



Veterans Affairs *and* COUNSELING CENTER

Serving Veterans
through Education



The mission of Brooklyn College Veterans Affairs and Counseling Center is to assist America's veterans and military personnel, their dependents and survivors in obtaining all federal and state educational benefits and entitlements they have earned by serving in the United States military, and to provide guidance and support services that will aid veterans in their transition to academic and civilian life.

Veteran and military personnel is defined in the following ways for CUNY data collection:

Veteran — those who were in active military service (which includes basic training) and were released under a condition other than “dishonorable.”

Military Personnel — persons currently serving in the armed forces of the United States, whether on active duty or reserve or in the National Guard.



Brooklyn College Veterans Affairs and Counseling Center (BCVACC) serves a diverse group of military personnel, their dependents and survivors, and veterans with disabilities. Our students are from all branches of the armed forces, including active and inactive reserve units. The majority of veterans in our program are from the metropolitan area. Our office staff includes veterans and reservists who take pride in assisting their fellow college students.

Vision Statement

To cultivate a veterans campus community that is well-informed about all benefits they have earned; a community in which the transition from service to student is made as smoothly as possible so that veterans can be focused and committed to academic success.

Program Goal

Our goal is to actively engage all veterans in campus-wide programs and activities that will

enhance their college experience. We are guided by the vision of the Division of Student Affairs:

To foster a diverse, engaged, and civil campus community focused on student learning and preparation for leadership and service in a global society—which is essential and critical to the campus in supporting the continued growth and development of the same.

Our Services

- Assist veterans in applying for the GI Bill, and certify and validate educational benefits in compliance with current Veterans Administration regulations.
- Mentor incoming veterans and assist with course planning to ensure academic success.
- Provide updated information to veterans regarding changes in educational benefits, federal laws, and support services.



- Advise on additional entitlements under federal and state laws, financial aid for war veterans, tuition deferments, special scholarships for dependents of deceased veterans, advanced payment, and the Disabled Veterans Book Cost Program.
- Advocate on behalf of and assist veterans in applying for the Veterans Administration work-study, tutorial assistance, and mentorship.
- Help students with discharge upgrades, military transcripts, and college services, regulations, and procedures.
- Provide referrals for personal counseling, immigration, pro bono legal services, substance abuse services, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) counseling, and potential career opportunities.
- Advise on current tax and social security benefits, social services, medical benefits, scholarships, and career opportunities.

Veteran Students' Organization (VSO)

The Brooklyn College Veteran Students' Organization was founded in 1974 by Vietnam era veterans returning to the college. The mission of the organization was to establish programs to meet the needs of veterans through academic and peer counseling.

The organization was successful in securing a grant from the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) to prepare veterans for college and improve veteran services on campus. The Veterans Outreach Center and drug abuse prevention and peer counseling programs were developed to service veterans in the entire City University of New York (CUNY) system.

Throughout the years the Veterans Students' Organization has actively engaged and cosponsored numerous on and off campus projects such as the campus Open House, freshman and graduate student orientations, campus beautification projects, building bridges informational club fairs, and the



“Each One Read to One” reading program.

Participation in these events has raised awareness of veteran student issues.

The club continues to hold events for veterans.

The Veterans Day Program and the Memorial Day Weekend Trip are programs that strengthen the camaraderie among veterans and promote intergroup relationships for all students.

The VSO welcomes all veterans with open arms.

Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Programs

The Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty)

The Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve)

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA)

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services

THE POST-9/11 GI BILL

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is for individuals with at least ninety days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after thirty days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill became effective for training on or after August 1, 2009.

THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL SELECTED RESERVE (MGIB-SR) CHAPTER 1606

The MGIB-SR program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.



THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL ACTIVE DUTY (MGIB) CHAPTER 30

The MGIB program provides up to thirty-six months of education benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Generally, benefits are payable for ten years following your release from active duty.

VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VEAP)

VEAP is available if you first entered active duty between January 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985, and you elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. Your contributions are matched on a \$2 for \$1 basis by the government. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Remedial,

deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (REAP)

REAP was established as a part of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act. It is a new Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the president or Congress. This program makes certain reservists who were activated for at least ninety days after September 11, 2001 eligible for either education benefits or increased benefits.



SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DEA)

DEA provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition. The program offers up to forty-five months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services provides vocational/educational counseling to veterans and certain dependents. Eligibility for this service is based on having eligibility for a VA education program such as: Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill); Chapter 32

(Veterans Educational Assistance Program-VEAP); Chapter 35 (Dependents' Educational Assistance Program) for certain spouses and dependent children; Chapter 18 (Spina Bifida Program) for certain dependent children; Chapter 1606 (Reservists Education Program); or Public Law 102-16 (for Transitioning Service Members).

Other VA benefits

- ACES (Army Continuing Education System)
- MyCAA (Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts)

Call 718.951.5105 for details.

For more information on other VA education benefits, visit the VA website www.va.gov, or call toll-free: 888.GIBILL.1.

Receive college credits for military service

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE UP TO 12 ELECTIVE CREDITS FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

To qualify, you must:

- ✓ Have served a minimum of four months of documented active duty to be eligible for up to 6 credits
- ✓ Have served a minimum of one year of documented active duty to be eligible for 12 credits
- ✓ Have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. services
- ✓ Maintain a GPA of 2.00 or higher
- ✓ Carry a full program (12 credits or more) even when you apply for military service credit

These credits are given as elective credits **only** and cannot be used to satisfy your major or core curriculum requirements. During your next-to-last semester, you may apply for these credits in the Center for Academic Advisement and Student Success.

12 credits are the equivalent of a full semester at Brooklyn College.

Veterans Affairs *and* COUNSELING CENTER

Serving Veterans through Education

Staff Contact List

Claudette Guinn	Coordinator of Campus-Wide Student and Veteran Affairs/VA Certifying Official cguinn@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Mirka Murrell	Veterans Outreach & Education Assistant Coordinator/VA Certifying Official mmurrell@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Yoland Wildman	Office Manager ywildman@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Office Hours

Monday	9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Tuesday	9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m. — 7 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Friday	9 a.m. — 3 p.m.

(Office is closed from 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.
on Fridays for maintenance.)

Contact Information

Brooklyn College
1407 James Hall
2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11210-6789

Phone: 718.951.5105

Fax: 718.951.3110

Email: veteransaffairs@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Website: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/veteransaffairs.htm>

Veterans Affairs and Counseling Center

ADMISSIONS AND REMINDER CHECKLIST

- ☐ Apply to Brooklyn College before the semester priority deadline:
<http://web.cuny.edu/admissions/apply.html>.
- ☐ To receive a fee waiver after applying online, go to:
<http://www.cuny.edu/about/resources/veterans/admissions.html>
- ☐ Forward transcripts from all previous colleges or post-secondary institutions attended to UAPC (as directed on your application receipt form) or the Brooklyn College Veterans Affairs and Counseling Center, 1407 James Hall, 718.951.5105.
- ☐ Enroll in Veterans Affairs Educational Benefits online through VONAPP:
<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.
- ☐ If eligible, apply for NY National Guard Tuition Benefit before deadline.
- ☐ File the FAFSA before deadline: **<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.**
- ☐ Apply for NYS TAP: **http://www.hesc.com/Content.nsf/SFC/3/Apply_for_TAP.**
- ☐ Apply for NYS Veterans Tuition Award:
http://veterans.ny.gov/veterans_tuition_award.html.
- ☐ Apply for GI Bill Benefits at your home college by providing a “Certificate of Eligibility” to the Brooklyn College Veterans Affairs and Counseling Center, 1407 James Hall, 718.951.5105.
- ☐ Provide copy of your DD-214 or DD-2384 (issued by your unit) to Brooklyn College Veterans Affairs and Counseling and the VA:
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/dd-214.html>.
- ☐ Join Brooklyn College’s Veteran Students’ Organization.

