

New Student Veteran Checklist

Educational Financial Services

- Submit a copy of your **Certificate of Eligibility or Post 9/11 GI Bill Statement of Benefits** to Tessie Scroggins or Chris Connelly.
 - Your COE can be securely uploaded via Please scan/email it to gsveterans@columbia.edu.
 - If you are currently on active duty once you officially separate you must send the Buffalo Regional Office a copy of your DD-214. You can upload your DD-214 via [Ask VA](#). At which point they will switch you from active duty to veteran status and send you a new Certificate of Eligibility.

- Complete the [Veterans Request for Certification online form](#) in the Student Success Portal, please look under forms.. **You will need to complete this form before every term you wish to utilize your VA benefits at Columbia for the following Chapters, 33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill), 30 (Montgomery GI Bill), 35 (Benefits for Survivors & Dependents), 31 (Veterans Readiness & Employment), and 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve).**

- Notify Tessie Scroggins (ts21@columbia.edu) if you intend to utilize the **Veteran Readiness and Employment services (VR&E)** (Chap 31).
 - Your benefits will not be pre-certified until after your VR&E Counselor **enters an “Authorization” in the VA’s Tungsten system**. They should submit two authorizations, one for tuition and fees, and a second one for books and supplies.

- Secure [housing](#).
 - If you are interested in obtaining University Housing, you are advised to complete the [online housing application](#) as soon as possible. For more information on housing, please view the [GS Housing page](#) as well as the Housing Resources tab on the [GS Veteran Resources & Initiatives](#) website.

- Connect with your [GS Veteran Mentor](#).
- Sign up for VA health coverage by going to [Bronx VA](#) or the [Harlem VA Clinic](#)

Reminder: If you need any dental work, you have 6 months after your separation date to have it covered by VA.

[Health Services Information](#) (you can opt out of Columbia Health Insurance if you have VA Health Benefits by [contacting the Insurance Office](#)).

- If needed, visit the [Office of Disability Services \(DS\)](#)

Disability Services (DS) provides accommodations and services to eligible students, both virtually and in-person, depending upon the student's location as well as the classroom setting. If you are seeking reasonable accommodations or support from DS please [register and submit supporting documents](#). If you have questions, please contact disability@columbia.edu.

- Attend [New Student Orientation](#) and GS Student Veteran Orientation

Incoming military-connected students will attend a veteran-specific orientation session and resource fair that will introduce them to the resources available to support their transition into student life at Columbia. ***This session is required for those veterans utilizing VA Educational Benefits.***

Please note: All students are required to view the Student Financial Services Video Presentation, Veterans and Families Health and Wellness Resource Packet, as well as the VA Health Welcome video. You can access the video by logging into the GS Courseworks page. If you haven't already, you will receive an email for courseworks launches for incoming students.

Steps to Access Veteran Videos in Coursework

Step 1: **Log in** to Courseworks

Step 2: In your "Courses" drop-down menu, **click** "School of General Studies New Student Orientation" course for the term you are beginning.

Step 3: Scroll down to “New Student Veteran and Military-Connected Orientation Program” to view the mandatory links for student veterans, in addition to general orientation requirements. Below is a list of the mandatory links prior to this orientation program.

Student Veteran Educational Financing and Benefits

Student Veteran Health and Wellness

Columbia University’s Veterans and Families Health and Wellness Resource Packet

VA Health (VHA) Welcome Video

Please also review the following before Orientation:

GS Veteran Educational Financing and Benefits Powerpoint