

Winter Newsletter

CUNY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
555 W. 57TH STREET, NY, NY 10019



Scan QR Code for Veteran Highlights & Survey

CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs Website:



View up-to-date information regarding military connected, veterans, spouses, and dependents. Stay updated on campus activities and COVA's annual signature events.

You will learn about:

- Veteran Peer Mentorship
- Veteran Work Study
- Student Veterans of America
- SALUTE Veterans Honor Society
- PROVE information and resources



1:15pm
Spring & Fall
semesters

Join us for **Wellness Wednesday** via zoom to connect to community partner resources and on campus activities.

Meeting ID:

88363204792

Passcode: 749446

Take the CUNY Veteran Survey:



The 2023-2024 **Survey** is used to collect data on resources needed for CUNY students, Veterans, dependents, and spouses. The data is gathered to support NYC Council's efforts to help student veterans succeed and identify any issues that might require referrals to resources

- like:
- Housing needs
- Food scarcity
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Tuition and Fees

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued support!

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

In this newsletter you can expect:

Mission
Statement

Wellness
Wednesday
zoom invite & off
and campus
events

Student
Opportunities &
Career Success

Certification &
Enrollment

Veterans Day
Parade

Social Media

Written By: Lisa Beatha, University Director of the CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs

CUNY Office of Veteran Affairs

Mission Statement

Who We Serve and How We Help

COVA is dedicated to fostering a sense of community and developing a channel of communication among military-aligned, veteran, reservist, national guard, dependents, spouses, faculty, staff, and administration. We work with VA Work Study, SVA, community leaders, & external community partners on policy changes, advocacy, and events for professional development for over 3,000 military-connected veterans, spouses, & dependents.



View COVA's website:

<https://www.cuny.edu/about/university-resources/veterans-affairs/>

Veteran Peer Mentorship Program

The Veteran Peer Mentor Initiative is a pioneered program funded by the NYC Council for CUNY student veterans who serve as peer-to-peer mentors on campuses. It is designed to connect newly enrolled CUNY student veterans with resources, professional development workshops, networking opportunities, community engagement, and campus activities and to act as a bridge between students and university administration. The program includes over twelve Veteran Peer Mentors (VPMs) who are trained peer-to-peer mentors providing resources both via Zoom and onsite. The "Wellness Wednesday" information sessions on Zoom are led by VPMs, who invite community partners to share resources such as meditation, legal assistance, disability claims support, professional development, referrals for housing assistance through Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), and career path opportunities.

The program is a **part-time, paid opportunity**.



**Funded by
NYC Council Committee**

SEEKING COMMITTED STUDENT

VETERANS, SPOUSES & DEPENDENTS
TO JOIN THE FALL 2025 TEAM
ALL MAJORS WELCOME



VETERANS@CUNY.EDU

THE CHANCELLOR IN HIS UNIVERSITY ADDRESS



The City University of NY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez & Student Veteran Pauline Rhoden at the 2024 State of the University address held at New York City Technology campus in Brooklyn on November 20, 2024

CUNY’s unrivaled combination of affordability and excellence continues to be recognized in the city and well beyond. This fall, half of The Wall Street Journal’s top ten spots for best-value colleges in the nation were CUNY schools. And, by the way, we also took the top two spots!

Also, nine CUNY schools made Forbes magazine’s list of “The 25 Colleges with the Highest Payoff.”

This spring, to give you just one example, Bronx Community College is launching a new online Nuclear Medicine Technology certificate. It’s the first to be offered by a college in New York State in a field with a severe shortage of practitioners.

When I think about the state of our university. I come to the theme of opportunity. Not only the opportunities we offer our students, but the tremendous impact we have as a vital New York institution.

Announced that the Then in 2016, Sophie Davis evolved into the **CUNY School of Medicine**, a seven-year combined Bachelor of Science and a Doctor of Medicine degree program, becoming the first new medical school in New York City since 1860. CUNY is also making major investments in **cybersecurity** and new **IT** and learning **management systems** such as **Brightspace**, **XenDirect**, and **WorkDay** that will streamline the way CUNY serves its students, faculty, and staff, manages its financial and human resources systems and does business with vendors.

CUNY’s commitment to science and research is breaking down barriers to access in fields where minorities have long been underrepresented. It allows us to attract more students of color to **STEM** disciplines and turn out more diverse graduates with advanced degrees. **19% of our students in science and engineering doctoral programs are Black or Latino**, nearly twice the representation nationally.

Written By: Veteran Work Study

We're**HIRING!****\$16.00 hour (part-time) between
7am-7pm, Monday - Friday****DUTIES CAN INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

- **Student Services:** Conduct outreach to CUNY student veterans, assist with coordinating events, & participate in on-campus events.
- **Leadership Initiative:** Train to become part of the Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter, where officers engage with external
- community partners and research veteran-specific resources for referrals to student veterans as needed.
- **Must be computer savvy, create flyers, social media, and have the willingness to advocate and speak in public.**

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE!**These are some approved VA education benefits programs:**

- Post-9/11 GI Bill for Veterans
- Post-9/11 GI Bill for family members using transferred benefits
- Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD)
- Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)
- Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)
- The Edith Nourse Rogers Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Scholarship
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)
- (Note: Dependents who qualify under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 35 may use work study only while enrolled at a school in 1 of the 50 states.)
- National Call to Service
- Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)



CUNY Office of Veteran Affairs

**VA Work Study
Opportunity at COVA**

CUNY Student Veterans, dependents and spouses attending 3/4 or fulltime and using VA Educational Benefits may be eligible to apply and work up to 25 hours a week @\$16.00 an hour.

***For further information
contact:***

General E-mail:
veterans@cuny.edu

VA Work study info:

<https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/work-study/> College VA School certifying Official must certify student for courses each semester before applying for VA Work Study

**SUBMIT RESUME WITH SUBJECT LINE:
CUNY CENTRAL OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WORK STUDY OPPORTUNITY**



WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

1:15 pm via Zoom

Join us on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 88363204792

Passcode: 749446

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- NYS Department of Veteran Affairs Disability Claims
- NYC Department of Veteran Services
- David Lynch Foundation
- America's VetDogs
- American Corporate Partners (ACP)
- Department of City-Wide Administrative Services
- Veteran Legal Assistance Project
- Veteran Administrative Wellness Project
- Northwell Military Career Initiative



Written By: Salute Veterans National Honor Society



SALUTE is the only national veteran **honor society** in the nation recognizing and honoring the service and the scholastic achievements of this generation's greatest veterans.

CUNY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CHAPTER

SALUTE VETERANS

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

SALUTE IS THE ONLY NATIONAL VETERAN HONOR SOCIETY IN THE NATION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE SERVICE AND THE SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS GENERATION'S GREATEST VETERANS. THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF VETERAN AFFAIRS HAS PARTNERED WITH SALUTE TO PROVIDE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CUNY STUDENT VETERAN COMMUNITY.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

GPA & earned credits must have been completed in residence (CUNY)

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE STUDENT 3.25 GPA & COMPLETED 12 CREDITS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE STUDENT 3.25 GPA & COMPLETED 24 CREDITS

GRADUATE DEGREE STUDENT 3.50 GPA & COMPLETED 12 CREDITS

WILLING TO COMPLETE 10 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK IN LIEU OF \$35.00 MEMBERSHIP FEE (COVA WILL SPONSOR THE FEE)

NOMINATIONS FROM CUNY VET. CENTER DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATOR, FACULTY, VET. CLUB PRESIDENT OR VETERAN PEER MENTOR WILL BE ACCEPTED

SELF- NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED (CONTACT EMAIL LISTED BELOW)

DD214 (HONORABLE DISCHARGE) OR NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY

Apply today!

Membership application is open from 11/1/24 to 1/10/25

Step 1: Scan QR Code or membership application link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/8q3gWF47tq>



Step 2: CUNY Nomination/Recommendation form must be filled out (no outside of CUNY recommendation):
<https://forms.office.com/r/CJnkkcttx2>

Step 3: Email 10 hours of volunteer information/pics to veterans@cuny.edu

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT VETERANS@CUNY.EDU

COVA SIGNATURE EVENT @THE GRADUATE CENTER

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Each year CUNY Central Office of Veteran Affairs holds a career and professional development fair. There are twenty community partners that attend to provide on the spot interviews, career chooses and referral to resources.

Panel Speakers:

Blue Star Families, Student Veterans of America, NYS Department of Veteran Services, American Corporate Partners & Northwell Health

Sponsored by the NYC Department of Veteran Services & U.S. Army Battalion, Fort Hamilton



SALUTE VETERANS HONOREES

We honor the CUNY veteran students who have gone above and beyond to achieve academic excellence



Baruch College

Robert Fitzsimmons
Nicole Tomazi

Brooklyn College

Thomas Lee
Pauline Rhoden
Mervens Vincent

NYC College of Technology

Wayland Fung

SALUTE VETERANS HONOREES

Hunter College

Agoha Olufemi
Nikita Chernetskii

Queens College

Brendan Brozen
Vincent Chan
Michael Chen
Tristan Dasig

Winnie Fu
Victor Gonzalez
Gieun Lee
William Moffat

Phaedra Rosario
Llya Yahoshchankau
Oscar Zana Martinez



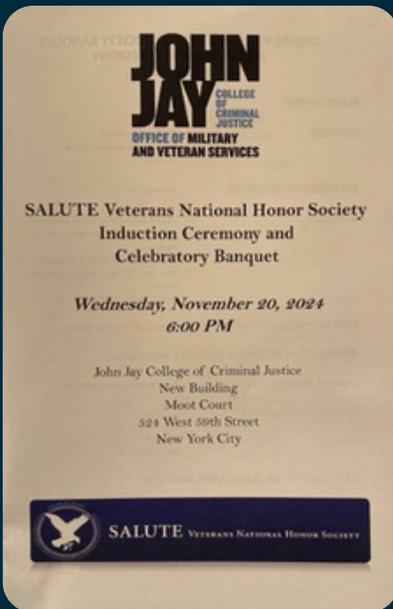
"COVA Veteran Students Making a Difference on Campus 2024"

»»» SALUTE VETERANS HONORS INDUCTION @ JOHN JAY COLLEGE



NOVEMBER 20, 2024

SPONSORED BY:
RICHARD PUSATERI, NAVY
JJAY VETERAN CENTER DIRECTOR



»»» THANK YOU TO THE KEYNOTE & GUEST SPEAKERS , CUNY ADMINISTRATION AND STUDENTS WHO CAME OUT TO SHOW SUPPORT

Keynote speaker: Rear Admiral David Wulf Deputy Superintendent US Merchant Marine Academy. **Guest speakers:** Karol V. Mason- John Jay College President, Derek Doan-Tmobile, Commissioner Hendon- NYC Department of Veteran Services, Gale Brewer-Member of NYC Council Committee. CUNY Central Agatha Funes- JJAY Alumnus, SALUTE Member & CUNY Central Office of Veterans Affairs Student Inclusion Coordinator

CLASS OF 2025



“Life is what you make of it, it is up to you to take what you want”.



2,025 likes **David Zheng** Veteran, United States Marine Corp.

John Jay College, Criminal Justice Major
Student Veterans of America Officer 2024
SALUTE Veteran Honors Recipient

As a Veteran Peer Mentor, I want to see the success of veterans in all aspects. I want to be able to help veterans build and strengthen their foundation in order for their success.
I have a special talent of annoying you with my hilarious puns!



“Growth often comes when you least expect it. ”



2,025 likes **Dion Martin** Veteran, United States Army

York College, Social Work Major
2025 SALUTE Veteran Honors Recipient

After proudly serving in the Army, I've made the decision to transition into social work, with a focus on serving my community. I'm grateful for the opportunity to intern with an amazing organization in Jamaica, Queens, that's dedicated to helping those in need. This experience has been incredibly rewarding and has strengthened my confidence in my ability to make a meaningful impact in the lives of others. I'm excited to continue on this new path and contribute to the well-being of my community.

“Every step, no matter how small, brings you closer to your goal. Progress is quiet but powerful—trust the journey and keep moving forward. Growth often comes when you least expect it. ”

Dion Martin



Outstanding Peer Mentor of the Year



Mervens Vincent, Marine Corps Veteran
SALUTE Veteran Honors Member COVA-Student
Veterans of America Officer Veteran Peer Mentor

Mervens Vincent recently graduated from Brooklyn College, majoring in Finance and Business Management with a minor in History and Economy. He is an exceptional leader and advocate for the veteran community, with a proven track record of impactful contributions and meaningful engagement. In January 2024, Mervens participated in the Student Veterans of America (SVA) 2024 Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, gaining valuable insights and forging connections that continue to inspire his work. Mervens showcased his expertise and dedication by presenting Peer Mentor data for the COVA Council in May 2024, highlighting innovative strategies to enhance mentorship programs for veterans. He led the Veteran Memorial Day trip in May 2024 for the Brooklyn College educational veterans' history trip to Washington, D.C.

In September 2024, he led volunteer support at the 9/11 Museum to honor and remember those impacted by the tragic events of September 11, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to service. Currently, Mervens is spearheading the Legacy Project for COVA, a transformative initiative dedicated to preserving and advancing the stories and contributions of veterans. Additionally, he co-facilitated the COVA Signature November Event, showcasing his ability to inspire and connect with diverse audiences. Mervens provided analysis and support for the SVA 2025 initiative, shaping future programming for student veterans. He now begins an exciting new chapter with a top financial firm, PwC, where his leadership and vision will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact. Mervens exemplifies the best of leadership, mentorship, and advocacy for veterans, consistently setting a standard of excellence.

West Point Executive Officer & Baruch College Peer Mentor



Robert Fitzsimmons, Army Veteran

**SALUTE Veteran Honors Member COVA-
Student Veterans of America Officer
Veteran Peer Mentor**

Robert Fitzsimmons embodies resilience, leadership, and dedication. Beginning his journey at the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, he rose to E2 before joining West Point as a Cadet. As part of the Army Football team, he contributed to winning the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. After being medically retired due to COVID challenges, Robert transitioned to the strength and conditioning team, continuing to support his peers. Robert also excelled in leadership roles, including participating in the rigorous Cadet Leader Development Training (CLDT) and serving as Company Executive Officer (XO) during Cadet Basic Training, where he mentored new cadets. Now pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration in Operations Management with a concentration in Analytics and a minor in History at Baruch College,

Robert finds immense fulfillment in his role as a Peer Mentor for Veterans, helping to build connections and share valuable resources at COVA. As an intern under the supervision of Ms. Lisa Beatha, the Program Director, Mr. Robert's contributions have proven to be invaluable. He has taken the lead on initiatives such as the COVA Signature November Event, demonstrating his capacity to inspire and engage with diverse audiences.

With aspirations of becoming a project manager and starting his own business, Robert leverages his leadership experience and entrepreneurial spirit to drive meaningful results. His journey reflects adaptability, service, and a commitment to excellence—values that inspire us all.

Student Veterans of America Natcon 2025

January 2025 Colorado Springs, CO

Robert Fitzsimmons, Army Veteran
Baruch College Undergraduate

COVA Peer Mentor
VITAL Student Outreach Representative

Tell us about your service at West Point?

R: *At West Point, I served as a Cadet at the United States Military Academy. My journey began at the Academy's Prep School, where I was promoted to E2 before transitioning to the main Academy as a Cadet. While at West Point, I was part of the Army Football team and had the honor of contributing to our victory in the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy competition. After being medically retired due to COVID-related challenges, I transitioned to the strength and conditioning team, continuing to support my fellow athletes. Despite my time at West Point being cut short, I actively participated in several leadership development programs, including the Cadet Leader Development Training (CLDT), a rigorous mini-ranger school, and served as Company Executive Officer (XO) throughout Cadet Basic Training, where I helped shape and mentor new cadets during their initial Army experience.*

What are you majoring in?

R: *I am currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Operations Management with a concentration in Analytics, along with a minor in History at Baruch College.*

What has been an unexpected highlight of being a Peer Mentor?

R: *An unexpected highlight of being a Peer Mentor has been the immense satisfaction I've gained from working closely with Veterans. The role has given me the privilege of learning about various valuable resources and being able to share those with my peers. Building connections and fostering a supportive community has been incredibly rewarding.*

What is your expected degree minor?

R: *I am working toward a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Management with a minor in History.*

What are your professional goals?

R: *My professional goals include becoming a high-level manager—such as a project manager—where I can lead a team of driven individuals to tackle complex challenges and deliver meaningful results. Additionally, I have ambitions to start my own business, using my leadership experience and entrepreneurial spirit to build something unique.*

What was your former MOS?

R: *Since I began my service at Army Prep and later transitioned to the Academy as a Cadet, I didn't hold an official MOS during my time in uniform.*

YOU CAN ACHIEVE IT!

CUNY STUDENT VETERAN CAREER SUCCESS

Excellence and Commitment to Service



Nicole Tomazi,

**Army National Guard Service Member,
Second Lieutenant, Finance Officer**

SALUTE Veteran Honors Member
COVA-Student Veterans of America Officer
COVA Work Study Initiative

Nicole Tomazi, is currently serving in the Army National Guard. She has been an active participant within COVA as a dedicated Peer Mentor and Work Study Intern. She is currently attending Baruch College, majoring in International Affairs focus on Trade and Global Security.

Career path success- During Nicole's internship with the Department of Homeland Security, she demonstrated the ability to excel and was hired as a contractor to help with the DHS portfolio, to ensure that all export concerns, regulations and policies via new technologies are shared abroad to governmental agencies.

CUNY STUDENT VETERAN CAREER SUCCESS

Giving back to the veteran community with FREE resources



Winson Chan, Army Veteran

**SALUTE Veteran Honors Member
COVA-Student Veterans of America Officer
Veteran Peer Mentor Initiative**

Winson Chan, recently graduated from Brooklyn College, majoring in Human Resource Management. He has served as a Veteran Peer Mentor for over 2 years within the CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs, assigned to the Graduate Center for peer to peer mentoring. During his time at COVA, he has displayed commitment to serve others with referral to resources and mentoring.

Winson is currently employed as a Veteran Outreach Specialist at Services for the Under Served within the Supportive Services for Veteran Families initiative. SUS-SSVF provides housing assistance, resources and employment services to veterans in crisis. If you are a veteran who is homeless and in need of housing assistance, please contact WChan@sus.org.
Website: <https://sus.org/our-services/veterans/>

VETERANS DAY PARADE

NOVEMBER 11, 2024
CUNY STUDENT VETERANS



CUNY CAMPUS
ATTENDEES:

KINGBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JOHN JAY COLLEGE
QUEENS COLLEGE
YORK COLLEGE

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING INITIATIVE

CPL ALSO KNOWN AS PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT, IS AN ACADEMIC PROCESS AND POLICY THAT CAN SAVE STUDENTS TIME AND MONEY ON THEIR PATH TO A COLLEGE DEGREE.

CPL OFFERS STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN CREDITS FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL LEARNING ACQUIRED OUTSIDE THE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM. **MILITARY CONNECTED** STUDENTS CAN SEND THEIR JOINT SERVICE TRANSCRIPT VIA EMAIL TO:

AcademicAffairs@cuny.edu

For further information visit

<https://www.cuny.edu/academics/academic-policy/credit-prior-learning/earn-credit-for-what-you-know/>

**OBTAIN JOINT SERVICE TRANSCRIPT VIA WEB LINK:
HTTPS://JST.DODED.MIL/JST/ JST IS A WEB SITE THAT
ALLOWS VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY, AND NATIONAL GUARD
PERSONNEL TO REQUEST AND VIEW THEIR MILITARY
TRANSCRIPTS**



Verify your school enrollment via VA

If you're using Post-9/11 GI Bill or Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) benefits, you can verify your enrollment for school or training on VA.gov.

If you're getting benefits through the STEM Scholarship, you can verify your enrollment by text or email.

Website:

- <https://www.va.gov/education/verify-school-enrollment/#for-post-911-gi-bill-benefits>
- <https://www.va.gov/education/verify-school-enrollment/#stem-scholarship>

Sign in to verify your enrollment for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits:

- Sign in with your existing ID.me or Login.gov account
- **By text-** We'll send you a text when you start your program. We'll ask if you want to verify your enrollment by text. If you respond "yes," we'll send you a text every month asking you to verify your enrollment.
- **By email-** If you choose not to get text messages or you don't use texting, we'll email you instead to verify your enrollment each month. We'll send a message to the email address we have in our records for you.
- **Online through Ask VA-** You can verify your enrollment through Ask VA. In your message, be sure to include the dates of your enrollment in school or training.
- **By phone** -Call us at 888-442-4551 (TTY: 711). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET.

For the STEM Scholarship- You'll need to verify your enrollment each month for the Edith Nourse Rogers Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Scholarship in 1 of these 2 ways:

- Text messages- Introducing text messages for Stem Scholarship: <https://youtu.be/diBCc8lQcis?si=ZX86tepFIBLbANa2>
- **By email** -You'll need to email us each month with the dates of your enrollment in school or training.

Don't Forget

TO REACH OUT TO YOUR CAMPUS SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL FOR CERTIFICATION

NOTE: The School Certifying Official (SCO) serves as the school's representative responsible for ensuring that eligible Veterans, Reservists, Servicemembers, and their dependents are promptly and accurately certified in Enrollment Manager for each semester they attend CUNY. The SCO certifies students' enrollment to the VA and notifies the VA of any changes in a student's enrollment status.

In addition to certification responsibilities, the SCO provides comprehensive resources to veterans, their dependents, and active-duty military personnel. This includes assistance with utilizing VA education benefits and Tuition Assistance, ensuring these individuals receive the support they need to succeed academically.

Student Financial Resources

Even if a veteran is receiving the GI Bill, they may still qualify for additional scholarships or grants based on their financial situation. To be eligible for all federal scholarships and grants, as well as many state and institutional grants and scholarships, it is important to complete the **FAFSA**.

Financial Aid Assistance:

<https://www.cuny.edu/financial-aid/applying-for-financial-aid/filing-date-fafsa/>

Veteran Tuition Award: Veterans Tuition Awards (VTA) are awards for full-time study and part-time study for eligible veterans matriculated in an approved program at an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution or in an approved vocational training program in New York State (NYS).

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/veterans-tuition-awards.html>

Veteran Administration Educational Benefits:

<https://www.va.gov/education/>

Veteran Readiness and Employment (Chapter 31)

<https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>

Veteran of Foreign War Scholarships:

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support>

American Legion Scholarships:

<https://www.legion.org/scholarships>

Disabled American Veterans:

<https://www.dav.org/get-involved/volunteer/dav-scholarships/>

Veterans Tuition Awards (VTA)

Is an award for full-time study and part-time study for eligible veterans who matriculated at an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution or in an approved vocational training program in New York State. Students must be taking classes required for their degree/program of study.

Tuition Award for Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or other eligible combat veterans pursuing an undergraduate, graduate degree or vocational training program.



- ✓ Award covers cost of tuition, not to exceed the cost of tuition at a state-operated SUNY.
- ✓ Available to students pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree or in an approved vocational training program in New York State
- ✓ Available for full-time and part-time study
- ✓ Be a legal resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the term

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/find-aid/nys-grants-scholarships/veterans-tuition-awards/>

New York State's Veterans Tuition Award Update

Since its inception, New York State's Veterans Tuition Award was available for combat Veterans only. This created many extremely frustrating situations where, for example, a military retiree who had served for 20+ years without being sent on a combat deployment would be rejected for this benefit, or a Veteran who had engaged in extremely difficult service following a natural or human-made disaster in our own country would likewise be turned down.

I am excited to report that big changes are now on their way: the largest expansion of Veterans Tuition Award eligibility since this program was created!

Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature have reached an agreement on legislation that will provide Veterans Tuition Award eligibility for all New York State resident Veterans who served for four years on active duty and who were discharged therefrom under honorable conditions.

This means that Veterans who have rendered honorable service for at least four years of active duty outside of a combat theater can now be rewarded by their state of residence for this service through the receipt of the Veterans Tuition Award! (Veterans with combat service on their resume, even if their total length of active duty service is fewer than four years, will of course retain their eligibility for the Veterans Tuition Award as well).

This is a huge change, and an important one, as it will open the door to an entirely new array of higher education opportunities for Veterans throughout our state, translating into life-changing results.

There are some mechanical steps that must be taken before this expanded eligibility goes into effect, primarily the drafting and signing of this agreed-upon arrangement (known as a "chapter amendment") between the Governor and the Legislature. This will all be done during the next legislative session. As soon as we know the precise date when this eligibility expansion will go into effect, I will let all of you know right away.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this important advancement of New York State-based education benefits for Veterans.

As always, thank you for all that you do every day!

Respectfully,

Benjamin P. Pomerance

Deputy Counsel

Pronouns: He/Him

New York State Department of Veterans' Services
2 Empire State Plaza, 17th Floor, Albany, NY 12223

Student Veteran Association/Veterans Club

Social Media

Baruch

@baruchveterans

BMCC

@bmcc_cuny

Bronx

@bcccuny

Brooklyn College

@brooklyncollege_vso

City College of New York

@ccnycitycollege

City Tech

@citytechvet

College of Staten Island

@collegeofstatenisland

Craig Newmark

@newyorkbsf

Graduate Center

@thegraduatecenter

Macaulay

@macaulayhonors

Guttman

@guttmancc

Hostos

@hova_cuny or

@hostosvets

Hunter

@proveveterans



John Jay

@johnjayveterans

Kingsborough

@veterans_kbcc

LaGuardia College

@laguardiacc

Lehman

@lehmancollegevets

Medgar Evers

@mecvets

Queensborough

@qcc_veterans_club

Queens College

@queens.college.veterans

School of Professional Studies

@cunyspsveterans

School of Labor & Studies

@cunyslu

School of Law

@cunylaw

School Of Public Health

@cunysph

York College

@york_va

University Student Senate



Join the movement



Advocacy and Inclusivity:

A united advocacy group for all CUNY students, emphasizing multiculturalism across 25 campuses



Connection and Experience:

A bridge between CUNY Central and students, enhancing communication and shared diversity and leadership experience



Empowerment and Shared Governance:

A demonstration of the student power emphasizing policy influence and the value of cooperative decision-making

✉ student.leadership@usscuny.org

📷 @usscuny

✂ @usscuny

CUNY USS MISSION IS TO PRESERVE THE ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND EXCELLENCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITHIN CUNY; THE ORGANIZATION IS CHARGED WITH PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE STUDENT BODY, FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION AND PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF ITS STUDENT CONSTITUENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY.

USS weblink: <https://www.usscuny.org/>

CUNY Student Government

<https://www.cuny.edu/civics/student-government/>

CUNY Student Affairs

<https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/#student-life>

CUNY Clubs & Organizations

<https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-life/#activities>

CUNY BYLAWS

<https://policy.cuny.edu/bylaws/>

The Bylaws are adopted/amended by the CUNY Board of Trustees. They are the highest source of policy created within the University and take precedence over all other internal University policy documents, including non-bylaw policies

Campus onsite resources

Career Success Initiatives:

<https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ocip/>

CUNY Internship opportunities:

<https://www.cuny.edu/employment/student-jobs/internships/cuny-internship-programs/>

Mental Health Services:

<https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-services/counseling/>

Office of Childcare initiatives:

<https://www.cuny.edu/academics/current-initiatives/office-of-early-childhood-initiatives/>

Disability & accessibility services:

<https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-services/disability/>

Health & wellness:

<https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-services/health-services/>

SNAP:

<https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-services/snap/>

Women Centers:

<https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-services/womens-centers/>

ACE Military Guide:

<https://militaryguide.acenet.edu/>



MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

Who We Are

Founded in 2008, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) is the governing body of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children or ICEOMC. Commission members include the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five ex-officio representatives - which include the US Department of Defense. The collaborative's mission, to ease the educational transitions of school-aged, military-connected students attending public schools and Department of Defense schools worldwide, also promulgates and enforces the compact rules.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 F H O T R T M P O S : R / E / M I N I C F O 3 . R N M E A T T / I O N :
[HTTPS://MIC3.NET/](https://mic3.net/)



FREE, 24/7, CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT IS A CLICK AWAY. THE VETERANS CRISIS LINE CAN HELP EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT ENROLLED IN VA BENEFITS OR HEALTH CARE.

24/7, confidential crisis support

for Veterans and their loved ones

You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

Tell us about you

*Name or nickname (Required)

Phone Number (Optional):

Self-Check Quiz Reference Number (Optional)

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/>



HEALTH & WELLNESS VETERANS SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 14, 2025 @ 10:30 AM-2:30 PM

Hosted by: The CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs

Location: The Graduation Center

365 5th Ave., NY, NY @ Concourse Level

Scan QR code to register
If you have any questions
email us at
veterans@cuny.edu

Register by March 12, 2025



Raffles

Health Screening

Yoga Project

Nutrition & Health

You can find us at our
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