DVS) fosters purpose-driven lives for New York City service members, veterans, and their families. Our focus is to make NYC the best place for veterans to live, learn, and work in the country. Learn more about DVS at nyc.gov/vets.

Review the following guide for resources to support your academic career.

EDUCATION AND BENEFITS FOR TRANSITIONING VETERANS



CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY)

The **City University of New York (cuny.edu)** is the largest urban university system in the country, comprising 25 campuses: eleven senior colleges, seven community colleges, one undergraduate honors college, and seven postgraduate institutions. Roughly 3,250 student veterans are obtaining their college degree at a City University of New York (CUNY) school. Contact the **CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs** to connect to peers and resources: cuny.edu/about/university-resources/veterans-affairs

THE PROJECT FOR RETURN AND OPPORTUNITY IN VETERANS EDUCATION (PROVE)

The **Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education** program help veterans make a successful transition into NYC's CUNY system and works to increase the graduation rate among returning veterans at CUNY. PROVE offers campus support teams made up of social work interns, student veteran mentors, and experienced field instructors; all of whom work together with existing campus staff to connect new and current student veterans to the resources they need: proveveterans.org

VETERANS ON CAMPUS:

Veterans on Campus is an initiative of the NYC Department of Veterans' Services designed to assist academic institutions in identifying and adopting best practices that create a supportive experience for student veterans. If you or your school would like to attend our quarterly Veterans on Campus meetings, please contact us at connect@veterans.nyc.gov: www1.nyc.gov/site/veterans/initiatives/veterans-on-campus.page



VA EDUCATION BENEFITS:

Accredited DVS staff members represent NYC veterans and their families in claims for benefits from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) - including G.I. Bill education benefits. Schedule an online appointment with a DVS staff member by filling out the form at **VetConnectNYC.org** and selecting Benefits Navigation as your preferred service. DVS can support veterans with the following education benefits:

- The **Post 9/11 GI Bill** provides education benefits for those who have served on active duty for 90 or more days after September 10th, 2001: va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11
- The **Forever GI Bill** expands eligibility for GI Bill benefits: benefits.va.gov/gibill/forevergibill.asp
- **Montgomery GI Bill** is available to active-duty members who served at least two years on active duty. You are entitled to this benefit if you're a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserves, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard, and additional requirements: va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-active-duty

TUITION SUPPORT:

- **Veterans Tuition Awards** are awarded for full-time and part-time student veterans who are enrolled in an approved program at an undergraduate or graduate college or university or in an approved vocational training program: hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/veterans-tuition-awards.html
- The **Yellow Ribbon Program** helps student veterans pay for out-of-state, private school, or graduate school tuition that the Post-9/11 GI Bill doesn't cover: va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/yellow-ribbon-program
- The **Posse Foundation's** Veteran Program helps select Post-9/11 veterans receive a cost-free bachelor's degree at Vassar College, Wesleyan University, and the University of Virginia: possefoundation.org
- Under **Mercy College's Mathematics Education Intensive Residency Program (MEIRPRO)** veterans can earn a tuition-free Master of Science degree in Mathematics Education funded by the National Science Foundation: mercy.edu/academics/school-education/mathematics-education-intensive-residency-program-meirpro
- Veterans who hope to become teachers can find resources for funding their education at TeachingDegree.org.
- For more financial aid resources for veterans and military service members, visit Accounting.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- **CUNY SPS U.S. Military Bachelor's Degree Completion Scholarship** provides active-duty service members who have college credits with partial financial assistance to help cover the cost of undergraduate studies at the CUNY School of Professional Studies: sps.cuny.edu/about/news/new-scholarship-help-cover-school-fees-military-undergrads
- **New York State Regents Awards (for Children)** provides up to \$450 per year to students whose parent(s) served in the US Armed Forces during specified times of national emergency: hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/nys-regents-awards-for-children-of-deceased-and-disabled-veterans.html
- **Military Service Recognition Scholarship** is available to certain dependents of military personnel who passed away, became permanently disabled, or went missing in combat or in a combat zone of operation since August 2nd, 1990: hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/military-corner.html
- **Pat Tillman Foundation Scholarship** is a competitive scholarship open to veterans and spouses with a proven track record of leadership: pattillmanfoundation.org/tillman-scholars-military-scholarships
- **Student Veterans of America Partner Scholarships** offer competitive scholarships to U.S. Navy student veterans, U.S. Army student veterans, and students studying computer science and related majors: studentveterans.org/programs-events/scholarships
- **Sentinels of Freedom Merit Grant** is a merit-based scholarship offered to veterans with a VA disability rating of 50% or higher and have been wounded or injured in a combat or training-related event post 9/11: sofapply.smapply.org
- **Fisher House Scholarship Search** is a comprehensive search engine that helps veterans and their families find the best scholarship opportunities for their educational goals: search.militaryscholar.org
- See a list of **New York State's scholarships and waivers for student veterans**: search.militaryscholar.org

PREDATORY LOANS

The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) issued a report detailing the predatory practices used by for-profit schools to target student veterans:

www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/partners/Research-SLDVeteranBorrowerReport.pdf



VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS:

- **Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP)** offers education and training for high-demand jobs to veterans who are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program covers 12 months of tuition and fees. The program also provides a monthly housing allowance. VRRAP covers education and training programs approved under the GI Bill and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) that lead to high-demand jobs, including associate degrees, non-college degrees, and certificate programs. The Department of Labor determines what's considered a high-demand job for VRRAP. To be eligible, veterans can not be receiving assistance from the following programs: unemployment, Post 9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Veteran Readiness and Employment, Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance, Veterans' Educational Assistance Program: va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance
- **Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)** offers vocational rehabilitation and employment services to veterans with a VA disability rating and an employment handicap: benefits.va.gov/vocrehab
- **Affordable Colleges Online** provides a comprehensive resource guide for veterans interested in attending vocational and trade schools and includes tools to help veterans find the right school and program: affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/veteran-vocational-trade-students

VA WORK-STUDY

The **VA Work-Study program** is an opportunity for veterans to get paid for part-time work while they study at a college, vocational, or professional training program. Visit the VA Work-Study website for program requirements and a list of approved VA education benefit programs, and information about the VA Work-Study program: va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/work-study



ONLINE TUTORING AND COUNSELING

Active duty service members and reservists can receive free online tutoring at **Tutor.com**. Expert tutors are available 24/7 to offer support in over 100 K-12 and college-level subjects, including math, writing, reading, ELL, science, English, social sciences, history, accounting, finance, nursing, world languages, computer science, study skills, and test preparation: tutor.com

EDUCATION FOR ACTIVE-DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

MILITARY TUITION ASSISTANCE

Military Tuition Assistance is a benefit available to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard to help cover tuition and fees at an educational institution. Courses and degree programs may be academic or technical. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility and application process: militaryonesource.mil/education-employment/for-service-members/preparing-for-higher-education/how-to-use-the-military-tuition-assistance-program

START OR COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE ONLINE WITH CUNY

Many CUNY universities offer high-quality virtual education. Consider one or more of these CUNY schools as you explore how best to leverage your Tuition Assistance benefit while you serve. See below for a list of CUNY universities with online education programs:

- **Kingsborough Community College:** kbcc.cuny.edu
- **Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC):** bmcc.cuny.edu
- **Lehman College:** lehman.edu
- **John Jay College of Criminal Justice:** jjay.cuny.edu
- **CUNY Graduate School of Public Health:** sph.cuny.edu
- **CUNY School of Professional Studies (SPS):** sps.cuny.edu

