

The Vocational Readiness and Employment (VR&E) “Chapter 31”



**Individualized Path to
Employment**



VR&E Program Intent

Provide services to assist Servicemembers and Veterans (SM/V) with service-connected disabilities to succeed:

- In transition ... through services to support transition back to civilian life.
- At work ... through services resulting in suitable employment.
- On campus ... through services to provide support during education and training.
- At home ... and in their communities ... through services to maximize independence in daily living.



Eligibility to Apply for VR&E Benefits

Veterans:

- Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.
- A VA service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or more; or memorandum rating of 20 percent are eligible to apply for services.

Active Duty Servicemembers:

- Expect to receive an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more.
- Enrolled in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES).



Entitlement to VR&E Benefits

- While eligible to apply, the SM/V must meet the criteria for entitlement (except as noted below).
- Servicemembers awaiting discharge due to a medical condition resulting from a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty will be automatically entitled to VR&E benefits under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008.



VR&E Basic Benefit Information

- A maximum of 48 months of entitlement.
- The time limit for a SM/V's eligibility to receive VR&E benefits and services is usually limited to a 12-year period.
- The 12-year period begins on the latter of these dates:
 - Date of separation from active military duty, or
 - Date when the Veteran was first notified of a VA service-connected disability rating.
 - There is no delimiting date if discharged after January 2013.
- The basic period of eligibility may be extended if a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) determines that a SM/V has a serious employment handicap (SEH).



Rehabilitation Tracks

- Re-employment
- Rapid Access to employment
- Self-employment
- Employment through long-term services
- Independent living services



VR&E Benefits and GI Bill

- **Is the VR&E program the same as the GI Bill?**
 - No. The GI Bill is an education program.
 - The purpose of the VR&E program is to assist SM/Vs with service-connected disabilities to overcome their barriers to employment and become suitably employed.
 - Four of the five VR&E tracks of services are geared specifically toward employment.
 - The “E” in VR&E stands for the program’s mission to assist SM/Vs with obtaining and maintaining suitable Employment.



CH 31 Services Include:

- **Required supplies and equipment**
- **Parking permit**
- **Textbooks or eBooks, billed directly to CH 31**
- **Approved certifications, exams and study materials**
- **Retro Induction**
- **Medical**
- **Emergency Dental Services**
- **Employment Adjustments Payments after graduation**



VR&E Employment Focus

The VR&E program provides employment services in four of the five rehabilitation tracks.

Personalized employment services may include:

- Work-readiness preparation
- Resume development and job-seeking skills
- Interviewing skills preparation
- Employment resources development
- Job accommodations
- Job placement assistance
- Post-employment follow-up
- Career counseling and rehabilitation planning

Special Employer Incentives (SEI)

- Training Costs
- VA-provided supplies
- Workplace accommodations
- Minimal paperwork to participate



VR&E Employment Focus

Other Employment Services may include:

- Referrals to other employment resources
- Online tool that connects SM/V and employers access via <https://www.va.gov/>

Department of Labor (DOL)

- Employment assistance
- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)
- Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)



Chapter 36 Services

How VR&E assists SM/V, and eligible Dependents

Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG) services is a great opportunity for SM/V to get personalized counseling and support to help guide their career paths, ensure most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their goals.

Who May Apply

- Transitioning Servicemembers who are within six months of discharge from active duty and expect to receive a discharge that is other than dishonorable.
- Veterans within one year following discharge from active duty if they have received an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.
- Any SM/V currently eligible for a VA education benefit.
- All current VA education beneficiaries.



CH 18 & 35 Benefits

How VR&E assists Eligible Dependents

Chapter 18 Benefits

- VR&E provides services to eligible dependents born with spina bifida and other congenital disabilities.
- With the goal of suitable employment, VR&E provides training and other rehabilitative services.

Chapter 35 Benefits

- Dependents' Educational Assistance
- Educational benefit provided to eligible dependents of Veterans who have either died, been involuntarily detained, or determined to have a permanent and total service-connected disability.



VetSuccess on Campus

How VR&E assists student SM/V, and Dependents

VR&E has VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Counselors on a number college campuses across the nation. The VSOC Counselor provides a multitude of services to ease the transition to student/civilian life for the SM/V.

We provide seamless access to VA services to all student SM/V to include:

- Assistance with navigating the academic environment.
- Vocational testing and career and academic counseling.
- Referral services as needed.
- Support eligible participants with successful integration into college and university campuses to include adjustment counseling.
- Provide support to allow the SM/V successful completion of individualized educational goals.
- Improve their life circumstances to successfully live and thrive in the career field and community of their choice.



Purpose of VSOC

Extend counseling and supportive services to the Veteran population on collegiate campuses, who may or may not have disabilities

VSOC Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors' (VRC) mission is to provide:

- Outreach

- Counseling and support

- Benefits assistance and referrals for medical and mental health needs

- Veteran mentoring programs



Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

How VR&E assists Servicemembers

- In 2012, VR&E began stationing VRCs on military installations to provide assessment, evaluation, and outreach services to transitioning wounded, ill, and injured SMs referred to the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) phase or by participating in Education and Employment Initiative (E2I).
- SMs awaiting discharge due to a medical condition resulting from a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty are automatically entitled to VR&E benefits. Basic eligibility and entitlement is based on documentation from military service rather than on the establishment of a VA disability or memorandum rating.



Applying for Services

Veterans can apply by one of the following ways:

On-line

- <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment>
- Register for an account or login using an existing account

(VA form 28-1900) CH 31 Application

(VA Form 28-8832) CH 36 Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG)

Note: Send applications to VSOC for expedited services.



VSOC Contact information

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For More Information

Find your local VR&E office by calling
Veterans Benefits Administration

Toll Free Number:
1-800-827-1000

- Online Resources:

www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre



Thank you for participating
in this briefing

