

## Veterans Readiness and Employment (Chapter 31)

VA Veterans Readiness and Employment (VR&E) is a service provided for service members who have a service-connected disability that limits or prevents the individual's ability to work. In some cases, services may be available for dependent family members as well. VR&E offers a variety of programs and services to qualifying individuals. Generally, education and training are offered through the Long-Term Services (LTS) arm of VR&E.

**You can receive services under this program if you meet the requirements listed below.**

**If you're a Veteran, all of these must be true. You:**

- Didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, and
- Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% from VA, and
- [Apply for VR&E services](#)

**Basic period of eligibility:**

- Your basic period of eligibility ends 12 years from the date you received notice of your:
- Date of separation from active military service, or
- First VA service-connected disability rating
- Please note: The basic period of eligibility may be extended if a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) finds that you have a serious employment handicap (SEH). Having an employment handicap means 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).

**If you are still on active duty, at least one of these must be true. You:**

- Have a 20% or higher pre-discharge disability rating (memorandum rating) and will soon leave the military, or
- Are participating in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) process or

awaiting discharge due to a medical condition resulting from a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty.

[Learn more about accessing VR&E services through IDES](#)

- Please note: Severely injured active-duty service members can automatically receive VR&E benefits before VA issues a disability rating, because of Sec. 1631(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-181).

**LTS through VR&E includes the following:**

- Tuition and Fees
  - The VA pays tuition and fees at the in-state rate ONLY.
    - Residency exceptions (in-state tuition and fees for out of state students) are available for qualifying individuals.
    - You must [apply for a residency exception](#) if you are classified as out of state.
  - The University Health Insurance Policy is NOT covered as a required fee.
    - The VA requires you to use VA healthcare services if you are approved for VR&E.
  - Parking passes are covered for VR&E recipients.
  - Tuition and fees are paid directly to Appalachian; ALL other charges (dorm, meals, etc.) are the responsibility of the student.
  - We will protect your schedule from cancellation, provided you have completed your Enrollment Certification Request with Financial Aid.
    - Your account must be paid in full before you can register for classes for the next semester, otherwise Student Accounts will place a registration

hold on your student account.

- Basic Housing Allowance
  - Housing is paid directly to the student at the END of each month of enrollment.
- Books and Supplies
  - LTS covers all required books and supplies, plus an allowance for supplies set forth by the VR&E counselor.
- **All payments** are based on your rate of pursuit (credit hours)

If this is the first time you are using this benefit, it can take the VA up to 12 weeks to process your certification once it is submitted. You may not receive your housing allowance until mid to late semester. Budget accordingly.