Veterans Affairs

Basic Information
School Certifying Officials (SCO)

The SCO’s are the VA recognized Columbia University employees responsible for processing all GI Bill benefits as well as any other military-oriented financial assistance.

**Graduate Schools and NROTC**

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**School of General Studies**

**Tessie Scroggins**  
Assistant Director of Educational Financing for Veterans Benefits  
408 Lewisohn Hall  
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(212) 854-5410
Student Responsibilities

Step One | Request Certificate of Eligibility (VONAPP)
- [Link](http://www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/default.asp)
- Submit copy to SCO

Step Two | Submit a copy of DD-214 (N/A for dependents)
- [Link](http://www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/default.asp)

Step Three | Submit Veterans Request for Certification Form
- Graduate students: [Link](veteranaffairs.columbia.edu/content/veterans-request-certification)
- GS students: [Link](gs.columbia.edu/veterans-request-certification-fall-spring)
Certification Process

Universities are responsible for providing key elements for each GI Bill recipient: Period of enrollment (how long is your semester); credits in enrollment (are you full time, ¾ time, ½ time or less?)

**Step One | Two Months Prior to Start of Term**
- Your enrollment submitted to VA
  - This directs VA to disburse Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and book stipend payments directly to you.

**Step Two | At Conclusion of Add/Drop Period**
- Finalized enrollment submitted to VA
- Tuition and fees submitted
- VA disburses tuition/fee funds directly to Columbia.
Chapter 33 Post-9/11 is the main VA benefit that pays toward your tuition and fees. Your entitlement percentage determines how much money you receive for tuition and fees, BAH, and your book stipend. The 100% aggregate amount is $21,084.89 per year. Each subsequent percentage is prorated accordingly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entitlement Percentage</th>
<th>Tuition and Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$21,084.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>$18,976.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>$16,867.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>$14,759.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>$12,650.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$10,542.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>$8,433.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fry Scholarship has same tuition and fee amounts as well as the same BAH amounts (see next slide)
Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)

BAH, your monthly housing stipend, is based on full time enrollment, your entitlement, and number of days enrolled in the month. If you are full time with 100% enrollment, and are enrolled 30 days, then you will receive $3,775.*

### Monthly Stipend/BAH Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Payable Days</th>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>Approximate Payment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall 2015</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>22 $ 2,768.33</td>
<td>October 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>30 $ 3,775.00</td>
<td>November 6th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>30 $ 3,775.00</td>
<td>December 4th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>23 $ 2,894.17</td>
<td>January 8th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 2016</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>10 $ 1,258.33</td>
<td>February 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>30 $ 3,775.00</td>
<td>March 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>30 $ 3,775.00</td>
<td>April 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>30 $ 3,775.00</td>
<td>May 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>15 $ 1,887.50</td>
<td>June 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Online and hybrid programs are not eligible for $3,775 a month; instead will receive the national average of $751/month
Book Stipend

The VA pays GI Bill recipients to offset the added expense of buying books.

- Payment amount is based on student’s enrollment and eligibility levels.
- Maximum payment is $41 per credit up to $1,000 per academic year
- Stipend disbursed directly to student at beginning of each term.
Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP)

- Granted to 100% Post-9/11 GI Bill®- eligible students
- Covers “unmet tuition and fees need”
- VA matches school award – not to exceed term balance
- Offered to students on a first-come, first-serve basis
- Students must apply with their school’s Financial Aid office

**It is the student’s responsibility to submit the Yellow Ribbon Application to their school**
Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation

Ch. 31 “Voc Rehab” (VR&E) pays FULL tuition and mandatory fees every semester that veteran is approved for this benefit.

**TO APPLY:**
- Before appointment, must obtain a disability rating from the VA

**BENEFITS:**
- If accepted, VR&E pays full tuition and mandatory fees per semester
- Includes monthly living stipend up to $3,775
- Covers required books and essential supplies
- Not guaranteed from semester to semester
VRE Student Responsibilities

Voc Rehab isn’t considered a VA benefit. Therefore, a student using VRE has different responsibilities in order to be eligible and certified for VRE benefits.

- Obtain disability rating through a VA hospital or your last base.
- Make an interview appointment with VRE using VONAPP
- **Notify Columbia of intention to use this program**, especially if you have used Ch.33 Post-9/11 previously
- Provide your counselor with a transcript at the end of each semester (VR&E will pay for F’s but not withdrawals)
- Submit Form 22-1905 to SCO (each semester). Your counselor will issue you a blank 22-1905 for each semester. We complete the form, sign it, return it to your counselor, and then invoice VR&E for your tuition and fees
VRE SCO Responsibilities

Instead of a centralized universal online clearinghouse, SCO’s certify VRE benefits by using the 22-1905 form. They will forward you a blank copy and you deliver it to us. Once we receive your 22-1905, Columbia has these responsibilities:

• Certify enrollment with completed 1905 with dates of enrollment, type of term, and description of enrollment (full time, ¾ time, ½ time, or less than ½ time)
• Send itemized invoice to counselor
• Notify VR&E counselor of changes to the enrollment within 30 days (i.e. withdrawals)
NEW YORK STATE
Veterans Tuition Assistance (NYS VTA)

New York’s Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) offers funding to veterans who have been deployed to war:

• Tuition Assistance (VTA) Max: $6,495
• 2 Online Applications to complete:
• FAFSA: www.fafsa.ed.gov
• Criteria:
  – Must be a New York Resident for at least one year or been stationed in New York (last station before exiting the military)
  – Served in theater of war such as Afghanistan or Iraq
Survivors and Dependents Assistance

Chapter 35 benefits pay a monthly stipend to offset living expenses while dependent students are enrolled in classes:

<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 $746.53</td>
<td>October 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>30 $1,018.00</td>
<td>November 6th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>30 $1,018.00</td>
<td>December 4th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>23 $780.39</td>
<td>January 8th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fall 2015**
September 8 to December 23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Payable Days</th>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>Approximate Payment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>10 $339.30</td>
<td>February 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>30 $1,018.00</td>
<td>March 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>30 $1,018.00</td>
<td>April 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>30 $1,018.00</td>
<td>May 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>15 $508.95</td>
<td>June 10th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring 2016**
January 20 to May 15

NOTE: These figures are based on full time enrollment. Dollar amounts are prorated for less enrollment
NROTC

The Naval Reserve Officer’s Training Corps program was established to educate and train qualified young men and women for service as commissioned officers in the unrestricted Naval Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve.

- The **NROTC** Scholarship Program is available to qualified students who graduate from high school before August 1 of the year they intend to start college.
- For more information about applying, and Columbia's participation with ROTC visit: [http://rotc.columbia.edu/](http://rotc.columbia.edu/)
- **NROTC Application Process**
Tuition Assistance

Active duty service members may qualify for Tuition Assistance (TA) Approved courses receive $250.00 per credit. For information:

• Army - https://www.goarmyed.com/
• Air Force - https://www.my.af.mil/
• Marines - http://www.marines.mil/
Dropping a Class

• The add/drop period is the first two weeks of a semester when a student can audit a class. Dropping a class during this period has no financial consequences for tuition

• No university repercussions during Add/Drop Period; there are BAH/monthly stipend repercussions if enrollment status changes (i.e. you go from full time to ¾ time enrollment)

• After Add/Drop period, notify us before you drop for there could be financial consequences

• Dropping classes will require you to pay back portions of your book stipend for each credit dropped

• Dropping from one threshold of enrollment to another (i.e. from full time to ¾ time) will result in you having to pay back BAH as well as tuition and fees in some cases

• VA will not pay for withdrawn courses. If you withdraw and it impacts your enrollment then you will be responsible for book stipends and BAH

• If you receive a bill from the VA or VA Debt Management, do not ignore it. Contact our office immediately
Get Involved

Veterans Student Organizations:

• Business School – Military in Business Association cbsmiba@gmail.com
• Columbia Law School Military Association (CLSMA)
• School of International & Public Affairs- Columbia SIPA Veterans Association (CSVA)
• School of General Studies - U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia (MilVets)- milvets@columbia.edu
Questions

Send us your questions at veterans@columbia.edu
OR
Call us at 212-854-3161