



CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE



Veterans Resource Guide

Your pathway to success.

Welcome to Contra Costa College

We are honored that you have selected Contra Costa College to begin or continue your education after your service to our country. Our goal is to provide you with an array of services that will support your successful transition from the military into civilian life and the academic arena. CCC serves a diverse group of veterans. Our students come from all branches of the armed forces, including active and inactive reserve units. The majority of our veterans are from West Contra Costa County. In order to serve you better, the college has established a rapid response team that includes a staff member from each of the key student support services on campus.

Please let us know how we can better support your educational experience at CCC by reaching out to one of the rapid response team members listed in this guide.

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Veteran Services @ CCC

While all student services at CCC are available to all students, the following services are in place specifically for student veterans.

Admissions & Records Certifying Official - (510) 215-3931

- Assists with applying for the GI Bill. Certifies and validates educational benefits in compliance with current Veterans Administration Regulations
- Provides updated information to veterans regarding changes to educational benefits, federal law and support services
- Advises on additional entitlements under federal and state laws, financial aid for war veterans, tuition deferments, and special scholarships for veterans and their families

Counseling Services - (510) 215-3934 or (510) 215-3936

- Provides educational course planning to comply with VA requirements and to ensure academic success
- Assists with referrals for personal counseling, immigration, pro bono legal services, substance abuse services, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) counseling, and potential career opportunities

Disabled Student Services - (510) 215-3969

- Supports student veterans with disabilities by providing assessment and appropriate accommodations to facilitate academic success

Student Veteran Rapid Response Team (SVRRT)

The Student Veteran Rapid Response Team (SVRRT) was established to provide direct access to key student support staff on campus. The team is comprised of individuals who are experts in their service specific areas and have a strong commitment to serving student veterans. The mission is for each member to connect you to another member of the team if you need assistance from that particular student service.



Trinidad Ledesma, Veterans' School Certifying Official. I verify student enrollment with the Veterans Administration. In addition, I assist students with the process of requesting various types of veterans benefits such as Chapter 31, 33, 35, and 1606. As the son of a Korean War veteran, I am excited to assist veterans who have earned their educational benefits and assist them in the attainment of their educational goals.



Marykate Rossi, Counselor Assistant, Welcome Center. I am here to assist students with the college registration and enrollment processes. As the daughter of a Vietnam veteran and the spouse of an Iraq/Afghanistan veteran, I understand the importance of providing our veteran students with adequate support. I am very excited to serve as a resource in order to ensure our veterans feel welcomed at CCC.



Barbara Rance, Financial Aid and Loan Specialist, Financial Aid. I provide our veterans one-on-one meetings to discuss their needs, assisting them to access and navigate all financial aid resources, and working together with other supporting staff to help promote academic success for our veterans. My father served in the Marine Corp and my grandfather served in the Army, neither making it home from combat. I understand the sacrifices our veterans have made and continue to make every day. I am excited and honored to work with the veterans who ensure our safety and freedom.

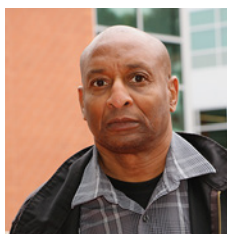
Certifying Official	Trinidad Ledesma	(510) 215-3931	tledesma@contracosta.edu
Welcome Center	Marykate Rossi	(510) 215-3941	mrossi@contracosta.edu
Financial Aid	Barbara Rance	(510) 215-3950	brance@contracosta.edu
Assessment	Carla Matute	(510) 215-3962	cmatute@contracosta.edu
Counseling	Andrea Phillips	(510) 215-3914	aphillips@contracosta.edu
Disability Support	Richard Stollings	(510) 215-3937	rstollings@contracosta.edu
EOPS	Ken Reynolds	(510) 215-3942	kreynolds@contracosta.edu



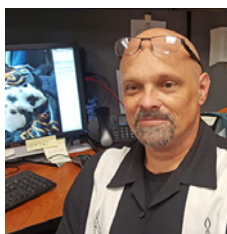
Carla Matute, Assessment Coordinator. Beyond the immense gratitude I feel toward veterans, I see this as an excellent opportunity to contribute to the value they bring to our institution. The assessment center coordinator's role is to provide assessment as one of the registration steps. Educating and guiding veterans through this important registration step and collaborating with other departments, I can connect veterans with other resources that will help start their college career on a strong foundation.



Andrea Phillips, Veterans' Counselor. I am responsible for providing academic, personal and career support for our vets on campus. I am a dependent of a veteran who never accessed benefits, thus, I want to ensure vets and their dependents have the most accurate information about benefits/educational/life planning. My goal is that every vet and their dependents have an educational plan that reflects their educational pursuits (certificate, associate degree, or associate degree transfer, transfer), identified career goals and objectives, and supportive faculty relationships fostered through the Counseling Department and the Veterans Resource Center.



Richard Stollings, Instructional Assistant, Disabled Students Program and Services. I am a former United States Marine and retired California Army National Guardsman. I am excited to be helping on the SVRRT because helping a veteran helps me as a veteran.



Ken Reynolds, EOPS Outreach Coordinator, EOPS/CARE and formerly incarcerated students. My primary role as a member of the SVRRT will be to assist veterans with the EOPS application process and EOPS-related services. I am very excited about working with veterans. My father was a WWII veteran and became a high school and college math instructor after his service.

CCC Veteran Steps for Enrollment and Activation of Education Benefits

Student veterans receive priority registration date, which allows you to register before most students. You do not need to activate your education benefits to receive this date but you must do the following:

- Submit a copy of DD-214 to Admissions & Records
- Complete the Online Orientation (a link was emailed to you when you applied to the college)
- Complete Math & English Assessments – contact (510) 215-3896 to schedule an appointment
- Complete Education Plan with a VA Counselor – contact (510) 215-3914 or (510) 215-3936 to schedule an appointment

To activate education benefits, follow the ten steps below:

- 1. Complete an application for admission to Contra Costa College.**
The application is online at www.contracosta.edu
- 2. Complete a VA Application for Education Benefits. (VONAPP)**
 - Submit a copy of Certificate of Eligibility to Admissions & Records
- 3. Apply for Financial Aid. (School Code: 001190)**
 - Complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** at www.fafsa.gov
 - If you are determined ineligible due to a high Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) number, inquire with Financial Aid about the “reduction in income” process
- 4. Bring a copy of your DD-214 Member 4 Copy to the Veterans Office. (Veterans only – required for veteran priority registration dates)**
 - **For Select Reservists, a copy of your Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE)** must be submitted. Obtain the NOBE through your command
- 5. Read the Statement of Responsibility.**
 - Can be found on CCC website under www.contracosta.edu/veterans
 - Print a copy to keep for your records.
- 6. Provide Admissions & Records with Official Transcripts.**
 - This includes any colleges you attended before, during, or after your military service.
- 7. Complete Orientation for Contra Costa College (required for veteran priority registration dates).**
 - Online Orientation: a link was provided by email when you submitted your application or visit www.contracosta.edu/orientation



8. Take the Assessment tests (required for veteran priority registration dates). Make an appointment with the Assessment Center in SSC-104 to take the assessment tests.

- If you have taken a placement test at another California Community College within the last two years, you can bring in a copy of your official score report to the Assessment Center to be evaluated and use those scores for placement into CCC classes

9. Meet with a Veterans' counselor for an Educational Plan (required for veteran priority registration dates). This course letter is an evaluation of your prior college credit and will list each class you need to take in order to reach your educational goal. Before making an appointment to see a veteran counselor, you must:

- have completed all the previous steps listed above;
- have all required documents on file at the Veterans Office; and
- Make an appointment online or via phone at (510) 215-3914 or (510) 215-3936 (drop-in hours available, call for time and location).

10. Complete and submit VA Education Benefits Certification Request:

- This can be found on CCC website under www.contracosta.edu/veterans.
- You will need to complete a **VA Education Benefits Certification Request every semester**; benefits do not automatically roll over to the next semester.
- Please attach a copy of your class schedule

Note: Call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 888-442-4551 for questions regarding your education benefits

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

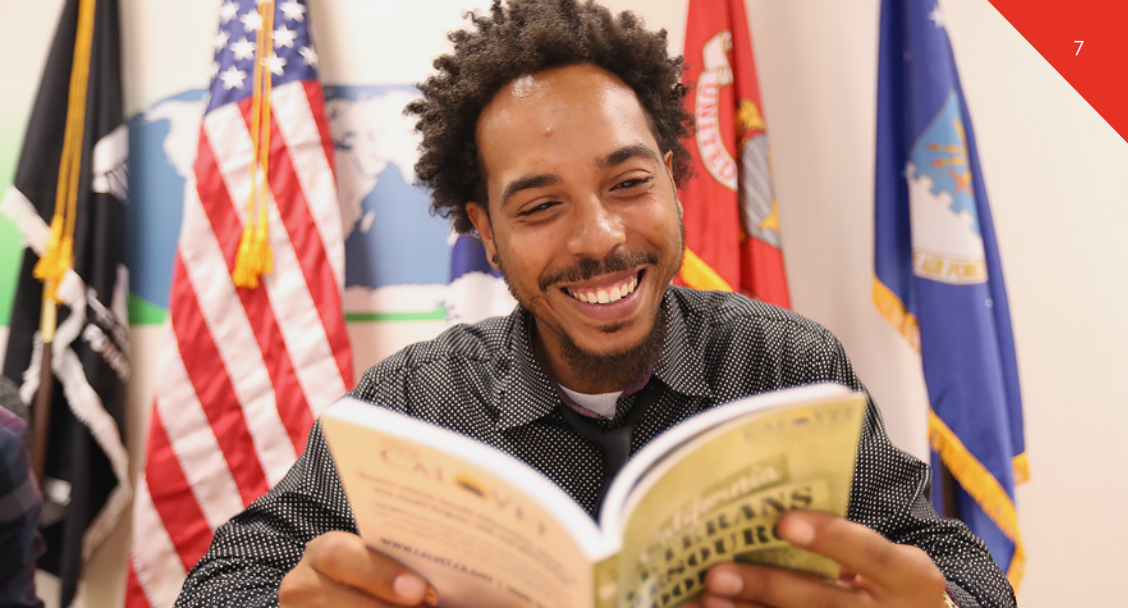
Student and Administration Building (SAB) Room 109

Through the generous donation of furnishings, computers and numerous comforts, the Sentinels of Freedom and Workday helped the college establish the Veterans Resource Center (VRC). The VRC provides a space for mentorship and support for student veterans by community veteran volunteers as well as opportunities for student veterans to meet other student veterans, study, or just relax. Student veterans can also connect with campus staff and community veteran organizations in the Center. Amenities available for use include:

- a refrigerator, coffee maker with complementary coffee, and microwave;
- computers and color\black and white printer;
- large flat screen TV and Blu-ray player connected to the internet for streaming content; and
- hard copy resource guides.

Find more information including open hours at www.contracosta.edu/veterans.





(TAFSSG) - Student Club

The Armed Forces Service & Support Group

The Armed Forces Service & Support Group (TAFSSG) is dedicated to providing a forum for student veterans to connect with one another and to provide opportunities to build reliable veteran comradery and comprehensive platforms while providing strong community resources.

The mission is to foster greater awareness of military history and the need of its preservation by educating faculty, staff, and students in order to create constructive changes in our society's understanding of the history and traditions of our nation's Armed Forces. TAFSSG is dedicated to providing peer-to-peer support and mentoring in the transition from the military to college and from college to the workplace as well as and resources to the Contra Costa community.

The goal of TAFSSG is to provide advocacy for issues facing active duty service members, veterans, and spouses/dependents in the CCC community and to promote self-development in the veteran community. This is accomplished by building productive, collaborative and beneficial relationships with government agencies, companies, communities and each other. TAFSSG will create campus events at CCC and within the local veteran communities to raise awareness and explore resources to ensure the success of veteran students.

Please join The Armed Forces Service & Support Group in uplifting the 1% who are providing the blanket of freedom for the 99% that sleep under it. TAFSSG is for the contributions and sacrifices of our active duty service members and veterans past and present of the United States military.

Community Resources

Housing	Employment
<p>Swords to Plowshares Oakland 2719 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 844-7500 www.swords-to-plowshares.org</p>	<p>America's Job Center of California 2300 El Portal Dr. Ste. B San Pablo, CA 94806 (510) 412-6740 www.americasjobcenter.ca.gov</p>
<p>Shelter Inc. 1333 Willow Pass Rd. Ste. 206 Concord, CA 94520 (925) 957-7549 www.shelterinc.org</p>	<p>Richmond Works 330 25th St. Richmond, CA 94804 (510) 307-8050 www.ci.richmond.ca.us/275/Employment-Training</p>
<p>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program (877) 424-3838 www.va.gov/homeless/HUD-VASH.asp</p>	<p>Swords to Plowshares Oakland 2719 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 844-7500 www.swords-to-plowshares.org</p>
	<p>Rubicon Programs 101 Broadway Richmond, CA 94804 (510) 412-1725 www.rubiconprograms.org</p>
Health Care	Legal Services
<p>Department of Veterans Affairs (800) 827-1000 www.va.gov</p>	<p>Bay Area Legal Aid 1025 Macdonald Ave Richmond, CA 94801 (510) 233-9954 www.baylegal.org</p>
<p>VA Martinez Returning Veterans Mental Health Outreach and Education (925) 372-2275 www.northerncalifornia.va.gov</p>	<p>Veterans Resource Program Legal Aid Bradford Adams (207) 423-2282 www.va.gov/OGC/LegalServices.asp</p>
<p>Concord Vet Center (for mental health) 1333 Willow Pass Road, Suite 106 Concord, CA 94520 925-680-4526 or 877-927-8387 www.vetcenter.va.gov</p>	

For additional community resources see the West Contra Costa County Resource Guide available in the VRC.

Online Veteran Resources



A comprehensive online guide to veteran benefits.

www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage



United States Department of Veteran Affairs

Online resources and applications for many veteran benefits and resources.

www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm

Veteran Affairs (VA) Benefit Programs

- Post-9/11 GI Bill
- The Montgomery GI Bill (active Duty)
- The Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve)
- Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
- Survivors' and Dependents Educational Assistance Program
- Tutorial Assistance

The Post-9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is for individuals with at least ninety days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individual discharged with a service-connected disability after thirty days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill became effective on or after August 1, 2009.

(continued on the following page)

The Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SP) Chapter 1606

The MGIB-SR program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Courses to prepare student for college level work may be approved under certain circumstances.

The Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB) Chapter 30

The MGIB program provides up to thirty-six months of educational benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Courses to prepare student for college level work may be approved under certain circumstances. Generally, benefits are payable for ten years following your release from active duty.

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

VEAP is available if you first entered active duty between January 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985, and you elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in the educational benefit program. Your contributions are matched on a \$2 to \$1 basis by the government. The benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Courses to prepare student for college level work may be approved under certain circumstances.

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) Chapter 1607

REAP was established as a part of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act. The Department of Defense educational benefit program is designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. This program makes certain reservists who were activated for at least ninety days after September 11, 2001 eligible for either educational benefits or increased benefits.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA)

DEA provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service related condition. The program offers up to forty-five months of education benefits. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. The benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, and apprenticeship/on-the-job training. Courses to prepare student for college level work may be approved under certain circumstances.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services (VR&E)

VR&E provides vocational/educational counseling to veterans and certain dependents. Eligibility for this service is based on having a VA education program such as: Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill); Chapter 32 (Veterans Educational Assistance Program-VEAP); Chapter 35 (Dependents' Educational Assistance Program) for certain spouses and dependent children; Chapter 18 (Spina Bifida Program) for certain dependent children; Chapter 1606 (Reservists Education Program); or Public Law 102-16 (for Transitioning Service Members).

Tutoring Assistance

Contra Costa College has robust campus wide tutoring available at no cost to you located in the Library and Learning Resource Center (LLRC) Room 121. You can reach them by calling (510) 215-4898 or by emailing tutoring@contracosta.edu. However, if you are in need of further tutoring that you must pay for, the VA offers tutorial assistance. This is a supplement to your regular education benefit. Tutorial assistance is available if you are receiving VA educational assistance at the half-time or greater rate and have a deficiency in a subject, making tutoring necessary. The monthly rate of tutorial assistance may not exceed the cost of tutoring or \$100. The maximum amount payable is \$1,200. For additional information about eligibility and how to apply, visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/tutorial_assistance.asp.



Veteran Stakeholders Group

A Veteran Stakeholder Group, comprised of college staff, student veterans and representatives from local veteran organizations, supports the SRVC.

Concord Vet Center: Vet Centers provide private, confidential readjustment counseling services to veterans, service members and their families who have served in any combat theater to help them make a successful transition back to civilian life. These services are also available to those who suffered military sexual trauma regardless of whether the incident(s) was reported. Professional counseling staff many of whom have served in the military themselves provide counseling services. Vet Centers are also a point of contact in the community for any veteran seeking information about VA services and benefits as well as community resources for a host of veterans' needs. Contact the Vet Center for additional information about eligibility for individual and group counseling services.

Maurice Delmer, Outreach Specialist, Readjustment Counseling Services

1333 Willow Pass Road, Ste. 106, Concord, CA - (925) 680-4526

maurice.delmer@va.gov

www.vetcenter.va.gov

National Association of Black Veterans: The National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS) is a congressionally sanctioned Veterans Service Organization (VSO) created to address the needs of all veterans, black veterans in particular, and advocate on their behalf regarding claims for individual and family benefits. Traditionally black veterans and veterans of color are disproportionately under served in virtually every aid and assistance category provided for by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It was inadvertent neglect and inequitable health and medical attention that prompted Robert Cocroft, Thomas Wynn Sr. and William Sims, three black veterans, to found NAB Vets in 1973. Since then the organization has been amplifying the voices of the often-ignored veterans of color so that their pleas for shelter, help and parity are not only heard but also provided for. Peer-to-peer, vet-to-vet social and incidental exchanges form the building blocks and trust factors often lost during military deployment.

Commander Will Delaney

National Association of Black Veterans (NAB Vets), Chapter 92 - (510) 712-6222

www.nabvets.org



Swords to Plowshares: Founded in 1974 by veterans, Swords to Plowshares is an organization that provides needs assessment and case management, employment and training, housing, and legal assistance to roughly 3,000 veterans in the San Francisco Bay Area each year. They also advocate on behalf of veterans and provide community education for over 1,500 first responders, employers, social workers, attorneys, and other professionals who engage with veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides healthcare and benefits to a percentage of veterans, but depends on community partners, including Swords to Plowshares, to fill in the gaps and meet the needs of those who have served.

Swords to Plowshares is nationally recognized for their programs, advocacy, and expertise. Their holistic approach is based on the philosophy that veterans' health and stability issues—homelessness, service-related disabilities, unemployment, substance abuse—are interrelated and require an integrated system of support

2719 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612 – (510) 844-7500
www.swords-to-plowshares.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW): Founded in 1899 the VFW is one of longest serving Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) on record with a dedicated mission to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. Their charge is to serve veterans, their families, the military, and communities by advocating for all veterans entitlements. VFW Post 8399 partners with other VSO's and essential commodity providers to expand and enhance the range, scope and depth of raw resource allocations to veterans while campaigning to minimize the tedious cycle of perpetual referrals. 'No one does more for veterans' is the VFW motto and we vehemently strive to honor that commitment. Ask about our Veterans Community Outreach Initiative and VETS4CHESS program.

761st Tank Battalion VFW Post 8399

Commander Dedan Kimathi Ji Jaga

Richmond Veterans Memorial Hall, 968 23rd Street, Richmond, CA 94806 – (510) 815-0491
www.vfw.org

Veterans Resource Center: Founded in 2011, the Veterans Resource Program (VRC) was created in honor of Korean War Veteran Harry L. Williams, father of Rhonda Harris – founder. With the continued support of the community, the VRC is dedicated to providing services for all veterans in need of benefits they rightfully deserve. The VRC assist veterans with housing, applying for benefits, and higher educational opportunities that lead to gainful employment.

934 Maine Street, Richmond, CA – (510) 233-9313
www.veteransresourceprogram.org

Thank you to this group of dedicated community members for your service and support of veteran services at Contra Costa College.

Mission

The mission of the Contra Costa College Veteran Services is to assist America's veterans in obtaining all the federal and state educational benefits and entitlements they have earned by serving in the United States military, and to provide guidance and support services that will aid veterans in their transition to academic and civilian life.

Vision Statement

To cultivate a veterans' campus community that is well informed about all the benefits they have earned, a community in which the transition from service to student is made as smoothly as possible so that veterans can be focused and committed to academic success.



**CONTRA
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COLLEGE**

**Contra Costa College
Veterans Resource Center
Student & Administration Building (SAB) Room 109
2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo, CA 94806
(510) 215-3959**

Contra Costa Community College District is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment, and campus life. The District does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, parental status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in any access to and treatment in College programs, activities, and application for employment.