

## VA Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) FAQ

### 1. *About Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)*

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

### 2. *How do I know if I meet eligibility for VR&E benefits and services?*

- If you're a Veteran, and you meet all of the requirements listed below.

**All of these must be true. You:**

- i. Didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, **and**
- ii. Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% from VA, **and**
- iii. [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:**

- iv. Date of separation from active military service, or
- v. 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).

### 3. *If I'm still on active duty, am I eligible for VR&E?*

- You may be eligible for VR&E benefits and services if you're a service member and you meet at least one of the requirements listed below.
- **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.

**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).

### 4. *What kind of VR&E services can I get?*

- Depending on your needs and goals, services may include:
  - A complete evaluation to determine your abilities, skills, and interests for employment
  - Professional or vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning for employment services

- Employment services such as job training, resume development, and other work-readiness support
- Help 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 if you're unable to work due to the severity of your disabilities

5. *How do I apply for VR&E?*

- You can apply online through [eBenefits](#) under Veteran Readiness and Employment Program.

6. *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).
- 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.

7. For more information about VR&E benefits, please click [here](#).