

# Chapter 31: Vocational Rehabilitation

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Vocational Rehabilitation is a program primarily focused on helping veterans with service-connected disabilities become suitably employed, maintain employment, or achieve independence in daily living.

Services include vocational and person counseling, education and training, financial aid, job assistance, and if needed, medical and dental treatment. Services generally last up to 48 months, but they can be extended in certain circumstances.

### Eligibility Information

You must first be awarded a monthly Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability rating compensation payment. In some cases, you must be eligible if you aren't getting VA compensation. For example, if you are awaiting discharge from the service because of a disability, you may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation. You may qualify for these benefits if:

- You served on or after September 16, 1940 **and**
- Your service-connected disabilities (SCDs) are rated **at least 20 percent** disabling by the VA **and**
- You need vocational rehabilitation to overcome an employment handicap **and**
- It has been less than 12 years since the VA notified you of your qualified SCD

### Tuition Coverage

The Vocational Rehabilitation program pays all your training costs, such as tuition and fees, books, supplies, equipment, and if needed special services tuition costs for students taking courses required toward their approved VA Educational Objective. Students also receive a monthly allowance based on their VA enrollment status.

## Getting Started

1. To receive vocational rehabilitation education benefits, you must have a Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation Authorization Form, VA Form (28-1905)
2. To receive this form you must apply through the Veterans On-Line Application (VONAPP-VA Form 28-1900).
3. Once you have been approved by the Department of Veteran Affairs, a VA Form 28-1905 will be mailed to you identifying your approval as well as the name of your case manager. This will be the person who approves your program, makes changes to the program, and handles your specific case.
4. Any changes you wish to make must be approved by your case manager and your file must be updated showing the changes to ensure to ensure the school is paid.
5. Once you are approved, your case manager will send the copy to the School Certifying Official.

### Special Tips and Information for Chapter 31 Students

**A change in your class schedule may affect your VA benefits.** Frequent changes often can cause a student to have an overpayment of benefits. Frequent changes of schedule may also delay your certification process, especially if nonrequired courses for your approved VA Educational Objective are taken. Unless nonrequired courses are approved by your case manager, you will be required to pay the tuition on those courses. Please notify the School Certifying Official when you submit your RFC if you plan to take extra courses and pay for them yourself. Authoritative information about Vocational Rehabilitation is available online at [gibill.va.gov](http://gibill.va.gov) or by calling the VA at 1-888-

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GIBill. Chapter 31 students are not eligible for “rounding out”

### **Setting you up for success towards completion: Step-by-step Instructions**

- Apply to Reynolds.** You can find information on admission to Reynolds and an application at the Admission and Records web site. Ensure you complete the attached Application for In-State Tuition and provide supporting documents. For more information on domicile issues, go to the Admission and Records office web site.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). For more information on financial aid, go to the Office of Financial Aid. The application should be filed as soon as possible after January 1.
- Apply for your federal GI Bill education benefits** using the Veteran Online Application web site in order to receive a COE.
- Attend student orientation.** Orientation is offered over the summer for students enrolling in the fall semester. Information can be found available online at [http://www.reynolds.edu/student\\_services/advising/orientation.aspx](http://www.reynolds.edu/student_services/advising/orientation.aspx)
- Complete the Certification Request Form** each semester after registration is finalized to continue receiving GI Bill benefits. The form is available online at <https://forms.reynolds.edu/Veterans/>
- Stop in and say hi!** Visit the Military Resource Center to meet other veterans attending Reynolds