

Office of Military Services

The mission of the Office of Military Services at Mason is to assist veterans, active duty servicemembers, guardsmen and reservists, and dependents in making a successful transition into the Mason community. Our goal is to help these students in a number of capacities including counseling and advising on benefits, academic and admissions advising, and career transition. Few schools have a dedicated staff to help transition from a military environment to college life and we are proud to be able to assist our students in any way.

Location and Hours

Johnson Center, 213

Mon-Fri 830-5 / Tues 830-6

Contact

703.993.2428 or military@gmu.edu

Visit us on the web!

www.military.gmu.edu

facebook



*Using Benefits for the Fall

*Legal Assistance for Military

*Yellow Ribbon Program

*Veteran Internships

*Battle Buddies Program

*ROTC at Mason

*This Month in Military History

*Maximizing GI Bill Benefits

What's Happening Now

Submit Your VRRF to Use Benefits This Fall

If you are a student using any chapter of the GI Bill for classes this fall, remember to submit your Veterans Registration Reporting Form to the Registrar's Office soon. Once registered for classes you can submit the form; you should do so a month prior to classes starting in order to give appropriate time for the VA to make payment. If you have not yet done so, you can submit your VRRF by going to our website and selecting "[Certify Your GI Bill Benefits](#)". If this is your first time using benefits at Mason we'll need a copy of your certificate of eligibility. If you are transferring from another school after using benefits you must submit a Change of Place of Training Form to the VA through VONAPP. For more info about any of these action items contact us at 703.993.2428 or military@gmu.edu.

Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers (CLAS)

CLAS provides free legal assistance to active-duty servicemembers, veterans, and family members who are unduly burdened by hiring a lawyer. CLAS was the first clinic of its kind in American legal education where law students provide legal counseling and are supervised by law school instructors or private practitioners. Service can be provided for most areas of law with the exception of criminal and contested divorces. If you are seeking legal counsel and have questions or would like to make an appointment, please contact CLAS at 703.993.8214 or clas@mail.gmu.edu.

Yellow Ribbon Program to Cover More Students at Mason

Effective fall semester 2011, Mason will cover an additional 25 students, 50 in total (excluding law students), under the Yellow Ribbon Program. Post 9/11 GI Bill recipients who are 100% eligible for benefits and classified as out-of-state will be covered (excluding law students) on a first come, first served basis. If covered, Mason will contribute \$1,000 per year and the VA will match for a total of \$2,000 per year. For more info click [here](#).

All Hands Message

Mason has changed the way it bills the VA for tuition and fees under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Mason will certify your benefits to the VA after you've submitted your VRRF but will not bill the VA until after the add/drop period has ended. This will allow BAH and the book stipend to be paid on time if you are eligible.

For the summer term, Mason won't bill the VA for tuition until August. As long as you've submitted your VRRF to Mason your tuition will be placed on hold until the VA pays (for the portion they will pay, if not fully covered you'll still owe your portion up front). If you have questions please call us at 703.993.2428 or email military@gmu.edu.

Veteran Internships

The Aurora Foundation provides select internships for student-veterans. These internships are very high quality and can lead to greater opportunities for motivated self-starters.

Aurora / ADP SharePoint

Build highly desired skills with this internship at ADP in Virginia Beach. Length is 6-8 weeks, approx. 30 hours per week.

Aurora / CDS Telecommunications

Located in Ashburn, VA. Requires students to be motivated and follow through on projects. Gain valuable knowledge in telecom infrastructure.

Internships open to student veterans using the GI Bill. Must have relevant coursework and at least a 2.0 GPA.

Send resume, transcripts, DD214, and two letters of recommendation from non-family members to:

Ms. Ellen Baumgardner, Internship Coordinator

Internships@Aurora4Vets.org

On Campus

Student Clubs run by Vets on the Rise

Looking to join a student club at Mason? Consider joining the Men's Rugby Club, the Mason Cycling Club, or the Mason Sailing Club. All three are run by veterans at Mason and have expressed interest in recruiting veterans to their activities. Visit their facebook pages to stay current and for more information contact:

Men's Rugby: Jason White - jwhite12@gmu.edu

Cycling: Kyle Bondo - kbondo@gmu.edu

Sailing: John Long - jlong11@masonlive.gmu.edu

Battle Buddies Program

The Office of Military Services is looking for current students interested in being a student veteran mentor for their specific degree/certificate program. We're trying to gather as many from all programs as possible and keep a running list so new students with questions or looking for advice have a point of contact. You do not need to be an expert on your program, just be familiar with it and the requirements; admission info will be handled by our office, we're just asking you to be a guide. If you'd like to be a battle buddy, please email aemery4@gmu.edu. Thanks for your interest!

We Are Virginia Wounded Warriors on Campus Conference

The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program is presenting a conference to address Virginia's commitment to military and veteran-friendly campuses and successful outcomes for military and veteran students. The conference will be held August 9, 2011 at 9:00 am in Marshall Hall at the VMI campus in Lexington, VA. Students can register now for \$15 [here](#). For more info about the events click [here](#).

Career Services

The following workshops will be offered on Thurs., August 25 at the Fairfax campus:

- 915 am: Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshop
- 1100 am: Orientation to On-Campus Interviewing Workshop
- 1230 pm: Behavioral Interviewing Workshop
- 215 pm: Networking Skills and Practice Workshop
- 330 pm: Federal Government Job and Internship Search Workshop

For more information about these workshops, visit [here](#).

Mason Career Services is a program for students to provide career assessment, coaching, counseling, resources, and opportunities to advance the achievement of their career-related goals.

To see a listing of current job and internship announcements, visit <http://careers.gmu.edu/>. To contact Career Services call 703.993.2370 or email careerhp@gmu.edu.

*To see a listing of jobs specific to veterans, please visit our site [here](#).

Veterans Society

The Veterans Society serves as a social and professional student lead organization that advocates for and engages student veterans in networking and activities.

studentvets@gmail.com

vetsoc.org

Schedule of Events

Annual BBQ and Member Meeting

September 11: 1-5pm

Students and prospective students as well as family and friends are welcome to come. Event details and RSVP can be found on the Veterans Society facebook page.

The Veterans Society needs a Vice President for the 2011-2012 school year. If interested email studentvets@gmail.com

ROTC

Mason Army ROTC is designed to prepare the next generation of officers. It is centered around the aspects of leadership, tactics, and policy. Labs and lectures designed to reinforce practical training meet once per week and physical training three times per week. What separates Mason ROTC from the rest is the level of cadet control. We feel the only real way to train a leader is to allow them to lead and provide guidance. ROTC functions are largely cadet controlled from planning to execution and instructors provide input.

703.993.2706
goldbar@gmu.edu
arotc.gmu.edu

**If you'd like to volunteer your services contact:

CPT Mariah Doolittle: mdoolitt@gmu.edu
MAJ Paul Kremer: pkremer@gmu.edu

Maximizing your GI Bill Benefits

Post 9/11 GI Bill Now Covers Grad School

Effective Aug. 1, 2011 the VA will fully cover tuition and fees for students using the Post 9/11 GI Bill who are 100% eligible and classified as in-state (summer classes may incur a small liability from the student). Regardless of the degree level (Bachelor, Master, Doctorate) the VA will cover tuition. If you are proportionally eligible the VA will cover your rated percentage of tuition and fees. For questions about this, contact our office.

Understanding the GI Bill and VA Debt

Changes in the number of credits you take may affect your VA payments. Remember:

If you decrease the number of credits taken after the VA has processed a payment for tuition or a stipend, an overpayment may occur.

If you drop a class during the liability-free add/drop period it won't affect a tuition payment but it may affect a stipend payment.

Why: Mason doesn't bill the VA until after the add/drop period. Thus, no payments have been processed by the VA. This eliminates virtually any possibility of an overpayment.

If you withdraw during the tuition-liability period or if you selectively withdraw, you are liable for the tuition. You will be billed by the VA for the amount of overpayment. Generally, you have 30 days to pay based on the issue date of the bill. If you are delinquent, the VA will recoup the billed amount from your next stipend payment (tuition, BAH, or book stipend). Generally, it is your decision to either pay the bill directly or have the amount subtracted from your future payments. If you choose the latter, be prepared for a lower payment from the VA in the future. Please contact the Buffalo Regional Office at 888-442-4551 to determine the cause of a VA debt. For debt collection information, call 800-827-0648 or dmc.ops@va.gov

This Month in Military History

August 4, 1914

A Declaration of War

Great Britain declares war on Germany after they invade Belgium, whose neutrality had been guaranteed in the Treaty of London of 1839. Great Britain, France, Russia, and Serbia are now at war with Germany and Austria-Hungary.

August 23, 1939

"Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact"

Germany and the Soviet Union sign a non-aggression treaty, the "Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact". The treaty ensures Soviet acquiescence to Germany's planned invasion of Poland. With this last hurdle out of the way, Nazi Germany prepares to fire the opening guns of World War II.

August 25, 1944

Liberation of Paris

After a vicious two-day popular uprising sparked by the approach of Allied forces, Paris is finally liberated from four years of German occupation when the French 2nd Armored Division enters the city. Most Allied units in pursuit of the retreating Germans go around the city to avoid thoroughfares jammed with jubilant Parisians.



Germany and Russia Sign Pact



French Soldiers Celebrate Liberation

