

# Veteran Readiness and Employment (Chapter 31)

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U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Presentation

- Overview of VR&E-VSOC, CH31, CH36, 5 tracks to employment
- Eligibility for Veteran Readiness and Employment
- VR&E Entitlement Determination process
- Factsheets
- Questions

# VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)

- VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) supports Veterans and service members who are transitioning from military to college life, and certain qualified dependents.
- We have vocational rehabilitation counselors, called VSOC counselors, at 104 college campuses across the country.

# Chapter 31

- If you have a service-connected disability that limits your ability to work or prevents you from working, Veteran Readiness and Employment can help.
- Formerly called Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- This program—also known as Chapter 31 or VR&E—helps you explore employment options and address education or training needs.

# Educational and career counseling (VA Chapter 36)

- Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG), or VA Chapter 36, offers free educational and career guidance, planning, and resources to Veterans and their dependents who are eligible for a VA education benefit.

# VR&E support-and-services tracks

- We offer 5 support-and-services tracks to help you get education or training, find and keep a job, and live as independently as possible. Explore the different tracks—and find out how to apply for benefits and services.
  - Reemployment
  - Rapid Access to Employment
  - Self-Employment
  - Independent Living
  - Employment through Long-Term Services

# Reemployment track

- If you're a Veteran with a service-connected disability, the Reemployment track can help you return to your former job and support your employer in meeting your needs.
- As a Veteran, you're protected under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). This means you can't be disadvantaged in your civilian career because of your service.

# Rapid Access to Employment track

- If you want to find a job or career that uses your existing skill set, the Rapid Access to Employment track can help you with your job search.
- We offer counseling and rehabilitation services that address your abilities, aptitudes, and interests.



# Self-Employment track

- If you're a service member or Veteran with a service-connected disability and employment barrier, the Self-Employment track can help you start your own business.
- We can help you get the education or training you need to find work in a different field that better suits your current abilities and interests.

# Independent Living track

- If you can't return to work right away, you may qualify for services that can help you live as independently as possible.
- If your service-connected disability limits your ability to perform activities of daily living (like bathing, dressing, accessing the community, and interacting with others) and you can't return to work right away, you may qualify for independent living services through the Independent Living track.

# Employment Through Long-Term Services track

- If you have a service-connected disability and employment barrier, we can help you get the education or training you need to find work in a different field.
- If you have a service-connected disability that makes it hard for you to succeed in your employment path, you may be interested in the Employment Through Long-Term Services track.
- We can help you get the education or training you need to find work in a different field that better suits your current abilities and interests.

# Eligible for VR&E

- Can I get professional or vocational counseling and training for new skills through VR&E?
- You may be eligible for these benefits if you're a service member or Veteran with a service-connected disability, and you meet all the requirements listed on the next 4 slides.

# All of these must be true:

- You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, and
- You have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% from VA

# Discharge

- If you were discharged from active duty before January 1, 2013, your basic period of eligibility ends 12 years from one of these dates, whichever comes later:
  - The date you received notice of your date of separation from active duty, or
  - The date you received your first VA service-connected disability rating
  - The basic period of eligibility may be extended if a VRC finds that you have a serious employment handicap (SEH). Having an SEH means your service-connected disability significantly limits your ability to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment (a job that doesn't make your disability worse; is stable; and matches your abilities, aptitudes, and interests).

# Discharge

- If you were discharged from active duty on or after January 1, 2013, the 12-year basic period of eligibility doesn't apply to you.
- There's no time limit on your eligibility.

# Discharge

- What should I do if I received other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge?
- If you've received one of these discharge statuses, you may not be eligible for VA benefits.
- There are 2 ways you can try to qualify:
  - Find out how to apply for a discharge upgrade-
  - Learn about the VA Character of Discharge review process
  - <https://www.va.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions/>



# What kind of benefits can I get?

- A complete skills assessment
- Career guidance
- Job-market evaluation
- Education and training for a professional or vocational field that's a good fit for you
- Apprenticeship, on-the-job training, and volunteer opportunities
- Employment assistance

# How do I get these benefits?

- First, you'll need to apply for VR&E benefits. Then, you'll work with your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC).
- If you've received your VA disability rating, you can apply online right now.
- APPLY for VR&E Benefits at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

# You can also apply:

- By mail
  - Fill out an Application for Vocational Rehabilitation for Claimants with Service-Connected Disabilities (VA Form 28-1900).
  - Get [VA Form 28-1900](#) to download
- Send your completed application here:

Department of Veterans Affairs

VR&E Intake Center

PO Box 5210

Janesville, WI

53547-5210



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# If you are eligible

- If you're eligible, we'll invite you to an orientation session at your nearest VA regional office.
- Note: VR&E is an employment program that's different from the GI Bill and may be used to pay for education needed to train you for suitable employment.

# What happens after I apply?

- After you apply, we'll schedule a meeting for you with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) to find out if you have an employment handicap and if you're eligible for VR&E benefits and services.
- You have an employment handicap if your service-connected disability limits your ability to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment (a job that doesn't make your disability worse, is stable, and matches your abilities, aptitudes, and interests).

# Entitlement-All of these must be true:

- You have an employment barrier or handicap, and
- You're enrolled in VR&E, and
- Your service-connected disability makes it hard for you to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment
  - Suitable Employment-is a job that doesn't make your disability worse, is stable, and matches your abilities, aptitudes, and interests
- **Note:** You may be eligible for both VR&E training and GI Bill benefits. You'll need to decide which benefit you want to use.

# Entitlement Decision

- After we make an entitlement decision, you and your counselor will work together to develop a rehabilitation plan.
- This plan outlines the rehabilitation and other services that VR&E will provide.
- If you disagree with a decision on your application for VR&E services and benefits, you can request a decision review. You can also manage any review requests or appeals you already filed.
- Request a decision review or manage a legacy appeal

# What's included in a rehabilitation plan?

- A rehabilitation plan is a written plan that outlines the resources we'll use to help you find employment.
- Depending on your situation, your VRC will work with you to choose one of the following support-and-services tracks to help you find and keep a job, and live as independently as possible:
  - Reemployment with a former employer
  - Job placement and counseling services for new employment
  - Help with starting your own business
  - Long-term training or services to help you find work in a different field that better suits your abilities and interests
  - Independent living services if you can't return to work right away



# What happens after my VRC creates my rehabilitation plan?

- Your VRC will help you put your plan into action.
- They'll also provide ongoing counseling and help you get tutorial assistance, job training, work-readiness support, and medical referrals.

# Fact Sheets

- <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets>
- VetSuccess on Campus
- Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (Chapter 36)
- Veteran Readiness and Employment: Chapter 31
- 5 Tracks to Employment

# VetSuccess on Campus



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## VetSuccess on Campus

The VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program helps Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible dependents succeed in their educational goals. The program provides on-campus benefits assistance and counseling. The goals of the program are to:

- Help participants complete their education
- Help participants move on to viable careers

The VSOC program operates in concert with VA's education and career counseling program, or Chapter 36 authority. It is administered by VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program. Participants in VSOC receive a wide range of educational and vocational counseling services. These services provide personalized support to:

- Guide career paths
- Ensure effective use of VA benefits
- Achieve educational goals
- Achieve career goals

### On-Campus Benefits Assistance and Counseling

Each VSOC school is assigned an experienced Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC). VSOC Counselors ensure student Veterans receive necessary support and assistance. This helps them pursue their education and employment goals.

The VSOC program began in 2009 at the University of South Florida. You can find a full list of the VSOC schools at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp>.



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### Student Servicemembers, Veterans, and Dependents

The following are eligible for VSOC services:

- Servicemembers and Veterans eligible for any of VA's educational programs
  - Including the Post-9/11 and Montgomery GI Bills
- Servicemembers and Veterans attending training through VA's VR&E program
- Eligible dependents receiving VA education benefits
  - Including spouses attending school through the Post-9/11 GI Bill

### VSOC Counselors

VSOC Counselors provide:

- Adjustment counseling to help complete education programs and find employment
- Vocational testing
- Educational and career counseling
- Expedited VR&E services
- Support and assistance
  - Regardless of entitlement, benefit usage or enrollment status

### Selection of VSOC Schools

Selection is based on the following:

- Number of student Veterans enrolled
- Ability to accommodate a full-time VSOC counselor
- Proximity to:

# VetSuccess on Campus

- VA Regional Office
- VR&E out-based office
- Vet Center
- VA medical facility
- Existing Veteran support services on campus
- Campus leadership support

## To Request a VSOC Counselor for Your Campus

Send an email to VR&E's Outreach Team at [VREOUTREACH.vbaco@va.gov](mailto:VREOUTREACH.vbaco@va.gov). In the email, please include:

- Your reason for interest in the program
- Your willingness to meet the selection criteria
- A point of contact

For more information:

- Connect with your local VA Regional Office to speak with a VR&E representative. You can find your closest VA Regional Office here:  
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>
- Call 800-827-1000
- Visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp>

# Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (Chapter 36)

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## Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (Chapter 36)

### What is Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG)?

Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG) is a VA benefit that supports education and career decisions. PCPG was previously known as Chapter 36 Educational and Career Counseling.

### Who is Eligible for PCPG?

- Service members six months prior to separation
- Veterans who have transitioned from active-duty service in the last year
- Veterans or beneficiaries eligible to use a VA educational benefit

### What benefits does PCPG provide?

- Services targeted to the needs of each participant
- Assistance identifying areas for education and career development
- Action plans to achieve personal goals
- Skills assessments
- Counseling to overcome potential obstacles to success

### How to Apply:

There are several ways to apply for the PCPG program:

- APPLY ONLINE – Visit [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) to complete and submit your application
- APPLY BY MAIL – Fill out the application located at <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-28-8832-ARE.pdf> and mail it to: VBA Claims Intake Center, P.O. Box 5210, Janesville WI 53547-5210
- APPLY IN PERSON at your local VA Regional Office or by visiting a VetSuccess On Campus (VSOC) office:
  - Find a VA Regional Office at: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>
  - Find a VSOC office at: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp>
- For more information on PCPG, please visit: <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/education-and-career-counseling/>



# Veteran Readiness and Employment: Chapter 31



## Veteran Readiness and Employment: Chapter 31

### What is the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program?

The VR&E program is authorized under Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 31. It is referred to as the Chapter 31 program. It assists entitled Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap to prepare for, obtain, and maintain a job. It also helps entitled transitioning Servicemembers.

If you are a Servicemember or Veteran with a service-connected disability and not currently able to work, VR&E also offers services to help you live as independently as possible.

### Basic period of eligibility

If you were discharged from active duty before January 1, 2013, your basic period of eligibility ends 12 years from one of these dates, whichever comes later:

- The date you received notice of your date of separation from active duty, or
- The date you received your first VA service-connected disability rating

The basic period of eligibility may be extended if a VRC finds that you have a serious employment handicap (SEH).

If you were discharged from active duty on or after January 1, 2013, the 12-year basic period of eligibility doesn't apply to you. There's no time limit on your eligibility.

### Who is entitled to receive VR&E services?



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Active-duty Servicemembers who:

- Expect to receive an honorable discharge
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more
- Are participating in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) or have an injury or illness that prevents them from performing military duties
  - Servicemembers participating in IDES are presumed entitled
- Are determined by VR&E to need vocational rehabilitation services

Veterans who:

- Have received an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- Have a VA service-connected disability rating of:
  - 10 percent with a serious employment handicap, or
  - 20 percent or more with an employment handicap
- Are determined by VR&E to need rehabilitation services

### How is entitlement established?

You are entitled to services if:

- You have a 20 percent service-connected disability AND
- You have an employment handicap

If your service-connected disability is only 10 percent, you must have a serious employment handicap to be eligible.

A Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will work with you to determine entitlement. The evaluation will:

- Assess your interests, aptitudes and abilities
- Assess your service-connected disability and your ability to hold a job
- Include vocational exploration activities and goal development
  - Used to determine suitable employment and maximize independent living
- Explore labor markets and wage information
- Select a VR&E program track
- Develop an individualized rehabilitation plan

# Veteran Readiness and Employment: Chapter 31

## What is a Rehabilitation Plan?

This plan provides a detailed outline of VR&E program services. It is individualized to meet the needs of the Servicemember or Veteran. The plan is a signed agreement between the recipient and VA. The following service delivery options may be included in a rehabilitation plan:

- Re-employment
- Rapid employment services for new employment
- Self-employment
- Employment through long-term services
- Independent living services

## What other benefits may be provided?

After the plan is enacted, the VRC will provide ongoing counseling, assistance and coordination of services. These include:

- Tutorial assistance
- Job-seeking skills training or education
- Medical and dental referrals to the Veterans Health Administration
- Adjustment counseling
- Payment of training allowance
- Other services required to help achieve a career and live as independently as possible

## How can you apply?

- Apply online: <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/how-to-apply/>
- Fill out VA Form 28-1900, "Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation" (You can find the form at <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/vba-28-1900-are.pdf>) and mail it to:  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
VR&E Intake Center  
PO Box 5210  
Janesville, WI 53547-5210

For more information:

- Connect with your local VA Regional Office to speak with a VR&E representative. You can find your closest VA Regional Office here: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>
- Call 800-827-1000
- Visit <https://va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>

# Five Tracks to Employment

VA



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## • Five Tracks to Employment

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• Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) is a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program. It supports Servicemembers leaving active duty due to medical issues, as well as Veterans with service-connected disabilities. The program provides comprehensive employment services and assistance. These services include:

- Vocational counseling
- Training or education
- Career placement
- Special rehabilitation services

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• VR&E is available to eligible active-duty Servicemembers, as well as National Guard or Reserve personnel, and Veterans.

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## • What is a Rehabilitation Plan?

• A rehabilitation plan details the services provided under VR&E for the Servicemember or Veteran. These plans are individualized to the recipient's specific needs. Each plan is a signed agreement between the recipient and their VA counselor. It is designed to help the recipient achieve their goals. A rehabilitation plan may assist with the following:

- Re-employment with the previous employer
- Rapid employment services for new employment
- Self-employment
- Employment through long-term services
- Independent living services

## What are some of the features of the Re-employment Track?

This track is for individuals separated from active military service or in the National Guard or Reserves who want to return to work with their previous employers. This track may involve the need to modify the workplace to make it more accessible. The VA counselor and medical staff coordinate with the employer to communicate these needs. VA also provides the following services to ensure a successful return to work:

- Re-employment rights
- Advice
- Work-adjustment services
- Adaptive equipment
- Specialized consultations

## What are some of the features of the Rapid Access to Employment Track?

This track is for individuals who seek employment and already have the skills to be competitive in the job market. VA provides expert specialized assistance, including:

- Career-placement assistance
- Referrals
- Career-readiness assistance
- Resume development
- Career-search assistance
- Development of employment resources
- Job accommodations
- Short-term certificate training
- Post-employment follow-up

## What are some of the features of the Self-employment Track?

This track is for individuals who have the interest, skills, and resources to start their own business. This may also be the right track for those with limited access to traditional employment. Self-employment may also appeal to those who need a flexible work schedule or a more accommodating work environment. VR&E services may include:



# Five Tracks to Employment

- Developing a business plan
- Training in small business operations
- Marketing and financial assistance
- Guidance implementing a business plan
- Tuition for training and licensing fees
- Assistance with some start-up costs, as feasible
- Referral to Small Business Administration (SBA) centers

## What are some of the features of the Employment Through Long-term Services Track?

This track helps individuals obtain necessary job skills, including:

- Training or education via certificate or college degree programs
- On-the-job training
- Non-paid work experience
- Specialized testing and evaluation
- Job sharing
- Work monitoring
- Work study
- Public-private job partnering
- Apprenticeships
- Internships

VR&E provides tuition costs, books, fees and equipment. The program also provides a monthly allowance during training or education.

## What are some of the features of the Independent Living Services Track?

This track is for individuals who may not be able to go to work immediately due to a disability. VR&E can help recipients lead a more independent life through the following services:

- Obtaining a volunteer position
- Connecting with community-based support services

- Providing assistive devices
- Increased access within the home or community
- Help becoming more independent in daily living activities

VA will provide the necessary services or equipment needed to reach independent living goals.

## Where can you find additional information about the Five Tracks to Employment?

For more information:

- Connect with your local VA Regional Office to speak with a VR&E representative. You can find your closest VA Regional Office here: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>
- Call 800-827-1000
- Visit <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>

# Quick Review

- We have covered the following areas:
  - VSOC-Questions?
  - CH31-Questions?
    - Eligibility
    - Entitlement
    - 5 tracks
  - CH36-Questions?
  - Factsheets-Questions?
  - Application Process-Questions?

# Contact Information

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# Reference

- <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>