

Veteran Checklist for College Success

- Decide which school you would like to attend. What do you want to study?
 - Contact the VA Certifying Official at each school to make sure they are approved by the VA
 - Find approved VA Education Programs:
 - Link: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/programs.htm
 - Phone: 1-888-422-4551
- Apply for admission
 - Check with each higher education institution for specific requirements
 - Schedule a campus tour to meet with professors, sit in a class, discuss admissions and financial aid, and meet with American Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, VA Certifying Official and other suggested campus offices.
- Are you using Tuition Assistance (TA)
 - Have you made contact with your Education Service Specialist or visited an Education Center to declare an Educational goal and create an educational plan?
 - For more information, visit the Army TA webpage at www.goarmyed.com or www.goarmyed.com/public_money_for_college-tuition_assistance.aspx
- Complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov, **WATCH FOR DEADLINES**
 - Your FAFSA application determines your eligibility for low or no interest student loans as well as state and other federal grants. Loans are optional.
 - Report any veterans' benefits you will be receiving
 - If you have not paid taxes, report the income you received for the calendar year specified in the FAFSA application
 - Financial aid is calculated based off of your previous year's earning. If this doesn't accurately reflect your income at the time you will be taking classes, file a financial aid appeal at the college you will be attending to have your application reassessed
 - Other helpful resources
 - Link: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>
 - Link: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- Order all transcripts from previous colleges and any military training that can be evaluated for transfer credit. Find your military transcripts and send to potential institution of higher learning:
 - **Community College of the Air Force Transcript Request Form (CCAR)**
 - Link: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/barnes/ccaf/transcripts.asp>
 - **Defense Activity for Non-traditional Education Support (DANTES)**
 - Link: <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/#sthash.Rak4r1EH.dpbs>
 - **Joint Services Transcript (JST)**
 - Link: <https://jst.doded.mil/smart/dodMandatoryBannerForm/submit.do>
- Inquire about any required testing for placement, for example, math and foreign language programs
- Attend the school's orientation process and learn about the following:
 - Rules, Regulations, and Policies
 - Tutoring Sessions, Team Athletics, and Extracurricular Activities
 - Financial Aid, Billing Procedures, Book Vouchers, American Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, Financial Aid may need a copy of DD-214
 - Housing Policies
- Consult an academic advisor
 - Register for classes
- Apply for VA benefits
 - Contact the VA Certifying Official on campus to apply for benefits

- **Complete VA Form 22-1990**
 - Link: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1990-ARE.pdf>
 - **Complete VA Form 22-1995 for a change of program/school**
 - Link: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1995-ARE.pdf>
 - **If discharged from Active Duty**
 - Link: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>
- **Typically you will have to wait 8-12 weeks to receive your first education related check from the VA**
- Once you receive the check, you need to verify attendance every month (unless you are a Ch. 33 or Vocational Rehab veteran) either by:
 - Phone: (877) 823-2378
 - Link: <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/default.cfm>
- Contact your VA Certifying Official if you have any change in enrollment status including adding courses, dropping courses, withdrawing, or receiving incomplete grades
- Veterans of OEF/OIF may contact their program managers at the VA Hospital for more information on specific OEF/OIF health care service-connected disabilities
 - **OEF/OIF Program Managers**
 - Link: <http://www.oefoif.va.gov/>
- If you are service-connected or had tailored curriculum/procedures during high school, contact the institution's disability services for assistance
 - Disability services are available for both visible and invisible disabilities so don't be afraid or ashamed to ask for help
- Is there a student veteran club organized at your college or university?
 - At Saint Francis University, Student Veterans of America is on campus. Ask the Certifying Official how to join and who to contact.
- Apply for scholarships and grants (NEVER PAY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP! Look locally as well)
 - Link: <https://www.francis.edu/external-scholarships/>
- Contact a local Veteran's Service Officer if you need help filling out VA Forms
 - **Veteran Service Officer Database**
 - Link: <http://www1.va.gov/vso>
- How to obtain your DD214 – You will have to provide a member 4 copy to the school's certifying VA official
 - **National Archives**
 - Link: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>
 - **eBenefits**
 - Link: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>
- After college
 - Job Search Websites
 - Link: www.collegecentral.com
 - Link: www.careerbuilder.com
 - Link: www.overseasjobs.com
 - Link: www.aftercollege.com
 - Resume and cover letter sites
 - Link: www.collegegrad.com
 - Government jobs and internships
 - Link: www.usajobs.gov
 - Link: www.gogovernment.org
 - Link: www.usa.gov
 - Link: www.bestplacetowork.org
 - LinkedIn
 - Link: www.linkedin.com