

NYC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Student Veteran Resource Guide



Live. Learn. Work in NYC.

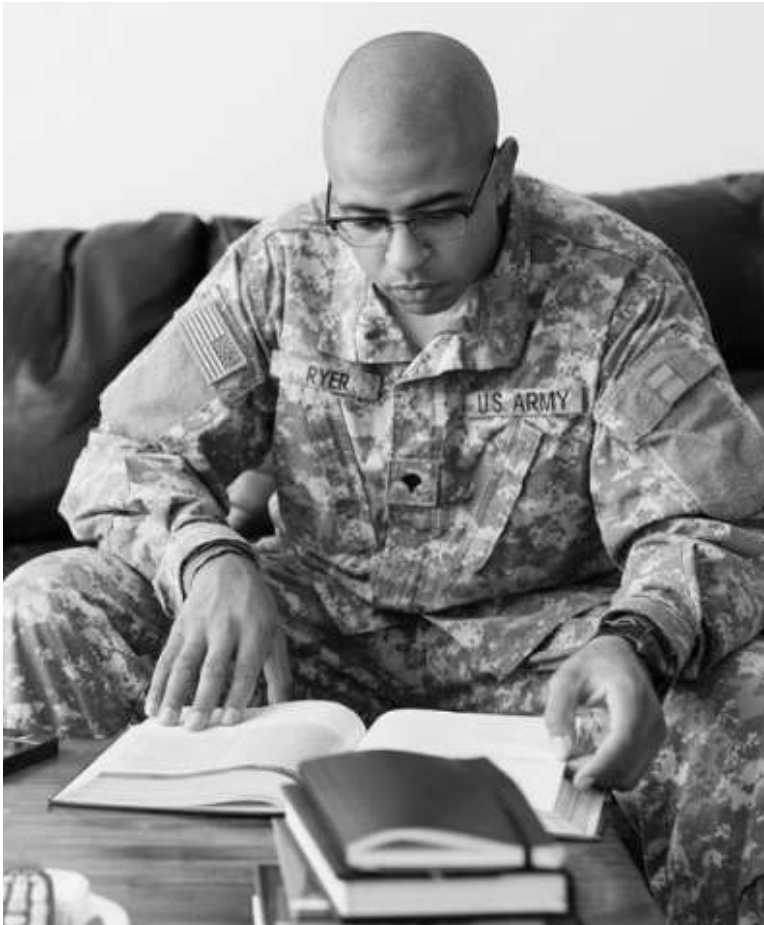


1 Centre St, Suite 2208
New York, NY 10007
212-416-5250 | nyc.gov/vets



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram,
Twitter, LinkedIn: @nycveterans

Last updated 8.6.2021



LIVE IN NYC

The NYC Department of Veteran Services (DVS) fosters purpose-driven lives for New York City service members, veterans, and their families.

Our focus is to make NYC the best place for veterans to live, learn, and work in the country. Learn more about DVS at nyc.gov/vets.

Please review DVS programs and initiatives that can support you as you transition into life as a student veteran:

VETERANS ON CAMPUS:

Veterans on Campus-NYC is a collaboration between DVS, our corporate partners, and NYC colleges and universities. The program objectives are to:

- assist academic institutions in identifying and adopting best practices that create a supportive student veteran experience
- inspire new transitioning service members and their families to pursue their higher education goals here in NYC
- promote academic research that will lead to deeper understandings and innovation
- ensure a successful transition to purpose-driven lives through educational achievement and viable careers

FOOD SUPPORT

Under the latest COVID-19 relief bill, many college students, including student veterans, are now eligible for [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) benefits they can use to buy food. Students are eligible for SNAP benefits if they:

- are eligible for federal or state-funded work-study programs during the regular school year or,
- have an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$0 during the current academic year.

Apply for SNAP benefits at nyc.gov/accesshra.

DVS partnered with [GetFoodNYC](#) to help deliver food to homebound veterans. [Request food](#) or learn how to volunteer to prepare meal kits by contacting connect@veterans.nyc.gov.

HOUSING

DVS and the [NYC Commission on Human Rights \(CCHR\)](#) provide landlords and student veterans information regarding legal protections for tenants seeking to finance their rent with G.I. Bill housing allowances. For more information, please review [this information sheet](#) provided by DVS and CCHR.

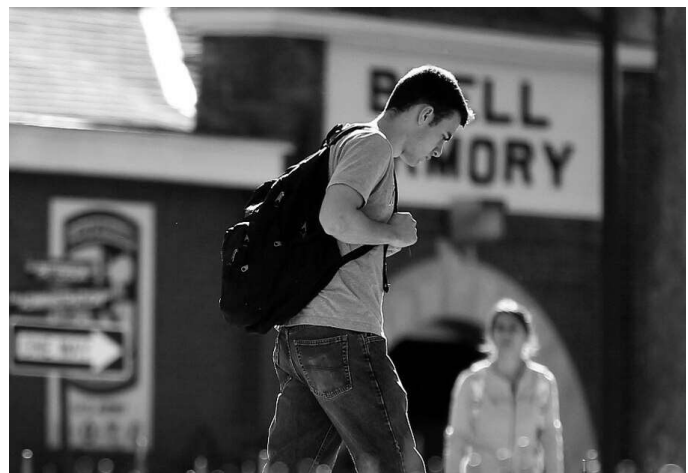
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

DVS staff connects veterans facing economic hardships with resources including emergency financial assistance, branch-specific aid, and tax preparation services. Visit nyc.gov/vetfinance for more information.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

As part of the Mission: VetCheck initiative, volunteers call NYC veterans to provide information about essential public services, COVID-19 testing and vaccine updates, and online mental health resources. Visit nyc.gov/vetsupport for veteran-specific mental health resources, including counseling services, veteran peer support, crisis hotlines, and substance abuse recovery groups.



TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

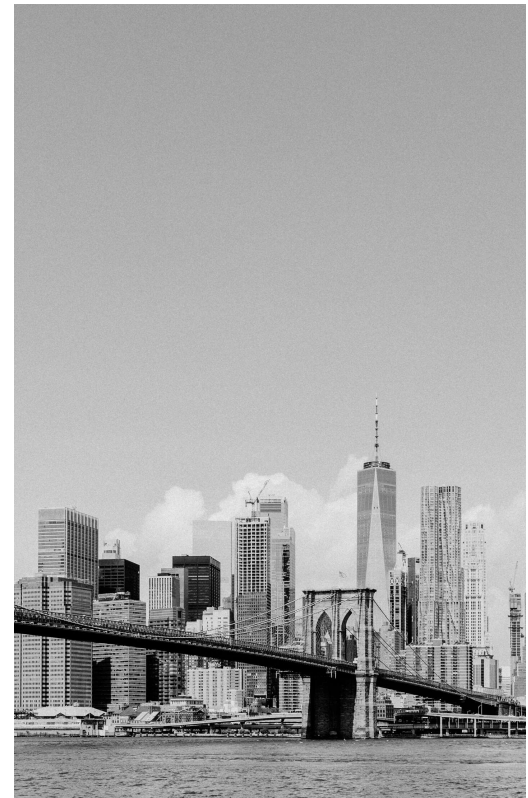
The [Expiration Term of Service - Sponsorship Program \(ETS-SP\)](#), modeled on in-service sponsorship programs familiar to veterans, aims to successfully transition service members and veterans to their post-military communities. The ETS-SP catches the veteran ideally 12 months before leaving the military. ETS then assigns trained and certified sponsors to the veteran before the transition. These sponsors are tasked with the following:

- guide and mentor
- educate the veteran about eligible services
- establish personal relationships with the veteran
- connect the veteran to the community

DVS will support the ETS-SP program in NYC and will work with 200 veterans throughout 2021. [Learn more about ETS-SP.](#)

ORAL HISTORY

DVS has captured the stories of NYC veterans representing every branch and service era through our oral history initiative, the Veterans Voices Project (VVP). Learn how you can preserve your story at nyc.gov/vetvoices.



LEARN IN NYC

Review the following resources to support your academic career:

VA EDUCATION BENEFITS:

Accredited DVS staff members represent NYC veterans and their families in claims for benefits from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) - including G.I. Bill education benefits. Schedule an online appointment with a DVS staff member by filling out the form at VetConnectNYC.org and selecting Benefits Navigation as your preferred service. DVS can support veterans with the following education benefits:

- [The Post 9/11 GI Bill](#) provides education benefits for those who have served on active duty for 90 or more days after September 10th, 2001.
- The [Forever GI Bill](#) expands eligibility for GI Bill benefits by including:
 - reservists who were ordered to active duty and received authorized medical care, were medically evaluated for a disability, or completed a Department of Defense (DoD) health care study on or after September 11th, 2001.
 - servicemembers and honorably discharged veterans who were awarded a Purple Heart on or after September 11th, 2001, are entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at the 100-percent benefit level for up to 36 months as of August 1st, 2018.
- [Montgomery GI Bill](#) is available to active-duty members who served at least two years on active duty. You are entitled to this benefit if you're a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserves, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard, and you meet all of the requirements listed below:
 - have either a six-year service obligation (you agreed to serve six years) in the Selected Service, or
 - are an officer in the Selected Reserve who agreed to serve six years in addition to your initial service obligation, and meet other requirements



TUITION SUPPORT:

- [Veterans Tuition Awards \(VTA\)](#) are awarded for full-time and part-time student veterans who are enrolled in an approved program at an undergraduate or graduate college or university or in an approved vocational training program.
- The [Yellow Ribbon Program](#) helps student veterans pay for out-of-state, private school, or graduate school tuition that the Post-9/11 GI Bill doesn't cover. [Review your eligibility and learn if your school is a participating partner.](#)
- The [Posse Foundation's](#) Veteran Program helps select Post-9/11 veterans receive a cost-free bachelor's degree at Vassar College, Wesleyan University, & the University of Virginia.
- Under [Mercy College's Mathematics Education Intensive Residency Program \(MEIRPRO\)](#), veterans can earn a tuition-free Master of Science degree in Mathematics Education funded by the National Science Foundation.
- Veterans who hope to become teachers can find resources for funding their education at [TeachingDegree.org](#).
- For more financial aid resources for veterans and military service members, visit [Accounting.com](#).



SCHOLARSHIPS

- [Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship](#): If your parent or spouse was an active-duty service member who died in the line of duty on or after September 11th, 2001, you may qualify for the Fry Scholarship.
- [New York State Regents Awards \(for Children\)](#): Provides up to \$450 per year to students whose parent(s) served in the US Armed Forces during specified times of national emergency.
- [Military Service Recognition Scholarship](#): Available to certain dependents of military personnel who passed away, became permanently disabled, or went missing in combat or in a combat zone of operation since August 2nd, 1990.
- [Pat Tillman Foundation Scholarship](#): Competitive scholarship open to veterans and spouses with a proven track record of leadership.
- [Student Veterans of America Raytheon Patriot Scholarship](#): Competitive scholarship offered to veterans.
- [Sentinels of Freedom Merit Grant](#): A merit-based scholarship offered to veterans with a VA disability rating of 50% or higher and have been wounded or injured in a combat or training-related event post 9/11.
- [Fisher House Scholarship Search](#): A comprehensive search engine that helps veterans and their families find the best scholarship opportunities for their educational goals.
- See a list of [New York State's scholarships and waivers for student veterans](#).

PREDATORY LOANS

The [NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection \(DCWP\)](#) issued a [report detailing the predatory practices used by for-profit schools to target student veterans](#). Below are some valuable takeaways:

- Veterans who earned bachelor's degrees from for-profit schools had average student loan debt balances 20 percent higher than veterans who attended nonprofit and public institutions.
- For-profit schools attended by NYC veterans have poor graduation and earnings outcomes and are less likely to offer credit for military experience.





VA WORK-STUDY

The [VA Work-Study program](#) is an opportunity for veterans to get paid for part-time work while they study at a college, vocational, or professional training program. Visit the VA Work-Study website for additional opportunities, a list of approved VA education benefit programs, and information about the VA Work-Study program. Student veterans who meet the following requirements may be eligible to take part in the work-study program:

- are enrolled at least three-quarters of the time in a college degree, vocational, or professional program, and
- have found an open job either at a nearby VA facility or in a VA-related role at your school, and
- can finish the work-study contract while you still qualify for education benefits, and
- are using an approved VA education benefits program to pay for your education or training

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- [Affordable Colleges Online](#) provides a comprehensive resource guide for veterans interested in attending vocational and trade schools and includes tools to help veterans find the right school and program, use the G.I. Bill to cover expenses, and transfer credit for military experience.

ONLINE TUTORING AND COUNSELING

- The [VITAL Initiative](#) is a partnership between the [VA New York Harbor Healthcare System](#) and local colleges and universities to provide free tutoring and peer mentoring to student veterans.
- Active duty service members and reservists can receive free online tutoring at [tutor.com](#). Expert tutors are available 24/7 to offer support in over 100 K-12 and college-level subjects, including math, writing, reading, ELL, science, English, social sciences, history, accounting, finance, nursing, world languages, computer science, study skills, and test prep.





WORK IN NYC

EMPLOYMENT TOOLS

Review the following employment resources to help you transition into the workforce:

- **Job Board:** Launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, [EmpireVets](#) is a new job board website that includes thousands of local postings and a military skills translator to help veterans connect with opportunities that best serve their experience and talents. The website features openings in critical COVID-19 roles. Visit www.empirevets.com to learn more.
- **Resume Building and Job Training:** NYC's Workforce 1 prepares New Yorkers to find jobs by developing professional development skills through resume and interviewing workshops and connects job seekers to employers with open positions. Learn more visit nyc.gov/workforce1.
- **Veteran Entrepreneurship:** DVS and the [NYC Department of Small Business Services \(SBS\)](#) are encouraging veteran business owners to certify their businesses by applying to the Emerging Business Enterprise (EBE) Program and/or the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Program. Certified veteran-owned businesses will gain greater access to contracting opportunities with New York City agencies through classes, networking events, and targeted solicitations. Learn more at nyc.gov/getcertified.

For more employment resources including veteran-specific job boards, job training programs, professional mentorship opportunities, unemployment support, and a work-from-home toolkit, visit nyc.gov/vetjobs.

