Columbia is proud of our record of welcoming a sizable student veteran population in recent years.  We believe there are now more than 550 student veterans enrolled across the University for the 2014/2015 academic year.  By latest count, more than 360 of those are undergraduates at our School of General Studies, which attracts a wide diversity of non-traditional and mid-career students pursuing bachelor’s degrees.  The rest are spread across our many graduate and professional schools.  As President Bollinger and so many others on campus have stated, having veterans here in significant numbers has done much to enrich the diversity of the university community, and we look forward to welcoming many more of them in the years ahead.  Here is some of the media interest that has been generated by our large and accomplished group of student veterans over recent years:

**2014 Veterans Enrollment Survey Questionnaire**

College or Institution: Columbia University

Person submitting information: Victoria Benitez

Phone:       212-854-6732                   Email:     vbenitez@columbia.edu

1. **How many undergraduate veterans are enrolled at your institution this year?  Please list first the college of arts and sciences or equivalent and add any others by school**

There are 360 student veterans in Columbia’s School of General Studies and over 200 in graduate programs throughout the university.

Note: Please report veterans only.  Do not combine veterans with dependents of veterans who are using the G.I. Bill.  Many student information systems identify only students using the G.I. Bill, veterans and dependents.  We explain this and yet each year colleges report the combined number.

**2.)  What do you wish to report beyond Question 1?**

**3.)  How many undergraduates at your institution are in the ROTC?  Is the ROTC on your campus?  If not, where do your students go for ROTC?**

Columbia University announced the new Navy ROTC program (NROTC) for its campus in the spring of 2011 (see: <http://news.columbia.edu/oncampus/2438> ) and currently has 7 students in the program. The University continues to have undergraduate students who participated in the NYC regional Army and Air Force ROTC programs at Fordham and Manhattan College respectively and we currently have a total of 5. Columbia students who participate in NROTC have a significant portion of their ROTC experience at the SUNY Maritime campus.

**4.)  What is the total number of undergraduate alumni who have served in the U.S. military since September 11, 2001?  How many in Iraq?  Afghanistan?  If any were killed, how many?  Wounded?**

Columbia’s School of General Studies caters to nontraditional students so the majority of undergraduate students who are veterans mainly have served prior to their enrollments at Columbia.  Though we certainly have some alumni who have gone on to serve after graduation and train as officers, many of these alumni have previously served in the U.S. military prior to graduation.

We can only report back to 2008 when the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Act was enacted as far as enrollment.  Prior to 2008 the population was about 50 student veterans each year since 9-11.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2008-09  (Pre-Post 9/11 GI Bill) |  60 |
| 2009-10  | 108 |
| 2010-11  | 203 |
| 2011-12 | 252 |
| 2012-13 | 348 |

2013-14                                360

**5.)  What specific outreach and programs does your campus have for undergraduates who are using the G.I. Bill as dependents?  There are several programs supporting the children of those killed or wounded in the wars since 9/11.  Are any of your undergraduates from those programs?  What recruiting efforts does you institution make to these programs and to the children of those killed or wounded?**

This isn’t really applicable to the School of General Studies since they don’t have many dependents enrolled, but the same services offered to veterans are available for dependents relative to educational financing, academic advising, health services.

**6.)  What is the total square footage of new and renovated space constructed on your campus since 9/11?  Academic, athletic, residential, administrative.  How much of this space is for veterans or veterans services?**

Although the university works to provide robust services for veterans on campus and recognize that additional services are sometimes requested, we do not seek to single veterans out.  They are members of the undergraduate community and we seek to provide all members with top-notch residential, administrative, athletic and academic services and facilities.

The University does have Veterans Financial Aid offices on campus and an NROTC office on campus where active-duty Navy and Marine Corps officers will meet with Columbia NROTC midshipmen, who will participate in NROTC through a unit hosted at SUNY Maritime College in the Throgs Neck section of the Bronx.

**7.)  What is your total annual undergraduate admission recruiting and travel budget?  What is the total number of recruiting visits made by college staff?  By alumni?  How many of these visits were seeking veterans?  For example, to military bases, to federal and state veterans services, to community college veteran centers?**

Representatives from Columbia’s School of General Studies visit bases regularly and host military specific recruitment events in a number of regions across the U.S., and work with the university’s veteran alumni organization in recruitment activities.  In addition, any time university admissions officers are in a region that has a large military presence, they will make efforts to reach out to that population for any general recruitment events the university is hosting.  By way of example, on a recent trip to San Diego, university representatives not only visited the Marines Corps base at Camp Pendleton to host an admissions information session, they also invited Marines and Sailors from the region to attend a hotel-based event hosted in La Jolla.

The School of General studies also have veteran students and alumni accompany them to events on military bases and also have alumni make visits on behalf of the school. In fact, it's the strength and depth of our alumni and student veteran community that we've developed over the last decade that allows us to continue to have the most successful fully integrated academic program for veterans in the county.

Columbia also works with the veteran services office at Community Colleges when visiting or hosting an information session on campus, as often veteran make their way to a four year school by starting first at a Community College.  Columbia’s MilVets student organization is active and regularly meets and works with prospective students and the School of General Studies Office of Admissions regularly facilitates this contact.  Finally, the university is also engaged with senior military and civilian leadership on developing ways to improve the educational transition process for service members cycling out of service.  This includes sessions with the Department of Veteran Affairs, Joining Forces, conversations with Dr. Jill Biden and her staff, and senior military leadership at the Department of Defense. The vice dean of GS recently gave a talk at Walter Reed and met with the Wounded Warrior Regiment to identify ways to provide close the information gap that exists for women and men ready to leave military service and transition to the civilian, academic world.

**8.)  Has your institution evaluated the Posse Foundation Veterans Program?  If you have joined, please explain why.  If not, please explain why.**

**Note:** Replies we will not accept this year.

9.) What specific discussions has your college had over the past twelve months about admitting undergraduate veterans?  Please specify administrative, faculty, trustees.  What specific discussions has your college had about admitting veterans with any other colleges, including COFHE members?

This question is not relevant since Columbia already admit veterans to our undergradaute program. This past year the university has had a number of conversations with our peer institutions about our veteran recruitment efforts since we are considered experts in this area.