New Student-Veteran Orientation

The Veterans & Military Student Resource Office at the Alexandria Campus is hosting a Student Veterans Orientation & Information Session for student veterans who are new to Northern Virginia Community College or who are returning to college-level studies after taking a hiatus. The purpose of new student orientation, in general, is to provide new students tools for a successful transition and integration into college life. This particular orientation workshop is designed specifically for student veterans and your experience.

It will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2015, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in room AA158, which is located in the middle of the first floor of the Bisdorf building on the Alexandria Campus. The program will introduce you to resources available to students, as well as to services available for student veterans. It will also offer you the opportunity to connect with other new student veterans.

Please plan on attending this important workshop. There is no cost for attendance, but we ask that you RSVP by registering for the workshop at https://student-veterans-orientation-info-session.eventbrite.com.

Preparing for Graduation

Are you ready to graduate? When in doubt, apply for graduation. Potential graduates must submit an online application for graduation for the semester they will complete their program requirements.

The graduation application deadlines are always the same every year: fall deadline is October 1st; spring deadline is March 1st; and summer deadline is June 1st. The application is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via the MyNOVA portal. If students experience problems, they need to screen shot or copy the error message, and contact the Help Desk immediately.

If a 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.

For steps to the entire graduation application process, from applying for graduation to receiving your diploma, go to the NOVA graduation page here.
Transitional Veterans Advising Coach

Northern Virginia Community College Office of Military Services, in partnership with the United Way of the National Capital Area, will have its Transitional Veterans Advising Coach, Ronny Romero, on hand at the Alexandria Campus to provide educational support and resources to Military Students and Student Veterans. The “Veteran Student Success” initiative will ensure all Student Veterans receive support by providing the following educational support services:

- Course Selection Assistance (Help with Selecting Classes)
- Degree Planning Assistance
- Transcript Evaluation Assistance
- Information on Completing VA Certification Forms
- Next Step Counseling after Certification
- VA Class Adjustment (Add/Drop) Procedures
- VA Housing Allowance Procedures
- VA Education Benefits Compliance Information
- VA Class Credits Compliance Information

Mr. Romero will be available at the Veterans & Military Student Resource Office, Room 193 in the Bisdorf Building from 8:00am to 1:00pm on Thursday, 13 August 2015. Meetings will be first come first serve, but if you would like to make an appointment, please contact Mr. Romero at email: reromero@nvcc.edu.

Returning Student-Veteran Checklist for Certification of Benefits:

1. **Academic Advising.** Meet with your academic advisor to confirm classes from your program of study for next session/semester.
2. **Register for classes.** Once you have met with an academic advisor, enroll in classes online through your MyNova account, [http://www.nvcc.edu/academic-tools/](http://www.nvcc.edu/academic-tools/). And remember the On-Time Registration requirement.
3. **Certificate of Eligibility (COE).** -- Required of Ch. 33 and Ch. 31 Recipients
   - This is the letter that the VA sent you when you applied for your education benefits. Submit a copy of COE every semester you are certifying education benefits.
4. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) & Statement of Understanding (SOU).** - Required of Ch. 33 and Ch. 31
   - This form is available at the VMSRO located in Bisdorf building, room AA193 on the Alexandria Campus.
5. **Veterans Enrollment Reporting Form (VERF).** -- Required of all Chapter Recipients
   - Collect completed paperwork in one packet. Submit at the campus Veterans resource office.
6. **Attend a Student Veterans Organization Meeting.** Check your student e-mail account for Student Veterans Organization updates, as well as the monthly newsletter.
7. **Adjustment Form.** Have you made any changes to your schedule, ie. drop or add? If yes, fill out adjustment form.
   - This form is available at the VMSRO located in Bisdorf building, room AA193 on the Alexandria Campus.
8. **Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online every academic year.** The FAFSA is free to fill out. Go to [https://fafsa.ed.gov/](https://fafsa.ed.gov/).
The Veterans Crisis Line

Need Help?

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is also available.

For more about the Veterans Crisis Line, click here.

Start Strong—On-Time Registration

NOVA has an On-Time Registration policy. All students must register by 11:59 p.m. the day before the session begins. Please note that the session may begin before your first day of class. There will be no late registration and students will not be permitted to add/swap classes once the session has begun. Any schedule adjustment after the session has begun requires permission of the academic dean.

You may still drop a course, but if registration has closed, you will not be able to add a new class during the same session; you will have to wait until the next session. The same is true for swaps. If you want to swap a course, you will need to select a course in a future session. The difference between a semester and a session at NOVA is: A semester refers to an academic term. Each year we have three semesters: Fall, Spring, and Summer. A session refers to the number of weeks within a semester during which a course is scheduled to meet. NOVA offers several different sessions each semester to provide you with a variety of course and scheduling options. For example, in addition to the standard 16 and 8-week sessions, you might find sessions taught in 12 or 14 weeks. Consult the Schedule of Classes and your academic advisor for more information about scheduling options.

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 that 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.