



Columbia University Veteran & Military-connected Resources

Table of Contents

I.	Veterans & Military-connected Students Quick Contacts	2
II.	Transitioning out of Service	2
III.	Educational Financing and Benefits	3
IV.	Housing	4
V.	Veterans & Military-Connected Orientation Events	4
VI.	Student Group and Affiliation Support	5
VII.	Health and Wellness Resources at Columbia	7
VIII.	Health & Wellness Resources Outside of Columbia	10
IX.	Academic Support for Student Veterans	11
X.	Career Exploration	12
XI.	Fellowship, Scholarship, Research, and Grant Resources	12
XII.	NROTC and ROTC Support	13
XIII.	Leaving for Duty	13
XIV.	More On-Campus and Off-Campus Resources	14
XV.	Veteran Alumni	15
XVI.	Columbia University Military Ball	15
XVII.	Other University Resources	16

I. Veteran & Military-Connected Students - Quick Contacts

Urgent Situations of Distress

If you or someone you know is in distress please call 212-854-2878. Your concern will be assessed by a telephone triage specialist, and recommendations will be provided.

For immediate psychiatric care, students may also go directly to the Mt. Sinai - St. Luke's Hospital Emergency Room at 113th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

For after-hours mental health concerns, please contact CPS at (212) 854-2878.

For emergencies, call 911 and Columbia Public Safety at (212) 854-5555

Veterans Crisis Line:

Call: 1-800-273-8255 then press 1

Chat: [Start a chat](#)

Text: any message to [838255](#)

[CU Veterans and Families Health and Wellness Consortium's Guide to Responding to Veteran & Military-connected Students Either in Distress, Showing Signs of Distress, or General Crisis](#)

II. Transitioning out of Service

The [Columbia University Center for Veteran Transition and Integration](#) (CVTI) supports excellence and innovation in transition programming for current and former members of the armed forces. CVTI is dedicated to creating free courses that will help to break down barriers to successful transition between military service, student life and civilian workforce.

[University Studies for Student Veterans](#)

This course helps veterans transition smoothly from military service to college, and helps them maximize their success once they arrive.

III. Educational Financing and Benefits

Student-veterans regardless of their veteran educational benefits eligibility can apply for and receive federal student aid. Typically with the combination of the Post 9/11 GI Bill at 100% and the Federal Pell Grant, student-veterans' tuition and fees are nearly completely covered depending on their enrollment. Student-veterans can also be eligible for federal student loans which typically are not utilized by most student-veterans. Those students who do not receive Pell are ineligible usually due to income/assets or they have already received their first BA. Students receive a Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) as well.

Many of Columbia's schools and programs are participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program, an initiative authorized by the Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (the Post-9/11 GI Bill), in which educational institutions provide eligible student veterans with a tuition waiver or grant matched by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. This program supplements the base educational benefits provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Office of Military and Veterans Affairs (Graduate)

The [Office of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) provides an overview of graduate student veteran benefits and resources

Anne Marie Kromidas, Associate Director, SFS

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs

210 Kent Hall, Mail Code: 9203, 1140 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10027

Phone: 212.851.0790 | Fax: 212.854.2818

Mobile: 917.597.7310

ag3151@columbia.edu

Makella-Ann Geffrard, Military and Veteran Affairs/Financial Aid Officer, SFS

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs

210 Kent Hall, Mail Code: 9203, 1140 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10027

Tel: 212-853-3976 | Fax: 212-854-2818

mg4514@columbia.edu

Office of Educational Financing (Undergraduate)

The [GS Office of Educational Financing](#), located in 408 Lewisohn, administers all financial aid for GS students, including institutional, federal, and state aid.

Tessie Scroggins, Assistant Director of Educational Financing for Veteran Benefits
School of General Studies
408 Lewisohn Hall, Mail Code 4101, 2970 Broadway, New York, New York 10027
Telephone: 212-854-5410 | Fax: 212-854-6316
ts21@columbia.edu

Christopher Connelly, Assistant Director of Educational Financing for Veteran Benefits
School of General Studies
408 Lewisohn Hall, Mail Code 4101, 2970 Broadway, New York, New York 10027
Telephone: 212-854-5410
cec2246@columbia.edu

Teachers College Registrar (Graduate)

[Office of the Registrar - Veterans Benefits](#)

525 W 120th Street, New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 678-4060

Russell Gulizia, Associate Registrar, Military/Veterans Liaison
Office of the Registrar and Doctoral Studies, Division of Enrollment Management
525 W 120th Street, New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 678-4060
gulizia@exchange.tc.columbia.edu

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

[The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) provides veterans the world-class educational benefits and services they have earned.

New York State Division of Veterans Affairs

[New York State Division of Veterans Affairs](#) Provides benefits counseling and advocacy for veterans.

Financial Literacy Platform

Columbia University offers a platform for financial wellness and literacy to assist with creating budgets, paying bills, balancing checkbooks, investing, and planning for the future

Columbia.igrad.com

IV. Housing

NYC Department of Veteran Services

[Letter to landlords regarding VA financial assistance considered “lawful income”](#)

Graduate Housing

Contact the student’s respective school

Teachers College Housing

Office of Residential Housing

Phone: 212-678-3235

Email: housing@tc.columbia.edu

Undergraduate Housing

For all information, including a comprehensive list of apartment hunting resources is on the [GS Housing webpage](#). For any housing questions contact gshousing@columbia.edu.

V. Veteran & Military-connected Orientation Events

Organized by the School of General Studies’ Office of Student Life and Student Veteran Initiatives for incoming student veterans from around the University, Columbia officials speak about veterans resources from the areas of Student Financial Services/Veterans Benefits, Columbia Health, Counseling and Psychological Services, Office of Disability Services, Career Education, and more.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials deliver a comprehensive presentation regarding veterans benefits, VA hospitals, veterans centers, disability claims, and all benefits/VA services in general.

Veterans Service Organizations like American Corporate Partners, FourBlock, and the Travis Manion Foundation present their organizations at a Veteran Resource Fair.

A student and alumni panel led by the student group, Military Veterans of Columbia University, addresses questions and concerns about the transition from service to student.

This event is held prior to each semester, with an invite sent out to incoming undergraduate students by the School of General Studies and to graduate students by the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

For more information, contact:

[GS Office of Student Life and Veteran Initiatives \(Undergraduate Students\)](#)

[Office of Military and Veterans Affairs \(Graduate Students\)](#)

[Teachers College Registrar \(TC Graduate Students\)](#)

VI. Student Group and Affiliation Support

Student Life:

Student Life is a great point of contact for students who are looking to participate in the many programs offered at CU. Student Life in the following topic areas Alumni Networking, Community Building, Diversity and Social Justice, Faculty Engagement, Leadership Development, Family Friendly Off-Campus Excursions, Student Group Advising, and more.

[General Studies Student Life \(Undergraduate Students\)](#)

[University Life \(Graduate Students\)](#)

[Teachers College \(TC Graduate Students\)](#)

Military Veterans of Columbia University (open to graduate students)

MilVets provides military veterans with resources, opportunities, and support at Columbia University, in order to facilitate a successful education and to provide a strong foundation for years to come.

Site: <https://milvets.columbia.edu>

Email: milvets@columbia.edu

Women Veterans of Columbia University (WVCU)

WVCU is led by graduate and undergraduate veterans that identify as women and provides all military veterans with resources, opportunities, and support at Columbia University.

MedVets

Student veteran postbac students and those interested in pre-med

Email: medvets@columbia.edu

[Flyer \(PDF\)](#)

Columbia Business School Veterans

Other Graduate Student Groups and Affiliations

There are many other campus groups and initiatives across the University including Columbia Law School Military Association, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs Veterans Association, School of the Arts' Veteran Writing Groups, etc. If the student wishes to be connected to these groups, others, or start their own, they should visit their own School or the [Inter-School Governing Board](#) site for more information.

Other Student Groups with a heavy presence of veterans and military-connected students:

Arts Collective (ArtC)

ArtC is a student organization recognized by the Activities Board at Columbia, dedicated to providing spaces for artistic expression. *Contact:* gsartscollective@columbia.edu

Columbia University Family Support Network (CUFSN):

CUFSN is a student organization, recognized by the Student Governing Board, dedicated to meeting the needs of students with families in GS and across the university. They work to provide resources and develop family friendly programming. *Contact:* cufsn@columbia.edu

GS Alliance

GS Alliance is a student organization, recognized by the Student Governing Board, dedicated to the advancement of education and advocacy regarding issues of special interest to the LGBTQA community and its allies. *Contact:* gsalliance@columbia.edu

GS Student of Color Alliance (S.O.C.A.)

GS S.O.C.A. is an unrecognized student group dedicated to providing a space to discuss issues affecting students of color. *Contact:* socalliance@columbia.edu

There are currently more than 500 student organizations at Columbia University. In the fall, there is an Activities Day fair where students can learn about the myriad of organizations on campus. [LionLink](#) is an online resource and a great way to search for organizations and reach out for more information.

VII. Veteran & Military-connected Student Health and Wellness Resources at Columbia

Columbia Health Resources

[About Columbia Health Brochure](#)

[Live Well Learn Well](#)

Veterans Concerns at Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS)

CPS' program Veterans Concerns has five counselors on staff with training from the VA and experience working with veterans, including 2 counselors on staff with experience in the Israeli Defense Force. These counselors encourage veterans to utilize their drop-in hours and the veteran support group. Please [Columbia Counseling and Psychological Services \(CPS\) Veteran's Concerns \(website\)](#) for more information.

Office of Disability Services (DS)

Students seeking accommodations or support services from Disability Services are required to register with the office. Make sure to [submit their paperwork early here](#). If they have questions, please contact disability@columbia.edu.

Medical Services

Medical Services provides a full range of health care services for Columbia University students. If they are utilizing the Columbia student health insurance plan, Medical Services will serve as their primary care provider. To book a same day appointment, click [here](#). They can book by phone at 212-854-7426 or in-person at John Jay Hall, 3rd Floor Information.

After hours, weekends, or University Holidays, call 212-854-7426 for 24/7 support.

In an emergency, call CUEMS/Public Safety at 212-854-5555, or dial 911.

Opting out of Insurance - VA Health Benefits as Alternate Coverage

In order to request a waiver or exception of enrollment in the Columbia Plan, they must have alternate coverage that meets the University requirements as outlined below. they must provide sufficient information regarding their alternate health insurance plan to allow independent verification that their plan meets the University requirements.

If they are registered with the VA, it will count as alternate coverage and they can [request a waiver](#). Consult the website for the deadlines to request a waiver.

Gender Based Misconduct

Sexual Violence Response (SVR) provides trauma-informed, confidential support through crisis counseling and intervention. Support is available 24/7 via the SVR Helpline at 212-854-4357. They can also walk into any of their three locations for help. For more information and location information, visit their site [here](#).

[Information about Relationship Abuse](#)

[Information about Sexual Violence Prevention](#)

The Title IX Coordinator works to ensure a safe, welcoming, and harassment free-environment for all members of the community – students, faculty and staff. To learn more information and/or to report an incident, visit their site [here](#).

If they have any questions, reach out to Columbia Health Units specifically or fill out [this form](#) in advance of any referral for an assessment.

DASN

The Disability Advocacy and Support Network exists to serve as a place of support for Columbia University and Barnard students who identify as having a disability—physical, learning, mental, or other. This group serves as a safe space to discuss being disabled on campus as well as a place to discuss solutions. This group is open to all members of the Columbia University community. Email: dasncu@gmail.com

Alice! Health Promotion

Alice! Health Promotion aims to help connect students with information and resources to make informed decisions regarding a broad range of health-related topics. To schedule an appointment, call 212-854-5453 or email alice@columbia.edu To learn more about their services, visit their site [here](#).

Gay Health Advocacy Project (GHAP)

Gay Health Advocacy Project offers drop-in hours for peer support around sexual health, HIV antibody testing, birth control education, and post-exposure prophylaxis consultation . No appointment necessary. Click [here](#) for more information about the drop in schedule and location. They can also call 212-854-6655.

The Columbia Recovery Coalition

A student group dedicated to supporting anyone in the Columbia community who identifies as being in recovery or seeking recovery from any condition. To find out more information check-in meetings and open AA meetings, email them at recoverycoalition@columbia.edu

Nightline: Barnard-Columbia Peer Listening

Anonymous, nonjudgmental [peer listening hotline](#). Operates 10pm-3am every night of the academic year. (212) 854-7777.

Food and Hunger Resources

[CU Meal Share on facebook](#) (requires facebook log in)

GSSC Food Bank (For GS undergrad

Email gsscfoodbank@columbia.edu to request information & access to the food pantry.

Emergency Meal Fund (For GS undergraduate students)

Email gshealthandwellness@columbia.edu to request meal vouchers for use at dining halls on campus.

Other Food and Hunger Resources

[NYC Food Assistance](#)

VIII. Veteran & Military-connected Student Health and Wellness Resources *Outside* of Columbia

VA Healthcare

If the student is enrolled in VA Healthcare, they can call the [nearest VA facility](#), log in to [HealtheVet](#), use [VA telehealth](#) to consult with a VA provider about their symptoms before they plan to visit a VA facility in person. For questions, please call 866-651-3180 or 703-234-4483, Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. ET.

Veteran Disability Claims

[Veteran Affairs' Veteran Benefits Administration \(VBA\)](#)

[NYC Department of Veteran Services \(DVS\)](#)

[Disabled American Veterans](#)

DAV

[Benefit Claims for Veterans and Families](#)

NYC

[NYC Veteran Resources](#)

[VA Claims and Benefits insider tips and resources](#)

VA Hospitals:

[Bronx VA Medical Center](#)

Manhattan Campus

423 E 23 Street, New York, NY 10010
212-686-7500
179-00 Linden Blvd

Brooklyn Campus

800 Poly Place , Brooklyn, NY 11209
718-836-6600

Vet Center Harlem

2279 - 3rd Avenue, 2nd Floor New York, NY 10035
Phone: 646-273-8139 Or 646-273-8139
Fax: 212-423-5963

Headstrong

Cost-free, bureaucracy-free, and stigma-free treatment for the hidden wounds of war. We know what it's like to lose a friend, to face the tough and impossible choices of war, to shoulder the pain and guilt of making it back home. At Headstrong Project we are veterans serving veterans, and we understand first hand the hidden wounds of war

Military Family Center at NYU Langone Health

The Military and Family Center at NYU provides *free and confidential* individual, couples, family, and group therapy for veterans and their family members regardless of discharge status, combat exposure, or era served. To book an appointment, call the intake line at (855) 698-4677 or e-mail: militaryfamilyclinic@nyumc.org. Click [here](#) for more information.

IX. Academic Support for Veteran & Military-connected Students

Undergraduate Academic Advising

The Office of the Dean of Students is the primary source of advising for students at the School of General Studies. Undergraduate advisors counsel students on their selection and load of courses for each term and must approve all courses counted toward fulfilling GS core requirements, including transfer courses. Students should immediately contact their advisors if any personal or health emergency prevents them from attending class or completing coursework at any time during the semester. [Advising Appointments](#)

Undergraduate Peer Advisors

GS Peer Advisors are students who are hired to support and advise about the opportunities and challenges at Columbia. Peer Advisors are trained to discuss academics, campus resources, personal concerns, and the transition to the School of General Studies. Peer Advisors may also be contacted directly at gspeeradvising@columbia.edu. Students can make an appointment at: <https://gs.columbia.edu/peer-advising>

Undergraduate Academic Resource Center

The Academic Resource Center is dedicated to serving the diverse needs of the nontraditional population at GS. The Academic Resource Center can be contacted at gs-arc@columbia.edu. Questions can also be answered by visiting the Dean of Students Office in 403 Lewisohn Hall. The Academic Resource Center oversees Reading Coaching Study, Group Consulting, Skill Building Workshops, Jumpstart, Trajectory, Tutoring, University Studies. Learn more by visiting the [Academic Resource Center](#) on the GS website

Graduate Academic Support Services are provided through the graduate student's respective school.

Columbia University Center for Veteran Transition and Integration

The Columbia University Center for Veteran Transition and Integration online course [University Studies for Student Veterans](#) helps veterans transition smoothly from military service to college, and helps them maximize their success once they arrive.

X. Career Exploration

[Columbia University Center for Career Education \(CCE\)](#) works to empower students to make smart career choices, develop the tools necessary for a successful internship/job search, and connect professionally with employers through workshops, career events, online resources, and meetings with counselors.

[Veteran Career Action Plan \(PDF\)](#)

[Career Resources for Veterans and Service Members \(PDF\)](#)

[Creative Resources for Veterans \(PDF\)](#)

Find Your Calling

Visit [Columbia University's Center for Veteran Transition and Integration](#) for access to free online courses to help veterans transition into graduate school and the workforce

Higher Education Recruitment Consortium

[Higher Education Recruitment Consortium](#) seeks to support [Veterans Transitioning into Higher Education Jobs](#)

Veterans Career Initiative (VCI)

In partnership with the Military Veterans of Columbia University, networking and recruiting opportunities are provided for student veterans to engage with hiring managers from a wide range of employers. For more information, please connect with the [Military Veterans of Columbia University](#)

For Graduate Career Support, contact the graduate student's respective school.

XI. Fellowship, Scholarship, Research, and Grant Resources

Visit [Planning Your Future](#) for graduate school coaching, networking and more.

Fellowships, Scholarships, Research, and Grant Opportunities

The [American Australian Association Veterans Fund](#) wants to entice U.S. military veterans to study Down Under with a generous year-long fellowship. Veterans are welcome to pursue any

field, whether at either the graduate or undergraduate level. They may apply for this scholarship before securing a place in an Australian university; do that next, with the help of the Association's own staff.

The [Tillman Military Scholarship](#) offers renewable grants in the \$10,000 range (depending on financial need) to veterans and active-duty members of the U.S. armed forces who are pursuing their college degrees on a full-time basis. Besides military service, applicants should have a record of personal achievement and a demonstrated potential for leadership.

XII. NROTC and ROTC Support

Columbia participates in the [Army, Air Force, and Naval ROTC programs](#). These programs include students from schools throughout the New York City area.

- The NYC Army ROTC program is based at [Fordham University](#).
- The NYC Air Force ROTC program is based at [Manhattan College](#).
- The NYC Naval ROTC program is based at [SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx](#). GS and OMVA organizes and supports cross-campus [Commissioning Ceremonies](#) for the Naval ROTC program when GS students are commissioned upon completion of their undergraduate degree at General Studies.

For more information, please contact the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs at <https://www.sfs.columbia.edu/departments/veterans-service>

XIII. Leaving for Duty

Under the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), institutions are required to readmit an individual who left school or did not accept an offer of admission in order to perform military service. The following sections explain the eligibility and readmission requirements of this policy.

This does not mean being restored in the same class(es) of which work and attendance were missed due to service, in any given semester - makeup work and time must be worked out with the Academic Advisor and the class instructor(s) prior to the student leaving for duty.

It is highly encouraged for students to notify their Advisor and Class Instructors prior to the start of the semester that they serve in the Reserves or National Guard and they will have to report once a month (or more) and may be called up for duty at any time. Create a plan with these support systems so they can make a calculated decision on how they will navigate missed time and classwork, or a missed semester.

Students in need of a military leave of absence should contact their advisor and financial counselor at their School, and the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs.

[School of General Studies - Leaving for Duty Policy](#)

XIV. More On-Campus and Off-Campus Resources

[ACP | \(PDF\)](#)

[Columbia University's Center for Veteran Transition and Integration](#)

[DAV](#)

[FourBlock | \(PDF\)](#)

[Headstrong](#)

[Hope for the Warriors | \(PDF\)](#)

[IAVA](#)

[Mission Continues](#)

[NYC Department of Veteran Services](#)

[NYC Veterans Alliance](#)

[Psych Armor](#)

[RWB](#)

[Stephen A Cohen Military Family Center at NYU Langone](#)

[Student Veterans of America](#)

[Team Rubicon](#)

[Travis Manion Foundation | \(PDF\)](#)

XV. Veteran Alumni

Columbia Veterans

[Columbia Veterans](#) is a nonprofit organization that serves Columbia University alumni, faculty, staff, students and the greater community in which we interact. Our mission is to promote the welfare of this diverse population by cultivating a spirit of community and pride. We seek to help advance and assist in the professional, personal and academic growth of the community through connections to the University and to each other. Throughout these efforts, we will continue to foster camaraderie, fellowship, and a sense of service.

Columbia Alumni Association

The [Columbia Alumni Association's \(CAA\)](#) mission is to cultivate a global community of Columbia alums, students, faculty, and staff to explore interests, exchange ideas, and take actions that enrich one another, the University, and the world.

Every school across the University supports their own alumni associations, groups, and events. Students should contact their school for more information.

XVI. Columbia University Military Ball

The [Military Ball](#) celebrates Columbia's distinguished veteran student community, uniting them with the leaders and scholars of New York City and the world. Established in 2010, the Military Ball continues to be regarded as the premier event uniting veterans across the University community. Proceeds help underwrite academic and career transition programming for all veterans and military family members nationwide, financial aid for veteran students at Columbia University, and veteran student and alumni programming. If they have any questions or wish to obtain more information, please email gsveterans@columbia.edu.

XVII. Other University Resources

Public Safety

[For lost or stolen property, crime prevention, security, etc.](#)

(212) 854-5555

Information Line: for updated safety tips: 212-854-INFO (4636)

Escorts: a trained student escort or a Public Safety officer will escort them anywhere on campus or in the surrounding area: just call 212-854-SAFE.

Call Boxes: Located all over campus, recognizable by their blue light. Connects them to Public Safety

Shuttle Bus Information

[Two Shuttle Bus routes](#) run between Columbia's different campuses. These run 24 hours a day.

Dodge Fitness Center

If they are a full time student, or a part time student who has elected the health and related service fee, they have access to the Dodge Fitness Center. For more information about the facility, visit their site [here](#).

Office of the University Chaplain

The Office of University Chaplain works collaboratively with schools across the university to promote interfaith and intercultural awareness. The office provides spiritual counseling upon request. For more information, visit their site [here](#). They can also email chaplain@columbia.edu or call 212-854-1493.

Ombuds

A confidential University resource for students, faculty, and staff to assist in the management and resolution of workplace and/or academic issues. ombuds@columbia.edu or 212-854-1234.

Red, White, & Light Blue: A Brief History of the Military at Columbia

[The following originally appeared in the Spring 2008 issue of The Owl](#)

How Columbia became the Top Ivy for Veterans

[The following originally appeared in the Spring/Summer issue of Columbia Magazine](#)