

## **VET Success Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Chapter 31**

### **What is the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Vet Success Program?**

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Vet Success Program is authorized by Congress under Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 31. It is sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program. The Vet Success program assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, Vet Success offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

### **Services that may be provided by the VR&E Vet Success Program include:**

- Comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, and interests for employment
- Vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning for employment services
- Employment services such as job-training, job-seeking skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance
- Assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives and job accommodations
- On the Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences
- Post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school
- Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and medical referrals
- Independent living services for Veterans unable to work due to the severity of their disabilities

### **Who is Eligible for VR&E Vet Success Services?**

#### **Active Duty Service Members 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
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Vet Success services

#### **Veterans are eligible if they:**

- Have received, or will receive, a discharge that is other than dishonorable
- Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10%, or a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Vet Success services

## Basic period of Eligibility

The basic period of eligibility in which VR&E Vet Success services may be used is 12 years from the latter of the following:

- Date of separation from active military service, or
- Date the veteran was first notified by VA of a service-connected disability rating.

The basic period of eligibility may be extended if a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) determines that a Veteran has a Serious Employment Handicap

## Steps:

A VA Veteran who is eligible for an evaluation under Chapter 31 must first apply for services and receive an appointment with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC). The VRC will work with the Veteran to determine if an employment handicap exists as a result of his or her service connected disability. If an employment handicap is established and the Veteran is found entitled to services, the VRC and the Veteran will continue counseling to select a track of services and jointly develop a plan to address the Veteran's rehabilitation and employment needs.

The rehabilitation plan will specify an employment or independent living goal, identify intermediate goals, and outline services and resources that VA will provide to assist the Veteran to achieve his / her goals. The VRC and the Veteran will work together to implement the plan to assist the Veteran to achieve his or her employment and / or independent living goals.

If a Veteran is found not to be entitled to services, the VRC will help him or her locate other resources to address any rehabilitation and employment needs identified during the evaluation. Referral to other resources may include state vocational rehabilitation programs; Department of Labor employment programs for disabled veterans; state, federal or local agencies providing services for employment or small business development; internet-based resources for rehabilitation and employment; and information about applying for financial aid.

## Steps to Follow

- Contact Vocational Rehabilitation 1-501-370-3780 or go to RMCC for more contact information.
- The VRC will submit VA form 28-1905 for the Veteran to RMCC.
- Register with RMCC as early as possible to ensure eligibility and timeliness of payments.
- It is very **important** to stay in contact with your VRC during the semester. This is how you will be paid.
- Get to know the VA Certifying Officials for RMCC
- Visit The VA Academic Advisor often to ensure that you are staying on the correct degree plan.

- Do not forget to get a copy of your military transcripts to submit to the college for possible college credit.  
[http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Military\\_Programs&CONTENTID=9175](http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Military_Programs&CONTENTID=9175)
- **Important: If you Drop one or more classes you should notify the VA certifying officials as soon as possible. If you do not it could cause an over payment that you as the student will be responsible for paying back!**
- If you drop one or more of your courses, you should always notify VA and RMCC's certifying officials as soon as possible. If you drop after the end of RMCC's drop period, you'll need to let us know the reasons for the change. Unless you can show that the change was due to mitigating circumstances, we (the VA) must reduce or stop your benefits from the beginning date of the term. You may have to repay all benefits for the course or courses.
- **"Mitigating circumstances"** are unavoidable and unexpected events that directly interfere with your pursuit of a course and are beyond your control. If you can show mitigating circumstances, the VA can usually pay benefits up to the last date of your attendance. Examples of reasons VA may accept are extended illness and unscheduled changes in your employment. Examples of reasons VA may not accept are dropping a course to avoid a failing grade or dislike of the instructor. VA may ask you to furnish evidence to support your reasons for dropping one or more courses. If a serious illness or injury caused the drop, obtain a statement from your doctor. If a change in employment caused the drop, obtain a statement from your employer. The first time you drop up to six credit hours, VA may "excuse" the drop and pay benefits for the period you attended. You won't have to explain the reasons for dropping the course or courses. Remember, this only applies to the first drop.
- Please take advantage of the Veteran Resource Center located in the Student Center of RMCC.
- Interested in joining a school organization talk with Professor Larry Kropp about the Student Veterans of America organization on campus.

All information above obtained at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) . For a complete list of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits and information please log on to the link above.

### **RMCC VA Official's Contact Info:**

<b>School Certifying Official (SCO)</b>	<b>479-394-7622 ext. 1420 or 1421</b>
<b>Academic Advisor (AA)</b>	<b>479-394-7622 ext. 1460</b>