

## Table of Contents

### **Section 1**

Foreword Page 2

### **Section 2**

Explanation on Veterans' Educational Benefits Page 3

Yellow Ribbon Program Page 4

Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits Page 4

Montgomery GI Bill Page 5

Post 9/11 Bill Page 6

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) Page 7

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) Page 8

Tuition Waivers Page 9

Tuition Coverage Page 9

Senior Citizen Tuition Waiver Page 9

Placement Tests Page 9

### **Section 3**

Explanation of Terms for Staff at Universities Page 10

CT Works Page 11

### **Section 4 - Local Colleges**

Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) Page 12

Albertus Magnus Page 13

Capital Community College Page 14

Central Connecticut State University Page 14

\*Gateway Community College Page 15

Housatonic Community College Page 15

Manchester Community College Page 16

Middlesex Community College Page 17

\*Norwalk Community College Page 18

Post University Page 19

\*Sacred Heart University Page 19

\*Southern Connecticut State University Page 20

Stone Academy Page 20

Tunxis Community College Page 21

University of Bridgeport Page 21

\*University of New Haven Page 22

Western Connecticut State University Page 23

### **Section 5 - Handouts**

Education Cheat Sheet

Local Colleges Contact Sheet

CT Works

VITAL (Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership)

**\* VITAL Partner School**

## Foreword

This Educational Resource Guide is meant to be used as a detailed guide for clinicians and Veterans who may have specific questions in regards to Educational Benefits or who may be interested in going back to school and need to find out more information about local colleges.

This Educational Resource Guide is recovery oriented because:

- It provides education for Veterans about their rights, resources, roles, and responsibilities.
- It empowers Veterans, providing a sense of hope and promoting self-determination and autonomy.
- It educates Veterans about returning to school or starting school for the first time.
- It will improve access and utilization of resources, particularly around health and education.
- It can be used by Veterans and clinicians to advocate and build awareness for the rights of Veterans pursuing higher education.
- It provides education about peer support programs such as Veteran's OASIS and other Veteran programs in the community.
- It can be used as a tool to overcome stigma, stereotypes, and other barriers in an individual's recovery.
- It fosters community re-integration, social inclusion, and provides community resources; empowering individuals, families, and communities to serve as a foundation for Veterans in recovery.

**This guide is also available on the Veteran run and operated website. It can be viewed at:  
<http://www.erreracc.com/>**

This Educational Resource Guide was created by the Mental Health Outreach and Advocacy VISTA as a part of The Veterans Recovery Project. This guide is designed to serve as a tool to advocate for and build awareness around Educational opportunities for Veterans.

## **Explanation on Veterans' Educational Benefits:**

(Information taken from the Veterans Affairs Benefits For Veterans and Dependents Quick Series book)

This overview of Veteran's Educational Benefits serves as a summation of benefits and programs for Veterans.

When a Veteran applies for benefits he/she must be a resident of the State of Connecticut. Some benefits require (90) days of active duty during a defined period of war in order to qualify. The only exception is if the Veteran was separated earlier due to a service-connected disability or the period of war lasted less than (90) days.

A Veteran may also be eligible if they served in a combat or combat-supporting role. Connecticut recognizes periods of war ranging from the Spanish-American War to the Persian Gulf, and Iraqi Freedom.

### **Those who served in the following manner may qualify for benefits:**

Active duty for at least ninety (90) days:

World War II (December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946)

Korean Hostilities (June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955)

Vietnam (February 28, 1961 to July 1, 1975)

Persian Gulf Era (August 2, 1990 - a date to be determined by Presidential proclamation or federal law - Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom(Afghanistan) and Iraqi Freedom are included in this category).

OR, Engaged in combat or in combat support role in the:

Lebanon Conflict (July 1, 1958 to November 1, 1958)

Peace-keeping Mission in Lebanon (September 29, 1982 to March 30, 1984)

Grenada Invasion (October 25, 1982 to December 15, 1983)

Operation Earnest Will (July 24, 1987 to August 1, 1990)

Panama Invasion (December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990)

## **Yellow Ribbon Program**

This program was enacted to potentially assist eligible individuals with payment of their tuition and fees in instances where costs exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education. To be eligible, the student must be: a Veteran receiving benefits at the 100% benefit rate payable, a transfer-of-entitlement eligible dependent child, or a transfer-of-entitlement eligible spouse of a Veteran.

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits**

The Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits assist Veterans with service-connected disabilities to find, prepare for, and keep jobs. This is done through the use of various education and job training programs.

To qualify, a Veteran must:

- Have received or will receive an other than dishonorable discharge;
- Have a service connected disability rating of at least 10% or a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the Department of Veteran Affairs.

If eligible, the program will send a check to the school to cover the tuition and fees for the Veteran student. They will also send the Veteran student a check and the amount received will depend on how many classes are being taken and the number of dependents. The monthly max without dependents is \$585.11.

To apply fill out VA Form 28-1900 and mail it to your local regional office or visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vonapp>.

**To speak with an Education Counselor at the VA call 1-860-666-7379**

## Montgomery GI Bill

VA educational benefits may be used while the Service member is on active duty or after the Service member's separation from active duty with a fully honorable military discharge. Discharges "under honorable conditions" and "general" discharges do not establish eligibility.

Eligibility expires 15 years after the Service member's discharge. However, there are exceptions for disability, re-entering active duty and upgraded discharges.

All participants must have a high school diploma, equivalency certificate, or have completed 12 hours toward a college degree before applying for benefits.

### **(Regular) GI Bill**

**Eligibility:** You must complete 3 years of active duty with an honorable discharge.

**Time:** You have 15 years to use it from the time you're discharged. You receive 36 months of this benefit but if you were still in the military during September 11, 2001 you can get an extra year at the Post 9/11 rate.

**Money** You get paid at the end of each month, the money is sent to you and not the school so you have to pay the school. How much you get paid depends on how many classes you take, the max payout per month is \$1,564

**Education Requirement:** Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate.

### **(Reserve) GI Bill**

**Eligibility:** You must be in the reserve or National Guard and have a 6 year contract.

**Time:** You have 15 years to use it from the time you're discharged. You will receive 36 months of this benefit.

**Money:** You get paid at the end of each month, the money is sent to you and not the school so you have to pay the school. How much you get paid depends on how many classes you take, the max payout per month is \$356.

**Education Requirement:** Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate.

## Post 9/11 Bill

The Post 9/11 bill is an educational benefit program for Service members and Veterans who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

To be eligible, the Service member or Veteran must serve at least 90 total days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably:

- Discharged from active-duty status;
- Released from active duty and placed on the retired list or temporary disability retired list;
- Released from active duty and transferred to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve;
- Released from active duty for further service in a Reserve component of the Armed Forces.

Veterans may also be eligible if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001.

Generally Service members or Veterans may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Based on the length of active-duty service, eligible participants are entitled to receive a percentage of the following:

- Cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education (**paid directly to the school**);
- Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to military E-5 with dependents, in the same zip code as the primary school (**paid directly to the Service member or Veteran**);
- Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 per year (**paid directly to the Service member or Veteran**);
- A one-time payment of \$500 paid to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas. Benefits may be used for any approved program offered by a school in the U.S. that is authorized to grant an associate (or higher) degree.

## **Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)**

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) offers Veterans up to 12 months of retraining assistance in the pursuit of an associate's degree, a certificate, or the training for a high demand occupation.

To qualify, a Veteran must:

- Be between the ages of 35 and 60;
- be unemployed;
- have an other than dishonorable discharge;
- not be eligible for any other VA education benefits;
- not be in receipt of VA compensation due to being unemployed;
- not be enrolled in a federal job or state training program.

Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation. If you qualify a check is sent to the Veteran to use to pay the school for their classes. Any left over money is for the Veteran to keep. The max amount each month is \$1,564.

**For more information call: 1-800-827-1000 or visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow>**

## **Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)**

Active-duty personnel could participate in the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) if they entered active duty for the first time after December 31, 1976, and before July 1, 1985, and made a contribution prior to April 1, 1987.

Service members who participated in VEAP are eligible to receive benefits while on active duty if:

- At least 3 months of contributions are available, except for high school or elementary school, in which one month is needed.
- And they enlisted for the first time after September 7, 1980, and completed 24 months of their first period of active duty.

Service members must receive a discharge under conditions other than dishonorable for the qualifying period of service. Service members who enlisted for the first time after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty as an officer or enlistee after October 16, 1981, must have completed 24 continuous months of active duty, unless they meet a qualifying exception.

**For more information about any of these benefits please call 1-888-442-4551 or visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) for detailed information on all educational benefits provided by the VA.**



## **Tuition Waivers**

Veterans may attend Connecticut Public Colleges and Universities tuition free. Connecticut statutes provide that tuition may be waived for qualified veterans attending the University of Connecticut, Connecticut State Universities, and the 12 Community-Technical Colleges. Waivers cover only the cost of tuition for undergraduate and graduate programs. Other charges, such as books, student activity and course fees, parking, and room and board, are not waived. To qualify for a waiver at the University of Connecticut and Connecticut State Universities, Veterans generally must be admitted to a degree program. Community-Technical Colleges are more flexible in regards to the number of classes a Veteran needs to take to qualify. Remember to take a copy of your separation papers with you when applying for admission and registering for courses.

## **Tuition Coverage**

Tuition waivers for veterans cover 100% of tuition for General Fund courses at all public colleges and universities and 50% for Extension Fund and summer courses at Connecticut State Universities.

## **Senior Citizen Tuition Waiver**

Connecticut residents 62 years of age and older are eligible for tuition waivers at any public college or university as well as all 12 Community-Technical Colleges, and at the state vocational high schools. Waivers are available only when space exists at the end of a registration period. Other fees, and costs for books and supplies, are not waived. For specific details and to find out what kind of documentation you may need to register, contact the school or visit their website. Waivers do not apply to Extension Fund courses which are generally summer school and noncredit, continuing education offerings.

## **Placement Tests**

Colleges use placement tests in Math and English to assess the academic skill levels of entering students. This way the college can place each student in classes at the right academic level for them.

Almost all two-year colleges and many public four-year colleges require new students to take at least one placement test when they first get to campus. Some private four-year colleges also use these tests.

Community colleges tend to rely on these tests because their entering students can have very different skill levels. Test results may mean that you can skip some introductory courses or they can show that you need more preparation before taking more advanced classes and need to take an introductory course to review information before moving onto a different level.

## Explanation of Terms for Staff at Universities:

<b>Disability Coordinator</b>	Responsible for seeing that those Veterans with disabilities are accommodated such that they receive the same access to education services as non-disabled individuals.
<b>Registrar</b>	Responsible for the computer portion of processing the Veteran's class schedule.
<b>Financial Aid</b>	Responsible for specifically answering any questions related to financial aid. This individual also can check on FAFSA status. The National Training Curriculum of the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) defines Certifying Official in the glossary as: “The representative of an education or training establishment who is authorized to sign and submit DVA (Department of Veterans Affairs) documents verifying a Veteran’s enrollment, change in status, receipt of advance payment, and any other circumstances that affect the amount or duration of education assistance benefits.”
<b>Certifying Official</b>	Responsible for helping the Veteran with any payment issues he/she may be having in regards to his/her Educational Benefits.
<b>Transcript Coordinator</b>	Responsible for transferring the Veteran's military training and skills into equivalent college credits.
<b>Veteran Representative</b>	Responsible for answering any questions regarding benefits and how to apply to the school. They are also there to listen to the Veteran about any issues they may encounter with teachers or school-related problems and properly resolve those issues. Depending on institution, may coordinate services for veterans working with all of the above as well as VA and State offices serving veterans in college. May provide direct services including counseling and liaison to educators on veterans’ behalf.

**CT Works Career Centers**  
**www.ct.gov/dol**

One-Stop resource for jobs, training, and skill development. All services are free. Career counseling, job development, and referrals to other services are also provided.

**Free Workshops:**

- interviewing, interviewing strategies, Internet job searches, resumes, time management, stress management, job applications.

**Use the computer lab to:**

- search for jobs and send resumes electronically, prepare resumes and cover letters, Internet access, posting resume to online job sites.

**Supplied:**

- paper for resume/cover letters, envelopes, computer discs, access to fax machine, copy machine, and free mailing service for resumes.

**Local Career Centers**

---

<b>Bridgeport - 2 Lafayette Square</b>	<b>203-333-5129 or 203-455-2700</b>
<b>Hamden - 37 Marne Street</b>	<b>203-859-3200</b>
<b>Hartford - 3580 Main Street</b>	<b>860-256-3860 or 860-256-3700</b>
<b>New Britain - 260 Lafayette Street</b>	<b>860-827-6200</b>
<b>New Haven - 560 Ella T. Grasso Blvd.</b>	<b>203-624-1493</b>
<b>Waterbury - 249 Thomaston Ave.</b>	<b>203-437-3380 or 203-437-3304</b>

---

## **Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (V.I.T.A.L.)**

The Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership initiative is a Veteran-centered collaboration between the VA and higher education. V.I.T.A.L. works toward enhancing academic success for Veteran students. At the time of this printing there are only 21 VA sites that have a V.I.T.A.L. program. West Haven's program began in March of 2013.

There are 5 Connecticut schools that have been chosen as V.I.T.A.L. partners:

Gateway Community College  
Southern Connecticut State University  
University of New Haven  
Norwalk Community College  
Sacred Heart University

### **Services for Veterans include:**

- treatment for adjustment to civilian and college life
- stress management
- anger and depression
- anxiety including test and other school-related anxiety
- sleep problems
- PTSD
- assistance with enrollment of VA healthcare
- collaborate with college/university disability services
- support and development of Student Veteran Peer Groups

### **Services for Academic Faculty/Staff:**

- education about Military & Veteran culture
- training about how to work with Student Veterans
- "Got Your Six" and "Green Zone" workshops
- consultation regarding Veteran-specific issues that impact performance

### **Contact:**

Amy C. Kaplan, LCSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
V.I.T.A.L. Program Coordinator  
amy.kaplan@va.gov  
cell: 203-800-5512

## Albertus Magnus

Albertus Magnus is located at 700 Prospect Street in New Haven, CT 06511. The school has two campuses in New Haven and one in East Hartford. The phone number for more information is 800-578-9160. The website address is [www.albertus.edu](http://www.albertus.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Deborah Frattini</b>	203-773-8564	<a href="mailto:dfattini@albertus.edu">dfattini@albertus.edu</a>	Disability Coordinator
<b>Angela Haggerty</b>	203-773-8514	<a href="mailto:ashaggerty@albertus.edu">ashaggerty@albertus.edu</a>	Registrar, Certifying Official, Transcript Coordinator, Veteran Representative
<b>Erica Lee</b>	203-773-8514	<a href="mailto:edlee@albertus.edu">edlee@albertus.edu</a>	Record Assistant, Transcript Coordinator, Veteran Representative
<b>Molly McLaughlin</b>	203-773-8508	<a href="mailto:mamclaughlin@albertus.edu">mamclaughlin@albertus.edu</a>	Financial Aid
<b>Morganna Payne</b>	203-773-8514	<a href="mailto:mpayne@albertus.edu">mpayne@albertus.edu</a>	Assistant Registrar, Certifying Official, Transcript Coordinator, Veteran Representative

## Capital Community College

Capital Community College is located at 950 Main Street in Hartford, CT 06103. The phone number for more information is 860-906-5000. The website address is [www.ccc.commnet.edu](http://www.ccc.commnet.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Margaret Abraham</b>	860-906-5044	Veteran Representative/Certifying Official
<b>Marsha Ball-Davis</b>	860-906-5127	Director of Admissions/Transcripts
<b>Margaret Malaspina</b>	860-906-5096	Director of Financial Aid
<b>Argelio Marrero</b>	860-906-5125	Registrar
<b>Glaisma Perez-Silvia</b>	860-906-4042	Disability Coordinator

## Central Connecticut State University

Central Connecticut State University is located at 1615 Stanley Street in New Britain, CT 06050. The phone number for more information is 860-832-2278. The website address is [www.ccsu.edu](http://www.ccsu.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Chris Gutierrez</b>	860-832-1869	Veteran Representative
<b>Nicole Spencer</b>	860-832-2838	University Assistant

## Gateway Community College

Gateway Community College is located at 20 Church Street in New Haven, CT 06510. The phone number for more information is 203-285-2000. The website address is [www.gatewayct.edu](http://www.gatewayct.edu). Gateway Community College is a partner with the VITAL program.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Michael Buccilli, MSW</b>	(203) 285-2090	Director, Counseling & Student Services
<b>Ronald Chomicz</b>	203-285-2231	Learning Disability Specialist
<b>Kellie Byrd-Danso, M.Ed, NCC</b>	(203) 285-2090	Director Career Services & Veteran Affairs
<b>Rick Palinko</b>	203-285-2146	Veteran Representative, Certifying Official
<b>Financial Aid Office</b>	203-285-2030	Financial Aid
<b>Records Office</b>	203-285-2020	Transcript Coordinator

## Housatonic Community College

Housatonic Community College is located at 900 Lafayette Blvd. in Bridgeport, CT 06604. The phone number for more information is 203-332-5000. The website address is [www.hctc.commnet.edu](http://www.hctc.commnet.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Tracey Chavis</b>	203-332-5215	Transcript Coordinator
<b>James Connolly</b>	203-332-5090	Certifying Official
<b>Lynn Langella</b>	203-332-5018	Disability Coordinator
<b>Registrar's Office</b>	203-332-5088	
<b>Jeff Stewart</b>	203-332-5087	Veterans Representative

## Manchester Community College

Manchester Community College is located at 60 Bidwell Street in Manchester, CT 06040. The phone number for more information is 860-512-3000. The website address is [www.mcc.commnet.edu](http://www.mcc.commnet.edu).

The Veteran O.A.S.I.S. is located in the Student Services Center, L-101. The phone number for the O.A.S.I.S. is 860-512-3362. The email address is: [veterans@manchestercc.edu](mailto:veterans@manchestercc.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Brian Cleary, Coordinator</b>	860-512-2612	<a href="mailto:bcleary@manchestercc.edu">bcleary@manchestercc.edu</a>	Academic Support Center
<b>Ivette Rivera- Dryer, Director</b>	860-512-3380	<a href="mailto:Irivera-dryer@manchestercc.edu">Irivera- dryer@manchestercc.edu</a>	Financial Aid Office
<b>Natalie Durant</b>	860-512-3220	<a href="mailto:ndurant@manchestercc.edu">ndurant@manchestercc.edu</a>	Registrar
<b>G. Duncan Harris, Dean of Students</b>	860-512-3203	<a href="mailto:gharris@manchestercc.edu">gharris@manchestercc.edu</a>	Student Affairs
<b>Joe Navarra, Counselor</b>	860-512-3332	<a href="mailto:jnavarra@manchestercc.edu">jnavarra@manchestercc.edu</a>	Disability Services
<b>Cynthia Zeldner, Associate Director</b>	860-512-3214	<a href="mailto:czeldner@manchestercc.edu">czeldner@manchestercc.edu</a>	Admissions



## Middlesex Community College

Middlesex Community College is located at 100 Training Hill Road in Middletown, CT 06547. The phone number for more information is 860-343-5800. The website address is [www.mxcc.commnet.edu](http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Peter Galgano, Outreach</b>	860-343-5797	<a href="mailto:pgalgano@mxcc.edu">pgalgano@mxcc.edu</a>	He handles outreach & oversees the Veterans Oasis Center.
<b>Susan Salowitz, Registrar</b>	860-343-5720	<a href="mailto:ssalowitz@mxcc.commnet.edu">ssalowitz@mxcc.commnet.edu</a>	She is the Veterans Certifying Official for all Veterans under the GI bill. She also handles the Admissions/Registration process.
<b>Dan Welsh</b>	860-343-5770	<a href="mailto:dwelsh@mxcc.edu">dwelsh@mxcc.edu</a>	Disability Coordinator

## Norwalk Community College

Norwalk Community College is located at 188 Richards Avenue in Norwalk, CT 06854. The phone number for more information is 203-857-7000. The website address is [www.ncc.commnet.edu](http://www.ncc.commnet.edu). Norwalk Community College is a partner with the VITAL program.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Robert Baer, Ed.D.</b>	203-857-7369	<a href="mailto:rbaer@ncc.commnet.edu">rbaer@ncc.commnet.edu</a>	Dean of Students
<b>Catherine P. Miller, MA, MS, LPC</b>	203-857-3342	<a href="mailto:cmiller@ncc.commnet.edu">cmiller@ncc.commnet.edu</a>	Director of Counseling
<b>Erik Rambusch</b>	203-857-7014	<a href="mailto:erembusch@norwalk.edu">erembusch@norwalk.edu</a>	Recruitment & Placement Coordinator for the Health Life- Sciences Career Initiative

## Post University

Post University is located at 800 Country Club Road in Waterbury, CT 06723. The phone number for more information is 203-596-4500. You can also visit the website for more information and the website address is [www.post.edu](http://www.post.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Ed Lizotte (LTC, Ret.), Director of Military Programs and Veterans Affairs</b>	203-596-4604	elizotte@post.edu	Can answer questions after the admissions phase.
<b>David Renza, Assistant Director, Military Admissions</b>	203-596-4576	drenza@post.edu	Can answer questions from students interested in attending the University.
<b>Maritza Serrano, VA Certifying Official</b>	203-596-4616	mserrano@post.edu	Can answer questions directly related to the GI bill. She only handles VA-specific issues regarding payment.

## Sacred Heart University

Sacred Heart University is located at 5151 Park Avenue in Fairfield, CT 06825. The phone number for more information is 203-371-7999. The website for more information is [www.sacredheart.edu](http://www.sacredheart.edu). Sacred Heart University is a partner with the VITAL program.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Jon DeBenedictis</b>	203-365-7678	Debenedictisj2700@sacredheart.edu	Recruiter/Admissions Coordinator
<b>Mary Lou DeRosa</b>	203-396-8312	Derosam@sacredheart.edu	Vice Provost for Special Academic Programs

## Southern Connecticut State University

Southern Connecticut State University is located at 501 Crescent Street in New Haven, CT 06515. The phone number for more information is 203-392-7278. The website address is [www.southernct.edu](http://www.southernct.edu). Southern Connecticut State University is a partner with the VITAL program.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Jack Mordente</b>	203-392-6922	Mordenteg1@southernct.edu	Veterans' Coordinator

Jack is the first point of contact for Veterans at Southern Connecticut State University and then he refers them to the appropriate offices.

## Stone Academy

Stone Academy is located at 500 Saw Mill Road in West Haven, CT 06516. The phone number for more information is 203-288-7474. After registering to the school, students will meet with Financial Aid Officials. Stone Academy also has locations in East Hartford and Waterbury. Additional information about these other locations can be found online. The website address is [www.stoneacademy.com](http://www.stoneacademy.com).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Kristen Howell</b>	203-288-7474 ext. 6016	khowell@stoneacademy.com	School Director/Certifying Official
<b>Carmel-Ann Jarmie</b>	203-288-7474 ext. 6005	cjarmie@stone.edu	Admissions Staff
<b>Toby McAllister</b>	203-288-7474 ext. 6004	tmcallister@stone.edu	Admissions Staff
<b>Judy Scire</b>	203-288-7474 ext. 6016	jscire@stone.edu	Director of Education

## Tunxis Community College

Tunxis Community College is located at 271 Scott Swamp Road in Farmington, CT 06032. The phone number for more information is 860-255-3500. The website address is [www.tunxis.edu](http://www.tunxis.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Valerie Hamilton-Brodie</b>	860-255-3575	Disability Coordinator
<b>Lucretia Holley</b>	860-255-3524	Transcript Coordinator - handles transferring transcripts from Tunxis to other colleges.
<b>Alison McCarthy</b>	860-255-3556	Director of Admissions - handles transferring credits from other colleges to Tunxis.
<b>David Welsh</b>	860-255-3513	Vet Rep./Certifying Official/Financial Aid

## University of Bridgeport

University of Bridgeport is located at 126 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, CT 06604. The phone number for more information is 1-800-392-3582. The University of Bridgeport also offers an accelerated degree completion program called the IDEAL Program. This program is for any adults 23 years of age and older. Students have the ability to complete an associates or bachelors degree through evening, weekend, or online courses in specific fields. The program is located in Stamford, Waterbury, and Bridgeport. The website address is [www.bridgeport.edu](http://www.bridgeport.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Brittany Fandel</b>	203-576-4884	<a href="mailto:bfandel@bridgeport.edu">bfandel@bridgeport.edu</a>	Admissions Counselor, IDEAL Program
<b>Chris Mihalopoulos</b>	203-576-4692	<a href="mailto:cmihalop@bridgeport.edu">cmihalop@bridgeport.edu</a>	Veterans Representative and Student Financial Services

## University of New Haven

University of New Haven is located at 300 Boston Post Road in West Haven, CT 06516. The phone number for more information is 1-800-342-5864. The website address is [www.newhaven.edu](http://www.newhaven.edu). University of New Haven is a partner with the VITAL program.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>John Casarella</b>	203-932-7388	<a href="mailto:jcasarella@newhaven.edu">jcasarella@newhaven.edu</a>	Veteran Certifying Official
<b>Erin Chiaro</b>	203-479-4520	<a href="mailto:echiaro@newhaven.edu">echiaro@newhaven.edu</a>	Financial Aid
<b>Joe Frederick</b>	203-932-7380	<a href="mailto:jfrederick@newhaven.edu">jfrederick@newhaven.edu</a>	Coordinator of Veteran Student Outreach
<b>Jason C. Riendeau, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions/Coordinator of Military and Veteran Student Recruitment.</b>	203-931-2920 (office) 203-823-7354 (cell/text)	<a href="mailto:jriendeau@newhaven.edu">jriendeau@newhaven.edu</a>	Works with students through the application process and answers any questions prior to students coming to the University.

## Western Connecticut State University

Western Connecticut State University is located at 181 White Street in Danbury, CT 06810. The phone number for more information is 203-837-8200. The website address is [www.wcsu.edu](http://www.wcsu.edu).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Dawn A. Bailey</b>	203-837-8587 or 203-937-8840 baileyd@wcsu.edu	Veteran Services Liaison & School Certifying Official - handles educational benefits.
<b>Nancy Barton</b>	203-837-8558	Director of Student Financial Services
<b>Lourdes Cruz</b>	203-837-8229	Registrar
<b>Maureen Gernert</b>	203-837-8266	Financial Aid
<b>Elisabeth Werling</b>	203-837-8225	Coordinator-Accessibility Services

# EDUCATION CHEAT SHEET!

## **(REGULAR) GI BILL**

**Eligibility**=You must complete 3 years of active duty with an honorable discharge.

**Time**= You have 15 years to use it from the time you're discharged. You receive 36 months of this benefit but if you were still in the military during September 11, 2001 you can get an extra year at the Post 9/11 rate.

**Money**= You get paid at the end of each month, the money is sent to you and not the school so you have to pay the school. How much you get paid depends on how many classes you take, the max pay out per month is **\$1,564**

**Education Requirement**= Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate.

## **(RESERVE) GI BILL**

**Eligibility**= You must be in the reserve or National Guard and have a 6 year contract.

**Time**=You have 15 years to use it from the time you're discharged. You will receive 36 months of this benefit.

**Money**= You get paid at the end of each month, the money is sent to you and not the school so you have to pay the school. How much you get paid depends on how many classes you take, the max pay out per month is **\$356**.

**Education Requirement**= Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate.

## **(POST 9/11) GI-BILL**

**Eligibility**= You must serve a minimum of 90 days on active duty after September 10, 2001, or were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days following September 10, 2001.

**Time**= You have 15 years to use this benefit. You will receive 36 months of this benefit.

**Money**= You get paid at the end of each month, a check is sent to the school to pay for the tuition and fees but they will only pay up to the amount of what UConn would charge. Private colleges such as Sacred Heart University and Fairfield University cost more so there will be a balance left over. A check is also sent to you called the MHA (Monthly Housing Allowance) the amount you receive depends on how many classes you take, the max pay out per month changes from year to year but currently it is **\$2202**.

**Education Requirement**= Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate.



# EDUCATION CHEAT SHEET!

## **VRAP (VETERANS RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**

**Eligibility**= You must be 35-60 years old, unemployed at time of application, receive any discharge except dishonorable, are not eligible for other VA education programs, are not receiving compensation due to unemployability, and are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program. You also must be planning to attend school full time.

**Time**= You have 12 months of this benefit from the time that you are approved. The program is currently set to end March 2014.

**Money**=A check is sent to you that you should use to pay the school for the classes, any leftover is for you to keep. The max pay out per month is **\$1564**.

**Education requirement**= Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation.

## **VOC-REHAB**

**Eligibility**= You must have a service connection of at least 20%.

**Time**=You have 12 years from the time you are approved for a service connection. The amount of benefit you have depends on your education goal; this is discussed with the counselor that will be assigned to assist you.

**Money**= This program will send a check to the school to cover the tuition and fees. This program will also purchase all the materials needed such as laptop, printers etc. that you will get to keep. The will also send you a check the amount you get paid will depend on how many classes you take and your number of dependents, the monthly max without dependents is **\$585.11**.

**Educational Requirements**= They depend on your educational goal, this will be discussed with your assigned counselor.

# !NO-NOS!

1. Don't sign up for class, not attend and still collect the money, the VA will get it back
2. Don't sign up for a program you're not sure about under the VRAP, you can't change your major once you've received your first payment

### Local College Contact Information

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Veteran Representative</b>	<b>Disability Coordinator</b>
<b>Albertus Magnus</b>	www.albertus.edu	Angela Haggerty 203-773-8514	Deborah Frattini 203-773-8564
<b>Capital Community College</b>	www.ccc.commnet.edu	Margaret Abraham 860-906-5004	Glaisma Perez Silvia 860-906-4042
<b>Central Connecticut State University</b>	www.ccsu.edu	Chris Gutierrez 860-832-1869	
<b>Gateway Community College</b>	www.gatewayct.edu	Rick Palinko 203-285-2146	Ronald Chomicz Samantha Kusia 203-285-2231
<b>Housatonic Community College</b>	www.hctc.commnet.edu	Jeff Stewart 203-332-5087	Lynn Langella 203-332-5018
<b>Manchester Community College</b>	www.mcc.commnet.edu	Veteran Oasis Center 860-512-3362	Joe Navarra 860-512-3332
<b>Middlesex Community College</b>	www.mccmxcc.commnet.edu	Peter Galgano Veteran Oasis Center 860-343-5797	Dan Welsh 860-343-5797
<b>Post University</b>	www.post.edu	David Renza 203-596-4576	Ed Lizotte 203-596-4604
<b>Southern Connecticut State University</b>	www.southernct.edu	Jack Mordente 203-392-6922	
<b>Stone Academy</b>	www.stoneacademy.com	Kristen Howell 203-288-7474 ext. 6016	
<b>Tunxis Community College</b>	www.tunxis.edu	David Welsh 860-255-3513	Valerie Hamilton-Brodie 860-255-3575
<b>University of Bridgeport</b>	www.bridgeport.edu	Chris Mihalopoulos 203-576-4692	
<b>University of New Haven</b>	www.newhaven.edu	Jason C. Riendeau 203-932-7380 or 203-823-7354	
<b>Western Connecticut State University</b>	www.wcsu.edu	Dawn A. Bailey 203-837-8587 or 203-937-8440	Elisabeth Werling 203-837-8225

## **CT Works Career Centers**

CT Works Career Centers are a one-stop resource for jobs, training and skill development. All of the services are free of charge. Many are self-serve, just sign in at the office and use the computers to search for information. Workshops are also available to improve job-hunting skills. There is also career counseling, job development, and referrals to other services that may be needed.

### **Free Workshops include:**

- Interviewing
- Interviewing strategies
- Internet job search
- Resumes
- Time management
- Stress management
- Job applications

### **Use the Computer Lab for:**

- Searching for jobs and sending resumes electronically
- Resume preparation
- Cover letters
- Internet access
- Posting resume online

### **CT Works Supplies:**

- Paper for resume and cover letters
- Envelopes
- Computer discs
- Access to a fax machine and copy machine
- Free mailing service for resumes

**More information can be found online at [www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol)**

## Local CT Works Career Centers

<b>Town</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>Bridgeport</b>	2 Lafayette Square	203-333-5129 or 203-455-2700
<b>Bristol</b>	55 South Street	860-583-9946
<b>Danbury</b>	152 West Street	203-731-2929
<b>Danielson</b>	95 Westcott Rd.	860-412-7000
<b>Derby</b>	30 Elizabeth Street	203-734-3433
<b>East Hartford</b>	1137 Main St.	860-622-0766
<b>Enfield</b>	620 Enfield Street	860-741-4295
<b>Hamden</b>	37 Marne Street	203-859-3200
<b>Hartford</b>	3580 Main Street	860-256-3860 or 860-256-3700
<b>Manchester</b>	893 Main Street	860-643-2222
<b>Meriden</b>	85 West Main Street	203-238-3688 or 203-238-6148
<b>Middletown</b>	645 South Main Street	860-754-5000
<b>New Britain</b>	260 Lafayette Street	860-827-6200
<b>New Haven</b>	560 Ella T. Grasso Blvd.	203-624-1493
<b>New London</b>	Shaw's Cove Six	860-439-7670
<b>Norwich</b>	113 Salem Turnpike	860-859-5777
<b>Stamford</b>	1642 Bedford St.	203-353-1702
<b>Torrington</b>	685 Main St.	860-496-3300
<b>Waterbury</b>	249 Thomaston Ave.	203-437-3380 or 203-437-3304
<b>Willimantic</b>	1320 Main St.	860-465-2120

# *Veterans Integration To Academic Leadership*



## **Services For Veterans :**

*Assist with enrollment of VA healthcare*

*Collaborate with college/university counseling and disability services*

*Collaborate with college/university certifying officials*

## **Assessment and Treatment for:**

- *general adjustment*
- *stress*
- *anxiety*
- *depression*
- *sleep problems*
- *time management*
- *cognitive function*
- *organization*
- *addiction (including gambling, internet and video games)*

## **Help With:**

*Navigating VBA programs: VRAP,*

*G.I. Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation*

## **Services for Academic Faculty/Staff:**

*Education for college/university staff about Military & Veteran culture*

*Support for specific issues that impact Student Veteran's performance*

*Consultation addressing the unique needs of Veterans*

## **CONTACT**

Amy C. Kaplan, LCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

West Haven V.I.T.A.L. Program Coordinator

950 Campbell Ave., W. Haven, CT 06516

amy.kaplan@va.gov or cell: 203.800.5512



**VA** Defining  
**HEALTH CARE** **EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century