GW serves over 1,800 military affiliated students and their families.
Mission Statement:

- To provide excellence in service through:
  - Timely and accurate benefit processing
  - High quality customer service
  - Supportive community-building programmatic activities

- The Office of Military and Veteran Student Services strives to serve GW’s military-connected students so they can focus on their academic, professional, and career-oriented pursuits.
Andrew Sonn
Director

Over 20 years experience in higher education.

Helped found GW’s Office of Military and Veteran Student Services in 2008.

Led implementation team for GW’s Yellow Ribbon Program.

Teaches higher education administration courses as a visiting professor in GW’s Graduate School of Education and Human Development.
Victoria Pridemore
Associate Director

Army Veteran (OIF and OEF) and member of the Virginia Army National Guard

Started with VALOR in April 2014.

Pursuing her Master in Business Administration at GW

Returning to our office in October 2017
Kellis Robbins
Coordinator

Air Force Dependent and Former VALOR Student

Started with VALOR Student Services in April 2016.

Pursuing her M.A. in Communication Management Fall 2016
Ashley Moore

Pursuing her Masters in Counseling

Spouse of an veteran (Army)

Started as a Graduate Fellow with OMVSS since Fall 2016.

Specializes in event planning, logistics, and website design.

Anna Hertlein

Pursuing Masters in Higher Education Administration

Joined OMVSS Fall 2017

Specializes in benefits processing; is an SCO
Laura Ferraro

VetSuccess On Campus Counselor

Assigned to GW through the VA in Summer 2016

Works with veterans receiving Chapter 31 benefits

Laura holds a Masters in Rehabilitative and Disabilities Studies
**VALOR Network**

**University Partners**

- **Marva Gumbs Jennings**: Managing Director, Interdisciplinary Career Services
- **Jen Mostafa**: Military Coordinator, GW Mental Health Services, Army Veteran and current Reservist
- **Tyler McManus**: President GW Veterans, Marine Corps Veteran, studying Psychology and Political Science
VA Work Study
Student Team

VA work study students are our front line and the backbone of our office.

Highly trained students using VA Benefits.

Able to answer many benefit questions.

Assist the team with programmatic activities and organization.
Benefits Processing

Most Popular: Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill

*Tuition & fees paid to GW; housing (BAH) and book stipend are paid to student

GI Bill Benefits
- Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill
- Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation
- Chapter 35 Survivors and Dependents
- Chapter 1606 Select Reserve

Tuition Assistance Benefits
- Scholarships

Financial Aid Counseling
- Scholarships
Eligibility and Yellow Ribbon

Eligibility is determined by the Department of Veteran Affairs. Your percentage of eligibility will be listed on your Certificate of Eligibility. OMVSS can assist you with obtaining a COE or to further explain benefits.

For students 100% eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill, GW has committed to the Department of Veterans Affairs Yellow Ribbon Program to help close the gap in the cost of education.

You may be able transfer your benefit to your spouse or use your benefit now or in the future. OMVSS would be happy to discuss your situation. Contact us at any time.
Post 9/11 GI Bill & YRP Benefits

2017–2018

2017-18 POST 9/11 GI BILL & YRP BENEFITS

Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) –
Most common GI Bill used here at GW. Because GW is a private institution, there is cap amount of tuition and fees the VA will pay for a student’s tuition.

Post 9/11 Base Benefit Caps

100% - $22,805.34
90%  - $20,524.80
80%  - $18,244.27
70%  - $15,963.73
60%  - $13,683.20
50%  - $11,402.67
40%  - $9,122.13

Yellow Ribbon Program (Chapter 33 recipients only) –
- School contributions are matched by VA
- Must be 100% eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Not on Active Duty
- Not a spouse of someone on Active Duty

Yellow Ribbon Program Caps

Undergraduate - $22,500/$45,000
Graduate      - $14,000/$28,000
Law           - $17,860/$35,720
Yellow Ribbon Students

- Students MUST be eligible for 100% Post 9/11 GI Bill

- Students cannot be on active duty or using their spouse's benefits while he/she is on active duty
Student Checklist Overview

- Contact a Department of Veteran Affairs Representative to discuss your education benefits. 1-888-442-4551

Complete the online GI Bill Application (gibill.va.gov)
- This is also known as "VONAPP"
- This triggers the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to be sent to you from the VA

- Send your COE to our office (scan/email) *YOUR COE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO RECEIVE BENEFITS (also update annually)

- File the FAFSA (needed for loans and university aid)

- REGISTER for classes

- AFTER registering, complete the REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION in GWeb (Student Records/Registration => Veteran Menu)

- You must request certification EACH semester you plan to use benefits

* If you are Yellow Ribbon Eligible, ALSO fill out the YRP Request on GWeb after you have submitted your request for certification (this request is also done ONCE EVERY ACADEMIC YEAR)
How our certifying process works...

First, we do "Certifying at Zero"
- This certification process begin after registration for classes opens
- Certifies your enrollment without the tuition charges
- Triggers BAH payments and book stipend (Post 9/11 only)

Then, we do "Certifying for Tuition"
- This certification process begins after the add/drop period for classes
- VA sends tuition payments to school or student (depending on your chapter)
Additional financial info and FAQs

- Tuition Assistance: POC
- Scholarships
- Financial Aid Counseling
- Emergency Loans
- Courses toward degree
  - SAP
- Voluntary Library Fee
- Refunds
VetSuccess on Campus

Laura Ferraro
VR&E Program Intent

- Provide services to assist Veterans and Servicemembers with service-connected disabilities to succeed:
  - In transition ... through services to support transition back to civilian life
  - At work ... through services resulting in suitable employment
  - On campus ... through services to support them during education and training
  - At home ... and in their communities ... through services to maximize independence in daily living
VR&E Eligibility Criteria

Veterans:
- Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- A VA service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or more; or memorandum rating of 20 percent
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits

Active Duty Servicemembers:
- Expect to receive a honorable discharge
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more
- Obtain a Proposed Disability Evaluation Service (DES) rating
- Servicemembers awaiting discharge due to a medical condition resulting from a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty may be automatically entitled to VR&E benefits under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008.
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits
5 Tracks to Employment

- Re-employment
- Rapid Access to Employment
- Employment through Long-Term Services
- Independent Living Services
- Self-Employment
VR&E Benefits and GI Bill

- **Is the VR&E Program the same as the GI Bill?**
- No. GI Bill is an educational program.
- The purpose of the VR&E Program is to help Veterans with service-connected disabilities and barriers to employment to become suitably employed.
- Four of the Five VR&E Tracks of Services are geared specifically toward employment.
- The “E” in VR&E stands for the program’s mission to assist Veterans and Servicemembers with obtaining suitable Employment.
Chapter 18 and 35 Benefits

How VR&E assists Eligible Dependents

Chapter 18 Benefits
• VR&E provides services to eligible dependents born with spina bifida and other congenital disabilities.
• With the goal of suitable employment, VR&E provides training and other rehabilitative services.

Chapter 35 Benefits
• Dependents’ Educational Assistance
• Educational benefit provided to eligible dependents of Veterans who have either died, been involuntarily detained, or determined to have a permanent and total service-connected disability.
Other Programs and Services

• Chapter 36, Educational and Career/Vocational Counseling services
• VR&E assisting Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible dependents

• VetSuccess on Campus
• VR&E assisting Servicemembers, student Veterans, and eligible dependents

• Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)
• VR&E assisting Servicemembers that are wounded, ill, or injured
VetSuccess on Campus

How VR&E assists Student Veterans

• VR&E has VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Counselors on over 90 college campuses to assist Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible dependents. These VSOC Counselors provide a multitude of services to ease the transition to student life.

• The VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program's mission is to provide student Veterans seamless access to VA services; support their successful integration into college and university campuses; support their individualized educational goals, so they may persist, graduate, and improve their life circumstances; and successfully live and thrive in the career field and community of their choice.
Veteran Students may receive the following support and services:
• Adjustment counseling to resolve problems interfering with completion of education programs and entrance into employment
• Vocational testing
• Career and academic counseling
• Expedited Chapter 31 services
• Support and assistance to all student Veterans with VA benefits regardless of entitlement, benefit usage and enrollment status
• Peer-to-peer counseling
• Assistance with navigating the academic environment and process
• Referral services as needed
OMVSS supports student success on campus through:

- Community Building
- Advocacy & Education
- Wellness
- Social
- Career Services
- Volunteer Opportunities
**Tailgate and Resource Fair!**

Annual event the Friday before Fall classes begin

Family friendly day for ALL military affiliated students.

FREE FOOD! Picnic, games, community and GW organizations and services

Network with local organizations that are here to support YOU

Meet GW Offices you should know about!

**Military Mile Memorial March**

Last Saturday in April- OMVSS and GW Veterans gather with the GW and DC Community to "honor the past, and celebrate the future."

Groups of GW Veterans, GW students, and community members complete a walking or running tour of several different memorials in DC and then return to GW for lunch to celebrate the graduating seniors, new GW Veterans leadership, and a successful year.
Veterans Week

The Office of Military and Veteran Student Services honors all veterans at GW and in the DC Community. Activities include:

- Reception
- Wreath Laying at GW
- The Ribbon Project
- Military Appreciation Basketball Game
- Social at Froggy Bottom Pub with Vietnam Veterans
- GW Veterans Fundraiser Week
- Community Engagement around DC Metro Area

November 6-10, 2017

VALOR in Politics

Joint program with GW Graduate School of Political Management

Purpose is to educate and prepare veteran students to continue their commitment to public service in politics and political management.

Events are hosted semesterly and offer a variety of mentorship, lectures, and networking opportunities.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The PITCH</th>
<th>Other Career Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>Business cards</td>
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<td>A unique competition and training for military affiliated students to</td>
<td>Site Visits</td>
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<td>develop their pitch, job fair, and interview skills.</td>
<td>Deloitte Mentorship Program</td>
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<td>Prepare your best personal &quot;pitch&quot;, receive coaching from industry</td>
<td>NYC Trip</td>
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<td>pros, network with employers and other students, and have a chance to</td>
<td>Alumni Panel</td>
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<td>win cash prizes!</td>
<td>Career Fairs</td>
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<td>.....and more!</td>
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Wellness

Jen Mostafa, LGPC

Individual and Group Support

Designed to support military students as they transition between military service and university life. Topics covered will include mindfulness education and techniques, military experience, coping strategies, and peer support for everyday issues.
GW Veterans
Mission

GW Veterans advocates for the academic, professional, and social support for the 1800 military-related students enrolled at the George Washington University (GW). Membership is open to all students who support the military community at GW.
History

• Heart of DC (Largest Resource)
• Origins dating to November 1919 with returning WWI Veterans
• First recipient of the 1944 GI Bill enrolled at GW
• Resurged in 2008
• GW VALOR launched in 2013
• Ranked #32 2017 “Best for Vets” 4-year Universities
• Ranked #6 when comparing private schools
Provide resources that will enable our members to surpass their definition of academic and professional success while attending The George Washington University

• Promote “Boots-to-Backpack” and “Backpack-to-Briefcase” Transition
• Connect members with resources to ensure they are sought after for competitive positions of employment
Military Community Center
2035 F Street

*In late 2016, GW opened the Military Community Center in order to enrich the support for military affiliated students

*GW Veterans has a lounge and plenty of study space!
Maintain and increase diverse/inclusive membership body including non-military affiliated students

• Engage members in social and service projects to develop well-rounded civic leaders
Maintain University-wide relationships

• Promote GW Veteran outreach and partnerships throughout the GW community

• Strengthen and maintain a vibrant alumni network
WWW.GWVETERANS.COM

• Member Sign-Up
• Links to:
  • Official Facebook Page
  • Facebook Member Group
  • LinkedIn Member Group
  • Twitter
• Events Calendar
  • www.gwveterans.com/events
• Merchandise
• and more...
Contact Us

OMVSS is here to support you! Contact us for any issues... if we can't help, we will get you in touch with someone who can!

Marvin Center, Ground Floor
Email: vetserve@gwu.edu
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Social Media: #GWVetServe
www.service.military.gwu.edu