

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).
 - 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.
 - 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](#).