New Student Veteran Checklist
School of General Studies
Fall 2019

✓ Submit a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility or Education Enrollment Status to Tessie Scroggins or Chris Connelly.

  • You can bring it to 408 Lewisohn Hall, scan/email it to ts21@columbia.edu, ccc2246@columbia.edu or fax it Attn: Tessie Scroggins or Chris Connelly to 212-854-6316
  • If you don’t have this document – go to the VA’s website: va.gov and complete the VONAPP. 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. The DD-214 may be faxed to 716-857-3296 or 716-857-3192. At that 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 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.

✓ If you are a transfer student – complete VA Form 22-1995 (Change of Location Form) on the website or the printable PDF.

✓ Notify Tessie Scroggins or Chris Connelly if you will be on Active Duty when you begin the term (even for one day, including terminal leave).

✓ Notify Tessie Scroggins or Chris Connelly if you intend to utilize the Voc Rehab benefits (Chap 31).

  o Please submit your 28-1905 VA Form for Fall 2019 for tuition and fees as soon as possible- your vocational rehab counselor will give you this form. You will also need to submit a copy of your finalized class schedule. (Consult with your Academic Advisor on your class schedule.)

✓ Sign up for Direct Deposit with the VA by calling: 1-888-442-4551.

✓ Sign up for VA health coverage by going to Bronx VA or The Harlem Clinic – you have 5 years after your separation date to do this.

  o While you are at the hospital / clinic get your VA ID Card.

✓ Contact for VA Health questions:
  Lyn Johnson
  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 fax
Lyn.Johnson2@va.gov

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

✓ **Visit Office of Disability Services if needed** (link to Disability services).
   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 here. 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).

✓ 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 Veteran Orientation**.