

# The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program (Chapter 31)

## What you need to know

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program pays for tuition, fees, and course materials for eligible veterans with service-connected disabilities.

### What is the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program?

The VR&E program, also known as Chapter 31, offers rehabilitation, education, and employment services to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

### Who is entitled to these benefits?

Veterans who have a disabling condition that resulted from or was aggravated by an injury or illness that happened while on active duty in the military.

### What educational benefits does the VR&E program pay for?

It pays for 100% of approved tuition, fees, and course materials (including books) at an eligible college or post-secondary vocational, technical, or business school.

### How do I know if I'm eligible?

The VA determines eligibility on a case-by-case basis, but there are some basic requirements:

Active duty servicemembers are eligible if they:

- Expect to receive an honorable discharge upon separation from active duty.
- Obtain a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the VA.

Veterans are eligible if they:

- Have received, or will receive, a discharge other than dishonorable.
- Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10%.

The basic period of eligibility for VR&E services is 12 years from the latter of:

- For servicemembers, the date of separation from active military service.
- For veterans, the date the veteran was first notified by the VA of a service-connected disability rating.

If you have a serious employment handicap, the period of eligibility may be extended. Determining whether you have a serious employment handicap involves additional eligibility criteria as determined by the VA.

### How do I apply for the VR&E Program?

Go to the VR&E Program Web site and complete the online application (28-1900) at [www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov](http://www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov).

### What happens after I apply?

If you meet the basic eligibility requirements, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will contact you to begin a comprehensive eligibility evaluation. When your eligibility is established, you and your counselor will work together on a plan to address your rehabilitation, education, and employment needs.

If your approved plan involves furthering your education, then the VA will pay for tuition, expenses, and materials at an eligible college or post-secondary vocational, technical, or business school. The process—from your initial application until educational benefits are approved—can take 3–4 months.

### How do I use this benefit at Capella?

Once you're approved for benefits under the VR&E program, your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will provide you a 28-1905 form. Complete and submit this form to Capella. Our VA Certifying Officials will certify your enrollment to the VA. Then the VA will pay your approved tuition and expenses directly to Capella.

### How are my books and other course materials paid for?

Approximately two weeks before your first course begins, the Capella Armed Forces and Veterans Support Team will email you a book voucher. You may use this voucher to purchase required books and course materials through Capella's preferred bookstore, MBS Direct, with no out-of-pocket expense. You'll receive a new book voucher each quarter.

### Where can I go for more information?

Visit the VR&E Program Web site:  
[www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre)

### Opening doors of possibility for servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

An accredited\*, online university and a leader in higher education for working adults, Capella offers more than 125 graduate and undergraduate specializations—in disciplines relevant to both military and civilian careers: leadership, public safety, information technology, health care, mental health, public administration, business management, and more.

### Capella Commitment and Recognition

- Dedicated support services team for servicemembers, veterans, and their families.
- Selected as one of the Top Military Friendly Colleges and Universities by *Military Advanced Education* magazine—for three consecutive years.
- Selected as a Military Friendly School for 2010 by *G.I. Jobs* magazine.
- Designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

To learn more about your educational benefits and degree program options at Capella, visit [www.capella.edu](http://www.capella.edu).

#### \*ACCREDITATION

Capella University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org).

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