



## VA Education Benefits Checklist for New and Returning Students

Welcome to Golden West College! This checklist will assist military-connected students in enrolling and utilizing their VA Education Benefits at GWC. Feel free to skip any steps you've already completed or those that don't apply to you. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Veterans Resource Center using the contact information provided below.

1. Apply to Golden West College
  - [Access GWC Application](#)
2. Apply for VA Education Benefits
  - [Access VA Application](#)
3. Submit New Student Form
  - [Access New Student Form](#)
    - This form is a one-time requirement if you remain continuously enrolled.
    - Upload your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and DD214 when completing this form. Ensure to submit your COE and DD214 before your second semester if you don't have copies.
4. Submit Official Transcripts
  - [Order Joint Service Transcripts \(JSTs\)](#)
  - [Order Other Institutions Transcripts](#)
  - The VA requires review of all prior credit, including official Military Transcripts (JST) for veterans.
5. Apply for Financial Aid
  - [Visit Financial Aid Website](#)
  - While not mandatory, it's strongly recommended for all students using VA Education Benefits to apply for financial aid.
6. Schedule a Counseling Appointment
  - You must meet with a GWC counselor knowledgeable about VA Education Benefits.
  - Schedule your appointment with counseling at (714) 895-8119. Mention that you're a student veteran using VA Education Benefits.
7. Register for Classes
  - [View Registration Steps](#)
8. Submit the Request for Certification
  - [Access Request for Certification Form](#)
  - This form is required every semester after you register for your enrollment to be reported to the VA.
  - Forgetting to submit this form after registration may lead to being dropped for non-payment. Enrollments aren't always monitored by the School Certifying Official (SCO) before the term begins.

Questions?

Please contact the Veterans Resource Center at (714) 892-7711 x55144 or [vets@gwc.cccd.edu](mailto:vets@gwc.cccd.edu).