



**New Student Veteran Checklist
Columbia University School of General Studies
Spring 2023**

- ✓ Submit a copy of your **Certificate of Eligibility or Post 9/11 GI Bill Statement of Benefits** to Tessie Scroggins or Chris Connelly.
 - Please scan/email it to gsveterans@columbia.edu.
 - If you do not have this document, visit the [VA's website](#) and complete your VA educational benefit application. This will prompt the VA to send you your Certificate of Eligibility.
 - 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](#) on the Columbia Veterans Affairs on the GS website. ***You will need to complete this form before every term you wish to utilize your VA benefits at Columbia for the following Chapters, 33,30, and 35.***

Important Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) Update

As of the Spring 2022 semester, students using their Post-9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33) benefits and receiving a Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payment will be required to verify their enrollment by the end of each month to continue receiving their payments.

To streamline the enrollment verification process, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is providing students with text message verification, an easy and secure method for verifying enrollment each month via text and the best way to ensure they receive their MHA/kicker payments uninterrupted. Students also have the option to verify enrollment via email. [Learn More](#).

Please note: any student who fails to submit enrollment verification for two consecutive months will have their MHA/kicker payments held until verification of enrollment.

Please [review the FAQ's](#) and follow-up with the VA Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551.

- ✓ If you are a transfer student – complete [VA Form 22-1995 \(Change of Location Form\)](#).

- ✓ Notify Tessie Scroggins or Chris Connelly 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.
 - You will also need to submit a copy of your finalized class schedule via email to gsveterans@columbia.edu.
- ✓ Sign up for Direct Deposit with the VA by calling: 1-888-442-4551 or [online](#).
- ✓ Sign up for VA health coverage by going to Bronx VA or The Harlem Clinic – you have five years after your separation date to do this.
 - While you are at the hospital / clinic get your VA ID Card.
- ✓ **Reminder:** If you need any dental work, you have 6 months after your separation date to have it covered by VA.
- ✓ *Contact for VA Medical insurance questions:*
 Lyn Johnson USMC MSW
 VA Outreach Specialist
 Mobile Unit Coordinator
 Minority Veteran Coordinator
 Work Study Supervisor
 VA NY Harbor Healthcare System
 423 East 23rd Street Room 1107-C
 New York, NY 10010
 (212)686-7500 ext 4218 office
 (212)951-3401
 Lyn.Johnson2@va.gov
- ✓ Visit the Office of Disability Services (DS) if needed.
 If you have a prior disability, or feel you have a disability and would like a free assessment, please register and [submit your paperwork early](#). This will initiate the process to obtain necessary assistance for the duration of your time at Columbia. If you have questions, please contact disability@columbia.edu.
- ✓ [Health Services Information](#) (you can opt out of Columbia Health Insurance if you have VA Health Benefits by [contacting the Insurance Office](#)).
- ✓ Visit [CPS Veteran Concerns](#) if needed.
- ✓ Secure [housing](#).
- ✓ Connect with your [GS Veteran Mentor](#).

- ✓ Reach out to the [student community](#).
- ✓ Follow the newly admitted [student portal](#).
- ✓ Attend both [Mandatory Orientation](#) and the GS New Student Veteran Orientation Program: **Veteran and NROTC Orientation Program***
Friday, January 13, 2023, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Incoming military veteran and NROTC 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 check again at a later date for the registration link.

*Prior to attending the Veteran and NROTC Orientation Program, it is required to log into Courseworks to view the Student Financial Services Video Presentation, Veterans and Families Health and Wellness Resource Packet, and the VA Health Welcome video.

Please note: the GS Orientation CourseWorks page is scheduled to launch to all incoming students via email in early August.

Log in to Courseworks and in your “Courses” drop-down box click on the “School of General Studies New Student Orientation - Fall 2022” course. Scroll down to “Veteran and NROTC Students 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 the Veteran and NROTC Orientation Program.

Student Veteran Educational Financing and Benefits
[Student Financial Services Powerpoint](#)

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](#)