Campus Contacts

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Educational Benefits Overview

• Application for Benefits
• Certification
• Tuition and Fees
• Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) Payments
• Book Stipend
• Flex Dollars
• Entitlement
• Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP)
• Post-9/11 - Sample of Tuition and Fees and Benefit Payments
• Chapter 31 Veteran Readiness & Employment
• Institutional and Federal Financial Aid
• New York State Funding
• Dropping a Class
Educational Benefits Application Process - Post 9/11 GI Bill

Step One
Apply online for VA Educational Benefits

• Veterans Affairs website: va.gov

• If you have received Benefits at another school, complete the VA Change of Location form (VA form 22-1995.)

• The VA will send you a Certificate of Eligibility. You can also submit a Post 9/11 GI Bill Statement of Educational Benefits.
Educational Benefits Application Process - Post 9/11 GI Bill

Step Two
Turn in a copy of Certificate of Eligibility or Education Enrollment Status Form

• Email to: gsveterans@columbia.edu or Document Upload Portal: gs.columbia.edu/content/educational-financing-document-upload
• Grad students: 202 Kent Hall
• Or email to sfp@columbia.edu
Educational Benefits Application Process - Post 9/11 GI Bill

Step Three
Submit Veterans Request for Certification Form and, if you are 100% eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits, a Yellow Ribbon Application

• GS students: gs.columbia.edu/content/veterans-request-certification

• Yellow Ribbon Application: gs.columbia.edu/content/yellow-ribbon-program-application

• Grad students: sfs.columbia.edu/content/veterans-request-certification
Educational Benefits Application Process- Post 9/11 GI Bill

- **Step One | Two Months Prior to Start of Term**
  
  GS submits enrollment to the VA

- **Step Two | Close to The Beginning of Term**
  
  VA disburses book stipend payments directly to you

- **Step Three | At Conclusion of Add/Drop Period**
  
  GS submits final enrollment and tuition and fees to VA
  
  VA disburses tuition/fee funds payment directly to Columbia

- **Step Four | On approximately October 1st**
  
  VA disburses MHA directly to benefit recipient
VA Tuition and Fees Contribution- Post 9/11 GI Bill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$26,042.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>$23,438.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>$20,834.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>$18,229.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>$15,625.68</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) Payments

- Full time students who attend Columbia this fall with 100% eligibility receive $3,294.
- If you are less than full time, your payment will be prorated.
- If you qualify for less than 100% percent in Post 9/11 Benefits, your payments will be prorated.
- Payments are based on a 30-day month.
- Payments are prorated for the first and last month of each term.
  - Since classes in these months run for fewer than 30 days.
- Register for direct deposit with the VA by calling 888-442-4551.
# MHA Schedule for Fall 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Payable Days</th>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>Approximate Payment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$2,415.60</td>
<td>October 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$3,294.00</td>
<td>November 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$3,294.00</td>
<td>December 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$2,525.40</td>
<td>January 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Book Stipend- Post 9/11 GI Bill

• Stipend disbursed as one lump-sum payment at the beginning of each term.
  • Payment maximum is $1,000.
  • Paid proportionately based on enrollment.
Flex Dollars

• If funds are running low, and you have yet to receive your books and supplies stipend, you can add money to your Flex Account.
  • Once funds are added to your Columbia ID can be used to make purchases at the Columbia bookstore and several Morningside Heights stores.
    • Examples include—grocery stores, restaurants, drug stores, etc.

• Log in to SSOL (Your Columbia Card > Flex Account & Dining Dollars)
  • Elect an amount up to $1,000
  • Will show as a charge on your student account
  • Website: dining.columbia.edu/content/flex.
Entitlement

- Veterans receive a maximum of 36 full-time months of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill®.

- If you begin a term with 1 day of entitlement remaining, the VA will extend your period of eligibility to the end of the term.
  - Note: You may not receive more than 48-months of any single Benefit or combination of different Benefit chapters.
  - For example, Post-9/11 GI Bill® and Veteran Readiness & Employment
• Only granted to 100% Post 9/11 GI Bill®-eligible students.

• Each school at Columbia University manages its own YRP funding and application process.

• General Studies student maximum is $22,000 YRP per academic year.
  • $11,000 from General Studies
  • $11,000 match from VA

• If not attending the School of General Studies, check with your school’s Financial Aid Office for further information.
Sample #1 Fall 2021 GS T & F

Tuition at the School of General Studies is $1,948 per credit

Example

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition at 12 credits</td>
<td>$23,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Life Fee</td>
<td>$657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Service Fee</td>
<td>$623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Insurance</td>
<td>$1,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Fee</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document Fee</td>
<td>$105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total T + F cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,644</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remaining Balance:** $ 601.19 (enrollment deposit $500, if paid, will be deducted and your balance would be $101.19)

The remaining balance can be managed using federal financial aid and personal resources in combination with payment plans. Consult with the Office of Educational Financing for further assistance.
Sample #2 Fall 2021 GS T & F

Cost for 12 credits for Summer 2021 (6 credits in session A & 6 credits in session B)

Tuition at 13 credits: $25,324
Student Life Fee: $657
Health Services Fee: $623
Medical Insurance: $2,409

Total Cost at 12 credits: $29,013
Yellow Ribbon: $22,000

Remaining balance: $7,013*

* The remaining balance can be managed through federal financial aid and personal resources in combination with payment plans. Consult with the Office of Educational Financing for further assistance.
Veteran Readiness & Employment (Chapter 31)

Step One

• Apply for your disability rating through eBenefits.va.gov.

Step Two

• Apply for VR&E (Vocational Rehab & Employment) Services
• benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp
• To be eligible you must be rated 20% (or higher) Service Connected Disabled and have an Employment Handicap—or- 10% Service Connected Disabled and have a Serious Employment Handicap.
Step Three
• If you are eligible, you will be scheduled to meet with a VR&E counselor for a comprehensive evaluation to determine if you are entitled to services.”

Step Four
• If approved, notify a Columbia School Certifying official of your intention to use the Benefit program.

Step Five
• Your vocational rehab. counselor will submit two authorizations in a system called Tungsten. One authorization for tuition and fees, and a second for your books and supplies.
Tips for Chapter 31

• Please remember at the end of each term to submit a copy of your transcript to your VR&E counselor.

• Prior to the following term discuss the classes you intend to take with your VR&E counselor.

• Keep the lines of communication open with your VR&E counselor.
  • Particularly, if you are struggling with coursework or may need to withdraw from a course or courses.
Post 9/11 GI Bill / Veteran Readiness & Employment

Post 9/11 GI Bill

• Max tuition and fees funding for academic year: $26,042.81

• Funding will be applied to tuition and fees and medical insurance.

• Yellow Ribbon- up to $22,000 per year.

• Will pay for study aboard, if credits will be applied towards the degree.

• Can change major/ allows flexibility with electives.
Post 9/11 GI Bill / Veteran Readiness & Employment

Veteran Readiness & Employment

- Covers full cost of tuition and mandatory fees.
- Will not pay for the Columbia medical insurance.
- No Yellow Ribbon Eligibility.
- Study abroad approved only if the program is a requirement for graduation.
- Not as flexible with electives.
- If you decided to change your major, you must discuss this with your counselor before you make the change.
Federal and Institutional Financial Aid

• Required Documents
  • Free Application for Federal Student Aid
    • 2021-2022 FAFSA- studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa

• Planned Enrollment Form
  • GS site (GS Site > Financing Your Education)

• For consideration for GS institutional aid, complete family and parental information is required on the CSS Profile application from both custodial and non-custodial parents. If the parents have separate households (unmarried, separated, or divorced,) complete financial information for both parental households must be provided on the application. Please note: all applicants who are at least 36 years old by December 31, 2021 will not be required to provide parental information.

• Students who will not receive VA benefits for any given term can be considered for GS Scholarship for that term

• Questions can be emailed to financial aid at: gs_financial_aid@columbia.edu
Types of Federal Financial Aid

- Direct Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans
  - Interest rate for 2021-2022 3.73%
- Federal Work-Study- up to $4,000 of eligibility per academic year
  - Amount can likely be increased if limit of eligibility is met
  - Contact the Office of Educational Financing
- Pell Grant- up to $6,495 per academic year
- SEOG Grant –up to $1,400 per academic year

Please be advised, if you are in the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program, you are ineligible for the Pell Grant.
Direct Federal Stafford Loan Limits | Independent Students

1st Year – Freshman (0 - 23 Points)
Subsidized Stafford: $3,500
Unsubsidized Stafford: $6,000

2nd Year – Sophomore (24 - 55 Points)
Subsidized Stafford: $4,500
Unsubsidized Stafford: $6,000

3rd/4th Year – Junior and Seniors (56 + Plus Points)
Subsidized Stafford: $5,500
Unsubsidized Stafford: $7,000
New York State Funding - HESC

• Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Max: $500-$5,165 (undergrads)
• Veterans Tuition Assistance (VTA)
  • Max Award: For full-time study, up to undergraduate tuition for NYS residents at a State University of New York (SUNY), or actual tuition charged, whichever is less
• TAP and VTA are applied after VA Benefits
  • And can reduce the amount of TAP/VTA
• 3 Online Applications required to apply for NYS aid:
  • FAFSA: fafsa.ed.gov
  • TAP: hesc.ny.gov - Grants and Scholarships
  • VTA Supplement: hesc.ny.gov - Military Corner
• Criteria (must satisfy at least one):
  • Must be a New York Resident for at least one year or
  • Must have been stationed in New York (last station before exiting the military)
Dropping a Class

• No effect on Benefits if done before the beginning of the term.
• MHA funding could be effected and prorated on your enrollment credits.
• NO MHA if you drop to part-time status (6 credits or less)- Post 9/11 GI Bill.
• After Add/Drop period, notify us if your enrollment changes.
• Change in registration = Change in VA tuition and fees funding and MHA.
Mitigating Circumstances

• If you drop classes or withdraw altogether, VA is required by law to retroactively revoke payments all the way back to the beginning of the term as if you never attended.

• Unless the student submits to the VA official documentation of circumstances beyond their control that caused them to drop one or more classes, referred to as “mitigating circumstances.”

• Examples include:

  • An illness or injury afflicting the student during the enrollment period.
  • An illness or death in the student’s immediate family.
  • Unanticipated active military service, including active duty for training.
  • Unanticipated difficulties with childcare arrangements the student has made for the period during which he or she is attending classes.
Six Credit Hour Exclusion

The first time a student drops six or fewer credits, VA grants a “six credit hour exclusion.”

- Exclusion will be granted even without documentation of any mitigating circumstances.
- Is a one-time, one-use exclusion and once used, the exclusion cannot be granted again.
- The exclusion cannot be “saved.” It will be applied by the VA the first time a student drops a course or courses after the add/drop period.
Six Credit Hour Exclusion

Examples

• Student withdraws from 3 credits
  • The exclusion will be granted for 3 credits
  • Student will not be granted the exclusion again

• Student withdraws from 12 credits
  • Exclusion will be granted for 6 credits
  • The student’s one time exclusion is exhausted
  • And the student must provide mitigating circumstances to not lose benefits for the other 6 credits
Contact Information for the VA Post 9/11 GI Bill

1-888-442-4551

Visit gibill.custhelp.com

Click “Sign up” to create a username and password.
An answer is usually provided within 24 - 48 hours.

Please feel free to reach out to our department with any questions.