



VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT: CHAPTER 31 ★



How To Apply for Veteran Readiness and Employment

SAVE TIME—AND SAVE YOUR WORK IN PROGRESS—BY SIGNING IN BEFORE STARTING YOUR APPLICATION

When you're signed in to your VA.gov account:

- The VA can prefill part of your application based on your account details.
- You can save your application in progress, and come back later to finish filling it out. You'll have 60 days from the date you start or update your application to submit it.

Note: If you sign in after you've started your application, you won't be able to save the information you've already filled in.

[SIGN IN TO START YOUR APPLICATION](#)

Follow the steps below to apply for Veteran Readiness and Employment.

1. Prepare To fill out this application, you'll need your:

- Social Security number (required)
- Your VA file number (if you know it)
- An address, phone number, and email where we can contact you.

What if I need help filling out my application? An accredited representative, with a Veterans Service Organization (VSO), can help you fill out your claim. [Get help filing your claim](#)

2. Apply: Complete this Veteran Readiness and Employment form.

After submitting your application, you'll get a confirmation message. It will include details about your next steps. You can print this for your records.

3. VA Review

We process applications in the order we receive them. We may contact you if we have questions or need more information.

4. Decision

If you're eligible for Veteran Readiness and Employment benefits, we'll schedule a meeting for you with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC). The counselor will work with you to create a personalized rehabilitation plan that outlines what VR&E services you can get.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VR&E PROGRAM

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HOW TO APPLY TO VR&E

VR&E ORIENTATION

Veteran Readiness and Employment orientation

The Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program, also referred to as Chapter 31, provides support and services to Veterans and service members with service-connected disabilities. The program can help you:

- Transition back to civilian life
- Find employment, return to your former job, or start your own business
- Receive education or training for a professional or vocational field that's a good fit for you
- Receive independent living services if you can't return to work right away

VR&E basic eligibility information

You can get up to 48 months of combined VA benefits. These benefits may include:

- Training to prepare for a job
- Professional or vocational counseling and training
- Employment assistance

If you are eligible for VR&E and another VA education benefit, speak with your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) to determine the best fit for you. Generally, if you are entitled to both VR&E services and eligible for Education benefits, using VR&E benefits might be more beneficial. You should speak to a VRC before deciding.

As a Veteran released from active duty before 1/1/2013, you're eligible for VR&E benefits and services within a 12 year period. In addition, if you are a Veteran or Service member with a Release from Active Duty date on, or after, January 1, 2013 there is no eligibility termination date.

VR&E PROCESS

Learn about the different stages of the process.

1. ORIENTATION

- Complete VR&E orientation

2. APPLICATION

- Apply for VR&E benefits
- We'll determine your eligibility and send you an appointment letter
- Schedule your initial appointment with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)
- Complete a Rehabilitation Needs Inventory (RNI) and a CareerScope assessment
- Gather any necessary materials, like your resume, transcripts, job certifications, and medical records

3. ENTITLEMENT DETERMINATION

- Work with your VRC to assess your skills, aptitudes, abilities, and interests
- Work with your VRC to identify entitlement criteria (an employment handicap or a serious employment handicap)
- If you are determined to be entitled to benefits, your VRC will tell you about next steps.
- Complete any tasks required for your next steps
- If it is determined you are not entitled to VR&E benefits, your VRC will provide you with additional resources that may assist you

4. SERVICES

- We'll help you with employment or independent living benefits and services
- Report your progress with training programs to your VRC
- Get help with anything that may be blocking your participation in the VR&E program

5. COMPLETION

- You found and kept a suitable job
- You are able to live more independently

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HOW TO APPLY TO VR&E

EMPLOYMENT THROUGH LONG-TERM SERVICES TRACK

VR&E Long-Term Services video | 1:09 Get professional or vocational training to help you develop new job. Skills

CLICK HERE TO SEE THE VIDEO

The Employment Through Long-Term Services track provides Veterans with the counseling, training, and education they need to become suitably employed. If you're in the Employment Through Long-Term Services track, we can help you get:

- Apprenticeships and internships
- On-the-Job training (OJT)
- Non-Paid Work Experience (NPWE)
- A part-time job through the work-study program
- College, vocational, or technical training
- Money to cover tuition, fees, books, and supplies
- Money to use toward housing and food (called subsistence allowance)
- Personalized case management support
- A job that works for your individual skillset and abilities

THANK YOU FOR VIEWING THE VR&E ORIENTATION

[APPLY FOR VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT NOW](#)

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