Preparing for Graduation

Are you ready to graduate? As of fall 2008, potential graduates must submit an online application for graduation for the semester they will complete their program requirements. Applications are only valid for one semester. You must reapply for graduation if all requirements are not completed. As of March 2011 the application for graduation is only accessible via MyNOVA; go to Self-Service/Student Center/Apply for Graduation.

The graduation application deadlines are the same every year. The fall graduation application deadline is always October 1st. The spring graduation application deadline is always March 1st. The summer graduation application deadline is always June 1st. The application is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via the MyNOVA portal. The only issue that prevents students from applying for graduation is if they have not been program placed; a financial hold does not prevent a student from applying for graduation. If students experience problems, they need to screen shot or copy the error message and contact the Help Desk immediately.

Applications submitted after the semester deadline will be automatically dated by SIS as the next semester. If the student does not apply by the deadline, at midnight, the application date automatically changes to the next semester. The application will be processed for the semester that is listed in SIS. The degree award will also reflect the semester the application was submitted. Apply for graduation if you think that you are ready.

After you have submitted your graduation application, you will be sent a graduation status message to your VCCS email account up to six weeks after the application deadline. For steps to the entire process, from applying for graduation to receiving your diploma, go to the NOVA graduation page here.

Washington DC Celebrates Black History Month 2015

“Washington, DC celebrates Black History Month each February and remembers the contributions of African Americans in the United States with numerous events and cultural programs. Here are some special events and relevant places to visit in Washington, DC to remember and recognize the history of Black Americans.” For the full article, click here.

For the Smithsonian Heritage Month Event Calendar, click here.
“To meet the On-Time Registration policy requirement, all students must register before 11:59 p.m. on the day before the session start date. Once the session begins, registration is closed. Students who wait until 11:59 p.m. on the day before the session begins still have until 5:00 p.m. the next business day to pay for their classes.”

My dad retired from the Air Force and also served in the Army during Vietnam. His reaction today towards the military is somewhat “bittersweet.” Although he rarely talks about his experience, his lack of support and motivation about the military speaks for itself. During my senior year in high school, I participated in JROTC with little ambition to pursue a career with the military. Of course, opportunities through the program were offered. I wanted to take advantage of them, so I proposed going to a military academy to my mom. She wasn’t thrilled and decided to contact my dad about my idea. Needless to say, he was far from being in favor of my doing anything military related. He told me “the military is no place for you (also as a woman), and if you go into the military after school, I won’t help pay for college!” Well, as a young intimidated girl, I listened to my parents and went straight to college. That was short lived. One day I decided to go to the recruiting station, and next thing I knew, I was at MEPS.

When I was deployed, my dad sent me a card, and it meant a lot because it wasn’t filled with pre-printed sentiments. It was his words that he wrote inside the card expressing how proud he was of me. That meant a lot to me. Last year, I was the guest of honor for an induction ceremony. After the event, my dad said “I have never been to a function where the guest of honor was someone I knew personally, and it’s my daughter!” Despite my dad’s past feelings about the military or even women in the military, I unknowingly changed his perception. Although he still doesn’t talk about his past and why he feels the way he does, I know he supports me and that speaks volume. When I read about the history of the army and the barriers that were broken, I know that change is evident. I know that there were others that were told NO or you can’t and shouldn’t. Some may have listened and lived with that, but for us who looked past the brick wall that stood in our way or hurdles we had to go over, a difference was made.

“I have an almost complete disregard of precedent and a faith in the possibility of something better. It irritates me to be told how things always have been done .... I defy the tyranny of precedent. I cannot afford the luxury of a closed mind. I go for anything new that might improve the past.” -Clara Barton, a pioneer nurse in the Civil War, founder of the American Red Cross
**UPCOMING ACADEMIC CALENDAR REMINDERS**

**Overall**
- 1 March: Last day to apply for Spring Graduation

**16-Week Session**
- 23 March: Last day to withdraw without grade penalty

**First 8-Week Session**
- 14 February: Last day for Students to withdraw from a class without grade penalty

**Second 8-Week Session**
- 9 March: Last day to add name to Wait List for second 8-week session
- 16 March: Classes begin

<table>
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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Total # of Credits</th>
<th>BAH %</th>
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<tr>
<td>16-Week Session</td>
<td>12 Cr</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7 Cr or more</td>
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<tr>
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**“Short & Sweet” Discussion**

Please join us for a ‘Short & Sweet’ discussion with snacks & refreshments.

What would help you to make connections as a student veteran at the Alexandria Campus? We would like to hear more from you.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 3, 2015  
**Place:** Bisdorf Bldg. AA158  
**Time:** 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Résumé & Interview Skills Workshop for Student Veterans**

Your first impression is important! This Pre-Career Fair Workshop will provide a session on how to prepare for the career fair, including tips for researching companies, dressing to impress, and how to start conversations with employers. Bring your printed résumé if you want a Career Counselor to provide quick review feedback. The session will be presented three times during the 90-minute workshop to accommodate schedules.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015  
**Time:** 12:00 pm to 1:45 pm  
**Location:** AA158

**Alexandria Veterans & Military Student Resource Office**

The *AL Veterans & Military Student Resource Office* assists student veterans and their dependents by: providing information on their educational benefits; certifying paperwork for all applicable educational benefits; offering programs and workshops support of their student experience; and advising the Student Veterans Network.

The *VetSuccess on Campus Counselor* is an experienced Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor on the NOVA - Annandale and Alexandria campuses. This counselor serves as a “VA One-Stop Liaison” for Veterans, active duty military and their eligible family members who attend or plan to attend NOVA.

The *AL Off-Campus Military Advisor* at JBMHH assists active duty military students and their family members with the same student services other students access on campus such as the admissions process, registration, credit evaluation, and educational advising. The advisor can also assist students with payment issues and connecting them with college resources.

The *AL Student Veterans Network* (SVN) provides camaraderie and networking for both academic & social life. Any student enrolled in at least one credit with NOVA who is a veteran, reservist, National Guard member, or active duty service member is invited to be a member of the SVN. Contact the officers, studentvetsalexandria@gmail.com.
10 Things Veteran and Active-Duty Students Should Know About College-Level Learning Experiences

1. College credit can be earned for college-level military, professional and life experiences!
2. Prior learning assessment can help students graduate in less time and save money.
3. NOVA grants credit for some Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) and military courses.
4. Many Marine Corps MOSs are pre-approved to receive credit for equivalent NOVA courses.
5. Credits can be earned in several different subject areas including Mathematics, Social Sciences, Business, and many others!
6. Credits earned for prior learning can be used for up to ten years in some disciplines. In others, credit is good forever!
7. NOVA offers several different routes to earn credit for prior learning, including credit by exam and portfolio development.
8. Credits for prior learning can be earned for a significant amount of hours, provided 25% of the degree is earned at NOVA.
9. Credits earned through prior learning assessment may transfer to 4-year colleges.
10. Advisors will help students create a program completion plan using prior learning credits.

Email the Office of Military Services for program specifics, militaryservices@nvcc.edu or contact Prior Learning Staff for general information, 703.425.5835. At the Alexandria campus, you may also arrange to speak with the Alexandria campus Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) advisor, Larry “Rusty” Schaefer, Adjunct Professor and PLA Advisor, lschafer@nvcc.edu.

Writing Assistance Center

The Writing Assistance Center on Alexandria Campus teaches effective reading, writing, and critical thinking strategies. We provide students with techniques that help them organize their work in order to improve their logic and make their writings flow. Students learn grammar rules and how to spot grammatical errors. The Center also offers free one-on-one consultations and group workshops to assist students with writings already in progress. For more information, click here.

“Re-Thinking Reading” Workshop

Reading is a central part of a college education; strong reading skills help you in school and beyond. Attend this workshop to improve your reading comprehension, prepare for classes and exams more effectively, and learn about the relationship between reading and writing.

- **Dates:** February 2 / 11:30am – 1:00pm OR February 3 / 5:30pm – 7:00pm
- **Location:** AA-196

Degrees & Certificates

NOVA offers two-year associate degrees, one-year certificates and short career studies certificates to help you reach your goals.

Programs of Study

The term program refers to an associate degree with its own curriculum code and all related specializations, certificates, and career studies certificates. Browse our alphabetical list of all programs with their degrees and certificates offered at NOVA to find the area of study that interests you.

Degrees Designed to Prepare Students for Transfer

- Associate of Arts Degree (A.A.) – designed to transfer to a four-year, degree-granting institution for the completion of a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree.
- Associate of Science Degree (A.S.) – designed to transfer to a four-year, degree granting institution for the completion of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree.

Degrees and Certificates Designed to Prepare Students for Work

- Associate of Applied Arts Degree (A.A.A.)
- Associate of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.)
- Certificate (C.)
- Career Studies Certificate (C.S.C.)

College Catalog and Schedule of Classes

- Search the current NOVA Catalog for information about credit instructional programs, degrees and certificates, policies and procedures and student services.
- Search the current Schedule of Classes for course information, times, locations, faculty and prerequisites for credit courses.