

VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E) PROGRAM ORIENTATION

VR&E MISSION

The VR&E program assists claimants with service-connected disabilities prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment, and/or live as independently as possible.

ENTITLEMENT TO THE VR&E PROGRAM

A VR&E Counselor will conduct a comprehensive initial evaluation to determine if an employment handicap exists. An employment handicap exists if your service-connected disability(ies) impairs your ability to obtain and maintain suitable employment. You are entitled to VR&E services if you are determined to have an employment handicap, are within your 12-year basic period of eligibility (unless you were discharged on or after January 1, 2013; if so, then this 12-year period does not apply to you), and have at least a 20% service-connected disability rating. The 12-year period of eligibility will begin on:

1. The date of separation from active military duty, **OR**
2. The date you were first notified of your service-connected disability rating, whichever occurs later.

If your service-connected disability rating is less than 20%, or if you are beyond the 12-year basic period of eligibility - if applicable, then a serious employment handicap must be found to establish entitlement to VR&E services. A serious employment handicap exists if your service-connected disability(ies) significantly impairs your ability to obtain and maintain suitable employment.

If entitled to VR&E services, then you will work with a VR&E Counselor to determine an appropriate track of service. The Five Tracks to Employment provides greater emphasis on exploring employment options early your rehabilitation planning process; greater informed choice for you regarding occupational and employment options; faster access to employment for direct placement into suitable employment; and an option for assistance to live more independently to assist you in achieving your goals.

TYPES OF SERVICES OFFERED BY THE VR&E PROGRAM

Services may include, but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive vocational 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 obtaining and maintaining a suitable job, including the use of special employer incentives, special hiring authorities, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences, as appropriate.
- Post-secondary training at a college, university, vocational, technical, or business school, including the payment of tuition, fees, books, supplies, and subsistence allowance.
- Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and medical referrals.
- Independent living services to maximize your ability to live as independently as possible.
- Limited Employment Assistance for claimants who have previously participated in a rehabilitation program and need assistance in obtaining employment.

YOUR ROLE

- Participate fully and effectively in the rehabilitation process.
- Cooperate with your VR&E Counselor in carrying out the initial evaluation and developing a rehabilitation plan.
- Maintain regular contact with your VR&E Counselor and/or other service providers.
- Seek assistance from your VR&E Counselor for any specific barriers or issues that may prevent you from actively participating in the VR&E program or obtaining and maintaining employment.
- Inform your VR&E Counselor of any job acceptance, to include employer's contact information, start date, job title/duties, salary, and benefits.
- Inform your VR&E Counselor of your progress in your training program, including class schedules, grades, requested changes to your major, and changes in class schedule, for example if you add or drop a class.
- Discuss any special services you need with your VR&E Counselor, including activities of daily living, classroom and/or on-the-job accommodations, tutoring, or other special needs.

VR&E COUNSELOR'S ROLE

- Inform you on how and what VR&E decisions will be made and the impact of those decisions on the services you may receive.
- Provide case management and support services to facilitate successful completion of your goals.
- Explore your unique circumstances to identify your specific vocational assets, limitations, and services needed to develop an effective plan to achieve suitable employment.
- Coordinate any other vocational rehabilitation services that may be needed to achieve successful rehabilitation.
- Develop an individualized rehabilitation plan to assist you in reaching your goals.
- Provide support to ensure successful completion of your rehabilitation program.

Claimant's Signature

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)