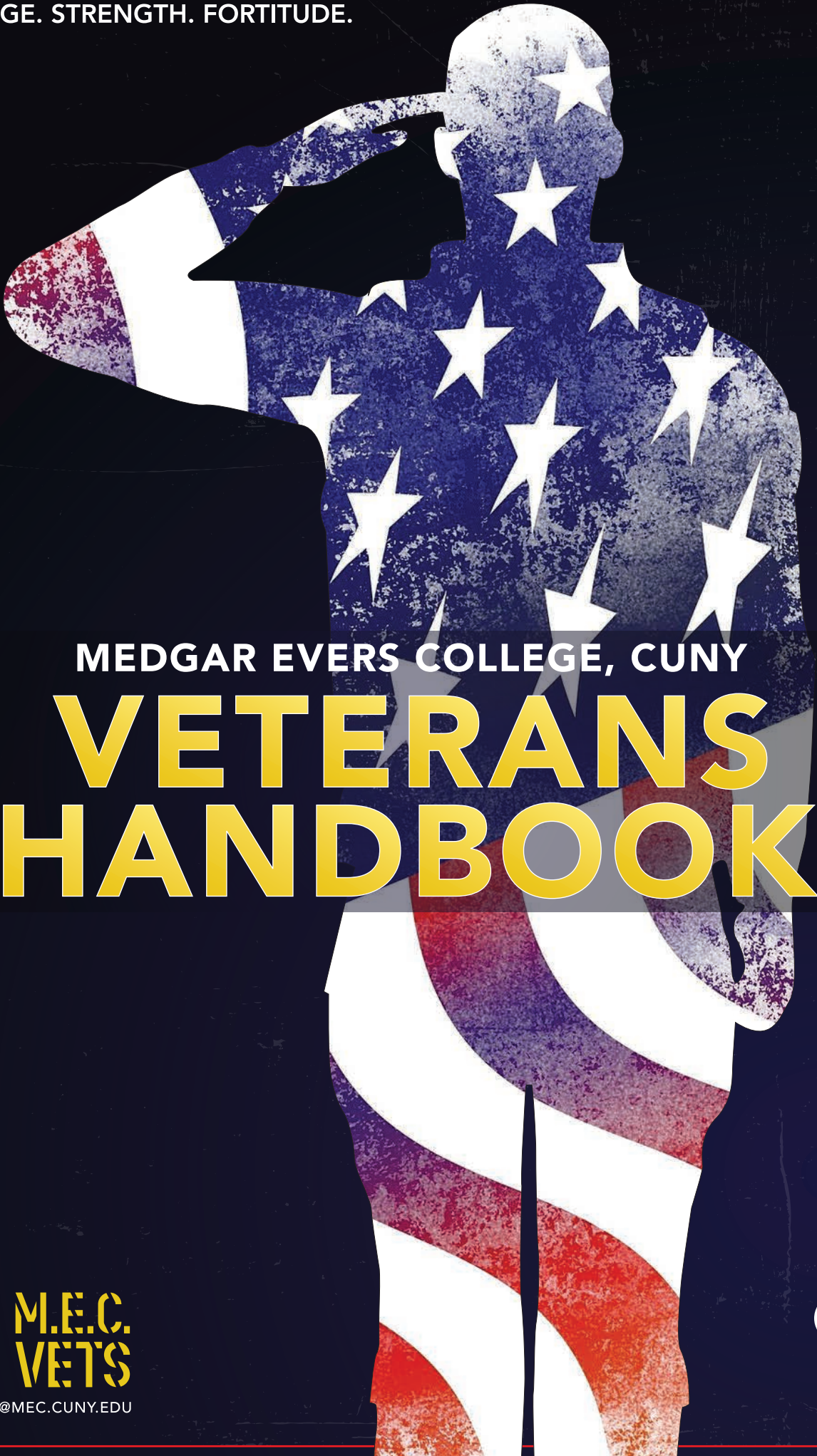


COURAGE. STRENGTH. FORTITUDE.



MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE, CUNY
**VETERANS
HANDBOOK**



MECVETS@MEC.CUNY.EDU

**CU
NY**





"You can kill a man but you can't kill an idea"
 Remembering the sacrifice of Medgar Wiley Evers

On June 12, 1963, Medgar Wiley Evers, the civil rights leader and NAACP field secretary was assassinated in the driveway of his Jackson, Mississippi home. Only 37 years old, he left behind a wife and three children. He was shot down by a white supremacist and Klansman who was convicted of the crime more than 30 years later. The assassination roused the conscience of a nation and helped pass the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The College's June 8, 2017 commencement was a poignant moment to shed a fresh light on Evers' legacy, which was invoked by keynote speaker Hillary Rodham Clinton. She shared the stage with a pre-recorded video from Myrlie Evers-Williams and with Reena Evers-Everett and Daniel Evers-Everette (respectively Evers' widow, daughter and grandson). The family spoke of Evers and the continuing struggle.

Evers' profile in the popular culture has been heightened during this period of resurgent equality battles. Along with Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, his legacy was highlighted in *"I Am Not Your Negro,"* the acclaimed Raoul Peck film about James Baldwin.

Medgar Wiley Evers accomplished much in the short time he was with us: he increased NAACP membership; aided in the investigation of the murder of Emmett Till; and helped desegregate the University of Mississippi, among other things. Let us pause today to recall the ultimate sacrifice that he made.

Medgar Evers College was founded as a result of collaborative efforts by community leaders, elected officials, the Chancellor, and the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York. The College, named for the late civil rights leader, Medgar Wiley Evers (1925-1963), was established in 1969 and accredited in 1970, with a mandate to meet the educational and social needs of the Central Brooklyn community. The College is committed to the fulfillment of this mandate.

In keeping with the philosophy of The City University of New York and Medgar Evers College, we believe that education has the power to positively transform the lives of individuals and is the right of all individuals in the pursuit of self-actualization. Consequently, the College's mission is to develop and maintain high quality, professional, career-oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of liberal education. The College offers programs both at the baccalaureate and at the associate degree levels, giving close attention to the articulation between the two-year and the four-year programs.

The College has a commitment to students who desire self-improvement, a sound education, an opportunity to develop a personal value system, and an opportunity to gain maximum benefits from life experience and from their environment.

Welcome to the Office of Veteran and Military Services (OVMS) at Medgar Evers College. OVMS is dedicated to providing culturally responsive admissions, academic and transitional support to MEC veterans, military personnel and their dependents. OVMS aims to ease the transition from service member to scholar for veterans by integrating and overseeing programs, services, resources and activities that support student veterans and encourage post-graduate success. The OVMS staff works to ensure that MEC veterans have access to campus and community resources.

We are here to assist with the following:

- Direct Admissions and Application Fee Waiver
- Priority Registration
- Applying for GI Bill and VA Benefits
- Certification of VA Education Benefits
- VA Work Study Placement
- Access to Tutorial Services and much more!

If you have any questions about how to apply for admissions, please explore our website, or contact us at 718-270-4915 or mecvets@mec.cuny.edu.

We look forward to seeing you around campus!



EDUCATION & TRAINING BENEFITS



Veterans, servicemembers and their dependents may be eligible to receive education benefits from the US Department of Veteran Affairs and/or New York State to finance the cost of tuition, housing, books and supplies.

VA education benefits may be used for college degree and certificate programs, technical or vocational courses, flight training, apprenticeships or on-the-job training, high-tech training, licensing and certification tests, entrepreneurship training, certain entrance examinations, and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

CHAPTER 30: MONTGOMERY GI BILL - ACTIVE DUTY

Eligible servicemembers may receive up to 36 months of education benefits. The monthly benefit paid to you is based on the type of training you take, length of your service, your category, any college fund eligibility, and if you contributed to the \$600 buy-up program.

You may be eligible if you have an honorable discharge; **AND** you have a high school diploma or **GED** or in some cases 12 hours of college credit; **AND** you meet the requirements of one of the categories listed on www.benefits.va.gov.

CHAPTER 32: POST-VIETNAM VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

VEAP is available if you entered service for the first time between Jan. 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985 and elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. The government matches your contributions on a 2-for-1 basis

CHAPTER 33: POST 9/11 GI BILL



If you have at least 90 days of aggregate active duty service after Sept. 10, 2001, and are still on active duty, or if you are an honorably discharged Veteran or were discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, you may be eligible for this VA-administered program.

For approved programs, the Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits. If your release from active duty was before January 1, 2013, there is a 15-year time limitation for use of benefits.

For individuals whose last discharge date is on or after January 1, 2013, the time limitation has been removed.

Tuition and fees are paid directly to the school for all public school in-state students.

The following payments may also be available:

- Monthly housing allowance
- Annual books and supplies stipend

Some servicemembers may also transfer unused GI Bill benefits to their dependents. For current GI-Bill rates visit www.benefits.va.gov.

CHAPTER 35: DEPENDENTS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

You may receive up to 45 months of education benefits. Effective October 1, 2013, some DEA beneficiaries may be eligible for up to 81 months of GI Bill benefits if they use the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance program in conjunction with an entitlement from other VA education programs. View current payment rates at www.benefits.va.gov.

CHAPTER 1606: MONTGOMERY GI BILL - SELECTED RESERVE

MGIB-SR program provides education and training benefits to eligible members of the Selected Reserve, including the **Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard** and **Air National Guard**. Eligibility for this program is determined by the Selected Reserve components and VA makes the payments.

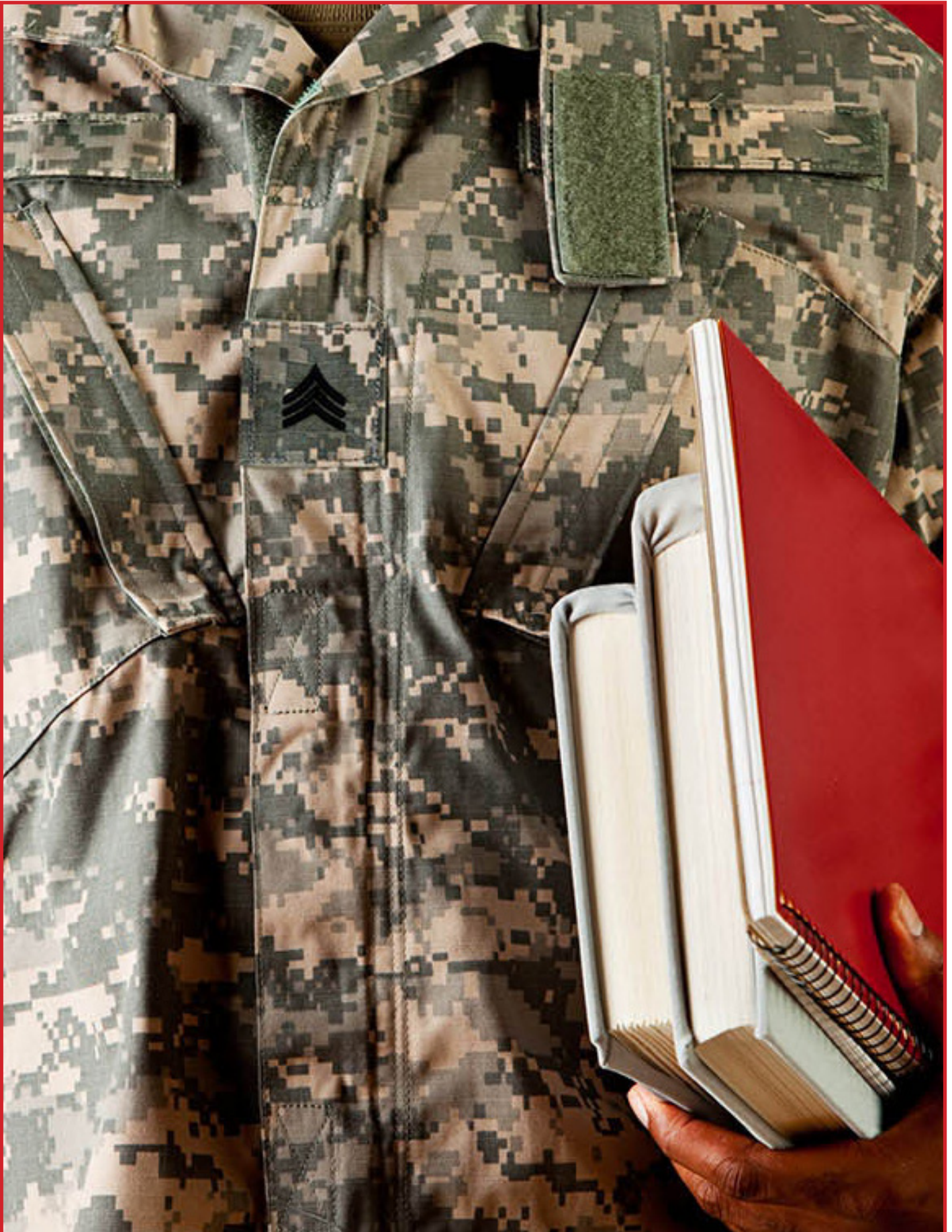
To qualify, you must meet the following requirements:

- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. For some types of training it is necessary to have a six-year commitment that begins after Sept. 30, 1990.
- Complete your initial active duty for training (**IADT**).
- Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT. You may not use 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement.
- Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit. You will also retain **MGIB-SR** eligibility if you were discharged from Selected Reserve service due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct. Your eligibility period may be extended if you are ordered to active duty. Visit www.benefits.va.gov for more information.

MILITARY TUITION ASSISTANCE

Armed Forces Tuition Assistance is a benefit paid to eligible members of the **Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard**. There are several programs which pay up to 100% tuition assistance. For a complete list of Tuition Assistance programs visit.

<https://www.military.com/education/money-school>



TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE

Tutorial assistance is available to help you pay for tutoring necessary to advance your education.

This is a supplement to your regular education benefit. Tutorial assistance is available if you are receiving VA educational assistance at the half-time or greater rate and have a deficiency in a subject, making tutoring necessary.

Available Benefit and Eligibility:

- The monthly rate of tutorial assistance may not exceed the cost of tutoring or \$100.
- The maximum amount payable is \$1,200. Visit www.benefits.va.gov for more information.

NATIONAL TESTING PROGRAM

Students can be reimbursed all required (mandatory) fees charged for national admission tests and national tests for college credit.

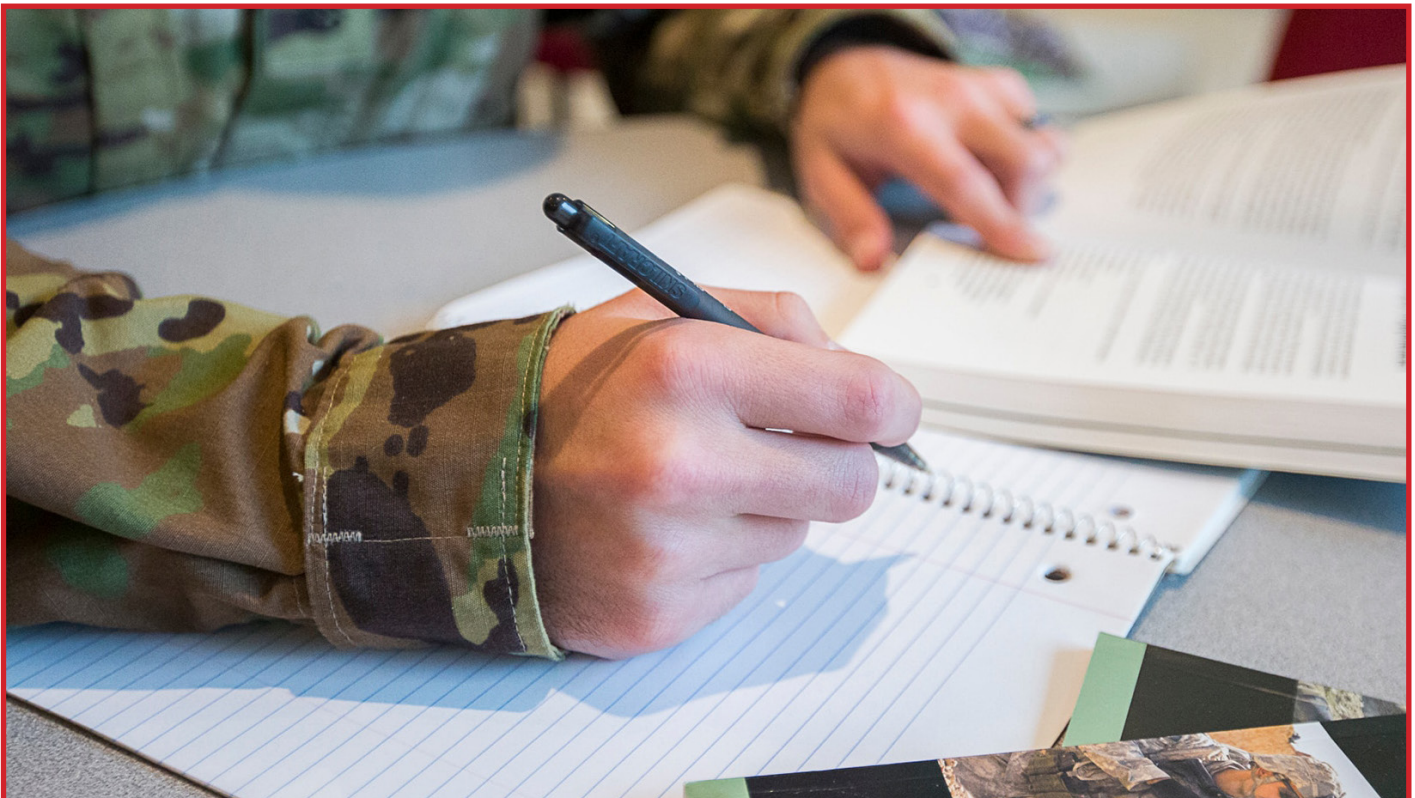
The following tests are approved for reimbursement:

- GRE (Graduate Record Exam)
- GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)

For a complete list of approved exams visit www.benefits.va.gov.

VA WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE

If you're a full-time or 3/4-time student in a college degree, vocational, or professional program, you can "earn while you learn" with a VA work-study allowance. For more information, please email mecvets@mec.cuny.edu.



VA STUDENT WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE?

MEC student veterans and dependents must be receiving educational benefits under one of the following chapters **AND** be registered to take at least 9 credits during the **FALL** and **SPRING** semesters.

- Chapter 30: The Montgomery GI Bill - AD
- Chapter 31: Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- Chapter 32: Veterans Educational Assistance Program
- Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill or Transfer of Entitlement
- Chapter 35: Survivors and Dependence Educational Assistance Program
- Chapter 1606: The Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve
- Chapter 1607: Reserve Educational Assistance Program

Upon approval by the VA, work-study students may be able to work during the Winter and Summer intersessions.

WHAT TYPE OF WORK WILL I PERFORM?

Services you perform under a VA work-study program must be related to VA work. Examples of acceptable work are:

- The preparation and processing of necessary papers and other documents at educational institutions
- Any activity at a VA facility
- Any activity at Department of Defense, Coast Guard, or National Guard facilities relating to the administration of Chapters 1606 or 1607 of Title 10 U.S.C.
- Any activity of a State Veterans agency related to providing assistance to Veterans in obtaining any benefit under Title 38, U.S.C. or the laws of the State
- A position working in a Center for Excellence for Veteran Student Success, as established under 20 U.S.C. 1161t, which purpose is to support and coordinate academic, financial, physical, and social needs of Veteran students
- A position working in a cooperative program carried out jointly by the VA and an Institution of Higher Learning

Any veterans-related position in an Institution of Higher Learning, such as:

- Assisting with dissemination of general information regarding Veteran benefits and/or services
- Providing assistance to Veteran students with general inquiries about Veteran benefits via phone, email, or in person
- Maintaining and organizing veteran-related files

The work you actually do will depend on your interests and the type of work available.

HOW MUCH WILL I MAKE?

Your hourly pay rate will be the greater of (1) the federal minimum wage OR (2) the minimum wage for the state in which you are working. Work-Study students receive their allowance **directly** from the VA. Please visit <https://www.labor.ny.gov/home/> to confirm the minimum wage for your area. Weekly work schedules are determined by the student and site supervisor.

HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply email a copy of your resume and cover letter mecvets@mec.cuny.edu. The subject of your email should be VA Work Study.

CHAPTER 31: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E)

Education and Career Counseling:

VA's Education and Career Counseling program is a great opportunity for Servicemembers, Veterans and dependents to get personalized counseling and support to help guide their career paths, ensure most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their goals.

Eligibility:

- Transitioning Servicemembers within six months prior to discharge from active duty
- Veterans within one year following discharge from active duty
- Any Servicemember/Veteran currently eligible for a VA education benefit
- All current VA education beneficiaries

Services Include Assisting the Servicemember/Veteran with:

- Career Choice - understand the best career options for you based on your interests and capabilities.
- Benefits Coaching - guidance on the effective use of your VA benefits and/or other resources to achieve your education and career goals
- Personalized Support - Academic or adjustment counseling and personalized support to help you remove any barriers to your success.

Eligible Veterans and Servicemembers may apply for either Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits or for Education/Career Counseling online through [eBenefits](#).



HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES CORPORATION: MILITARY CORNER

All veterans, servicemembers and their dependents are encouraged to apply for Federal and State Aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Visit the Financial Aid Office in RM S-110 to get assistance or visit fafsa.ed.gov to apply.

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN SERVICE GRANT

Like other federal grants, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants provide money to college or career school students to help pay their education expenses. However, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants have special eligibility criteria.

You may be eligible to receive the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant if:

- you are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant on the basis of your Expected Family Contribution but
- meet the remaining Federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements, and
- your parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of military service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11, and
- you were under 24 years old or enrolled in college at least part-time at the time of your parent's or guardian's death

Veteran Tuition Assistance

Provides awards for full-time and part-time study to eligible veterans matriculated at an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution or in an approved vocational program in New York State.

Military Enhanced Recognition Incentive and Tribute (MERIT) – also known as the Military Service Recognition Scholarship

Provides financial aid to children, spouses and financial dependents of those who, while New York State residents in service in the U.S. Armed Forces or state organized militia, at any time on or after August 2, 1990, died, became severely and permanently disabled, or was classified as missing in action in a combat zone while engaged in or training for hostilities.

NYS Regents Awards for Children of Deceased and Disabled Veterans

Provides \$450 per year to students whose parent(s) served in the U.S. Armed Forces during specified periods of war or national emergency and, as a result of service, either died, suffered a 40% or more disability, was classified as missing in action, or was a prisoner of war. The veteran must currently be a New York State resident or have been a New York State resident at the time of death or classification as missing in action.

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Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program (RIRP)

RIRP provides college financial aid, up to \$4,350 per year, to any active service member who has successfully completed advanced individual training or commissioning and other requirements of the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs. Information and applications for this program may be obtained from the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

How To Apply: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/military-corner.html>

VETERAN RESOURCES

Below is a list of addresses, phone numbers, and websites that may be useful in your military to civilian transition.

VA MEDICAL CENTERS

Bronx VA Medical Center

130 West Kingsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10468
718-584-9000

Brooklyn Poly Place Campus

VA Medical Center
800 Poly Place
Brooklyn, NY 11209
718-836-6600

New York Division VA Medical Center

423 East 23rd St
New York, NY 10010
212-686-7500

St. Albans Extended Care Center

17901 Linden Blvd
Jamaica, NY 11434
718-526-1000

VA CENTERS

Brooklyn Veterans Center

25 Chapel Street Suite 604
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-624-2765

Queens Veterans Center

75-10B 91 Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421
718-296-2871

Manhattan Veterans Center

32 Broadway 2nd FL, Suite 200
New York, NY 10004
212-742-9591

Staten Island Veterans Center

60 Bay Street
Staten Island, NY 10301
718-816-4499

Nassau Veterans Center

970 South Broadway
Hicksville, NY 11801
516-348-0088

White Plains Vet Center

300 Hamilton Ave Suite C
White Plains, NY 10601
914-682-6250





WEBSITES

eBenefits.....	www.eBenefits.va.gov
Education Benefits.....	www.benefits.va.gov/gibill
Health Care Eligibility.....	www.va.gov/healthbenefits
Homeless Veterans.....	www.va.gov/homeless
Mental Health.....	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
National Resource Directory.....	www.nrd.gov
Records.....	www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel
Women Veterans.....	www.va.gov/womenvet
VA Benefit Payment Rates.....	www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates
VA Forms.....	www.va.gov/vaforms
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment.....	www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab

NYC Veterans

New York City, Department of Veteran Services strives to:

- Work with veterans in need to find permanent housing and access to support services needed to find and maintain their home through our Housing and Support Services.
- Support the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of NYC veterans and their families through our VetsThriveNYC Integrative Health Program, the veteran-focused complement to the First Lady's ThriveNYC Mental Health Roadmap and the DVS Core 4 Integrative Health Model.
- Expand education and career opportunities for veterans through a rapidly growing network of City, public, private, and non-profit partners with our Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship programs.



NYServes - New York City is the first coordinated network of public, private & non-profit organizations working together to serve Veterans & their families **Service Types Provided:**

- Employment, Healthcare, Benefits, Mentoring, Meeting Vets, Disability, Financial Assistance, Housing, Volunteering, Legal, Sports & Fitness. Visit the Office of Veteran & Military Services or call 844-347-9244 to receive a coordinated confidential referral.



Stand Beside Them (SBT) is a nonprofit organization, providing free one-on-one, confidential coaching for veterans, spouses, and caregivers. Experienced, certified, highly-trained Stand Beside Them coaches come with credentials and accomplishments from all walks of life.

Several of the coaches are veterans. Check out testimonials from other veterans and apply for coaching on the SBT website: <http://www.standbesidethem.org> or call **SBT** at **212-706-VETS (8387)**.



Get Career guidance:

American Corporate Partner's free Mentoring Program connects post-9/11 veterans (Protégés) with corporate professionals (Mentors) for customized mentorships. ACP assists veterans on their path towards fulfilling, long-term careers, whether the veteran is job searching or newly employed.

Typical mentorship goals include:

Résumé review and interview preparation, Career exploration and understanding job opportunities, Career advancement once a position is obtained, Work-life balance, Networking, Small business development, Leadership and professional communication. Visit www.acp-usa.org for more information.



The Medgar Evers College app brings services to your fingertips and enables you to connect with classmates and friends. Access events, calendars, contacts, maps and more! Stay organized with the timetable function, where you can save events, classes and assignments.

Features that help with student life:

- **Classes:** Manage classes, created to dos & reminders and stay on top of assignments
- **Study Tools:** Keep track of study sessions and build effective stud habits with the study timer
- **Timetable sharing:** See when friends are in class or free.
- **Events:** Find what events are happening on campus.
- **Tour:** Explore the MEC Campus.
- **Deals:** Access exclusive discounts.
- **Campus Services:** Learn about services offered.
- **Groups & Clubs:** How to get involved with campus clubs.
- **Campus Feed:** Join the campus discussions.
- **Campus Map:** Directions to classes events and offices.
- **Students List:** Communicate with fellow students.



The CUNYfirst MyInfo Mobile app is a new lookup tool for students to quickly find key information for the new semester. Log in using your Blackboard/CUNY Portal credentials. Use it to find your class schedule, class textbooks, financial aid, holds, academic calendar, campus map,



NYS Veterans App provides quick access to benefit information and crisis hotlines, as well as a long list of state and local veteran facilities and offices.

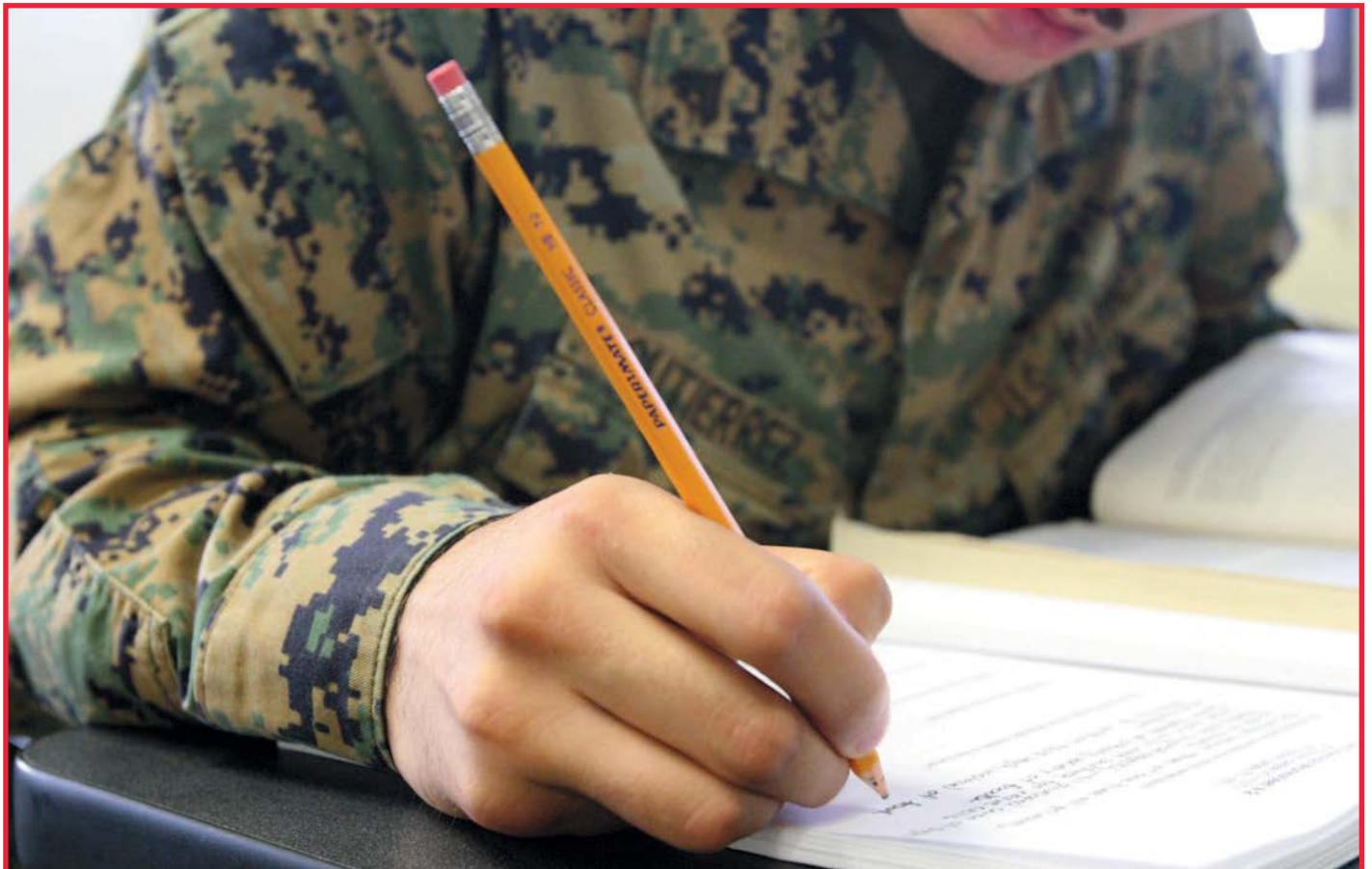
For more resources stop by The Office of Veteran & Military Services





MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE CLUB FAIR





MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE, CUNY
OFFICE OF VETERAN & MILITARY SERVICES
1150 CARROLL STREET RM 306
BROOKLYN , NY 11225
718-270-4915
MECVETS@MEC.CUNY.EDU



*INFORMATION IN THIS HANDBOOK
WAS CURRENT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.
**VISIT ARES.MEC.CUNY.EDU
FOR THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION.***