

## Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Payments

**Q1. If the Veteran pursues a 2-year Associates Degree program, should the total cost for 2 years or just 12 months be submitted?**

The school must certify the actual net cost for tuition and fees for the entire 2-year program to VA at enrollment, even for an associate degree at an IHL.

**Q2. The agreement says the school will not seek payment from Veteran if they fail to complete their Program. Does this mean if the Veteran fails to complete the program the school will not be paid?**

If a Veteran fails to complete his/her program of education, the school will not be paid the full cost of tuition and fees. The school does not have to return the 50% paid at the beginning of the program and will also receive an additional payment, corresponding to the 25% payable at program completion, prorated for the portion of the program pursued. In addition, if the Veteran finds employment in a related field within 180 days of terminating the program, the school will also receive another payment, corresponding to the 25% payable upon employment, prorated for the portion of the program pursued.

**Q3. Will the full tuition be certified through VAONCE, Tungsten or both?**

Thrive Act removed the need to use Tungsten as a payment system. Payments are being made through VA's Financial and Accounting System, or FAS.

**Q4. If a student enrolls in an Associate degree ( 2 years in length) and let's say the tuition is \$1,000 per semester for 4 semesters, totaling \$4,000, is the school able to keep the 50% payment (\$2,000) if the student only attends one semester?**

A student's withdrawal or failure to complete the program does not result in the creation of overpayment once the Veteran begins pursuing a covered program. However, the school is expected to follow its published and approved refund policies, and any tuition and fees that would be refunded should be sent back to VA.

**Q5. What is the prorate schedule if a student doesn't complete the program?**

If a Veteran fails to complete his/her program of education, the school will also receive an additional payment, corresponding to the 25% payable at program completion, prorated for the portion of the program pursued. In addition, if the Veteran finds employment in a related field within 180 days of terminating the program, the school will also receive another payment, corresponding to the 25% payable upon employment, prorated for the portion of the program pursued.

**Q6. How will the VA be notified if a student stops attending class since we only invoice when a student begins and completes the program and once employed?**

Educational Institutions should submit a VA form 22-1999B, to notify VA of any changes in enrollment, using VAONCE. Reporting requirements for changes in student status (i.e., increases, reductions or terminations) under VRRAP are identical to those under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. For both programs, the Housing Allowance and entitlement charges vary based on the rate of pursuit.

**Q7. Will VRAAP pay 12 months out of a 21-month program?**

By law, VRRAP is limited to 12 months of full-time retraining assistance to an eligible Veteran for the pursuit of a covered program, even if the program takes longer to complete.

**Q8. Is VRRAP funding going directly to the student?**

VRRAP tuition and fee payments will be issued directly to the school, and monthly housing allowance payments will be issued directly to the Veteran.

**Q9. Does the VRRAP program send all the money up front to the school or the first 50%?**

Educational institutions will receive 50 percent of the total amount payable when the eligible Veteran begins the program of education. An additional 25 percent is paid at program completion. The final 25 percent is paid if the Veteran finds employment in a related field within 180 days of program completion.

**Q10. Can schools' invoice by term, or must we invoice the net cost of the entire Program?**

No. Educational Institutions cannot invoice by term - schools must certify the actual net cost for tuition and fees for the entire program to VA at enrollment, even for an associate degree at an IHL. Tuition and fee benefits are paid as a percentage of the total program cost.

**Q11. Will schools need to submit an Employment Verification Form with the final invoice?**

In order for Educational Institutions to receive the final 25 percent of Tuition & Fees, an Employment Certification Form, VA Form 22-10201, must be completed and signed by both the Veteran and the training provider and submitted to VA before VA can issue the final payment to the school. There is no need for a final invoice, as the total charges for the program must be submitted when a Veteran enrolls.

**Q12. Does the student receive a monthly stipend while attending class?**

VRRAP participants qualify for monthly housing allowance payments. Unlike the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the housing allowance may be paid for training at half-time or less, and the amount paid is rounded to the nearest multiple of 10, which means that it will be from 10% - 50%.

**Q13. Do SCOs need to certify credits, tuition, and fees through VA-Once?**

School Certifying Officials (SCOs) will certify credits, tuition, and fees through VA-ONCE. Educational Institutions will be provided with training material on enrollment certifications, specific to the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP). Information specific to VRRAP, for Educational Institutions, may be found at [https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap\\_educational\\_institutions.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap_educational_institutions.asp).

**Q14. What if tuition and fees increase a percentage yearly? Would we have to exclude these students from a college wide tuition increase?**

Educational Institutions must certify the actual net cost for tuition and fees for the entire program to VA upon enrollment. VA's authority to issue payments to schools is limited to three points in time: when the eligible Veteran begins the program, completes the program, and secures employment in a related field within 180 days of completing the program.

**Q15. Does VRRAP cover certified testing cost? For example, a National Board Test for Clinical Medical Assistant.**

No, testing costs are not covered by the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP), unless they are included in the required fees charged to all enrolled students in the program as it is approved for GI Bill benefits or VET TEC.

**Q16. If the length of your program is more than 12 months, can you charge for tuition beyond the 12 months the program covers?**

Yes, the net tuition and fee charges for the entire program must be certified. The total charges are required because payments to schools are based on percentages of the "total amount payable" for the program of education, not payments on a term basis like the other VA education programs.

**Q17. If a student withdraws from the Program after tuition and fees have been received, will return of payment be through debt management?**

No tuition and fee debts will be created for a student that begins training, subsequently withdraws and fails to complete the program. However, the school is expected to follow its published and approved refund policies, and any tuition and fees that would be refunded should be returned to VA.

**Q18. If a student takes a semester break, then wants to start back, will VRRAP participation still be applicable?**

While there is no requirement for continuous enrollment, it must be kept in mind that VRRAP is limited to 21 months in duration, and schools are required to follow their established policies for student progress. Entitlement will only be charged for periods of program pursuit, as it is under the various GI Bill programs.

## Eligibility

**Q1. Associate programs are typically two years, will the 12 months of housing cover the first or second year of the AAS/would it be like Ch. 33 benefits with the months only when actively enrolled in courses and not during the breaks between semesters?**

Just as in Chapter 33, benefits are paid for pursuit of the program and are not payable for breaks between terms. Benefits will be paid from the beginning of the program until the entitlement is exhausted. Entitlement will be charged just like Chapter 33, in that the charge will be prorated for partial months or less than full time training.

**Q2. What if a student needs pre-requisites for the high demand occupation major that they are searching to get? Last VRAP 1.0 so many students were coming in without the right math/engineer pre-requisites. Will these be covered?**

No.

**Q3. Will VRRAP backdate the payment of T&F and MHA until the enactment date of March 11, 2021?**

Yes. Benefits may be paid retroactively for pursuit beginning on/after date of enactment by an eligible individual in a covered program of education.

**Q4. If a Veteran has a service-connected disability but doesn't want to apply for VRE — therefore, a determination of eligibility has not been made by VRE — can they apply and use VRRAP?**

If a determination of eligibility for VR&E benefits has not been made, VA will not consider the Veteran to be eligible for such benefit.

**Q5. What are the state and federal employment programs that disqualify a Veteran from this program?**

Veterans applying for VRRAP benefits will self-attest that, as of the date of the application, they are not enrolled in any Federal or State jobs program. For purposes of the COVID-19 Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program, the eligibility requirement that the Veteran “is not enrolled in any Federal or State jobs program” is interpreted to mean any Veteran who is in receipt of any occupational training services from a Federally- or State-funded services provider. Occupational training services can include but are not limited to occupational skills training, on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, programs that combine workplace training with related instruction, transitional jobs, customized training with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training.

**Q6. Will VRRAP cover law school tuition?**

No, law schools offer graduate level degrees specific to the legal field, which aren't covered under VRRAP. The two legal occupations that are on the Department of Labor's list are "Arbitrators, mediators, and conciliators" and "Paralegals and legal assistants."

**Q7. We are a HEI, offering degrees and professional studies, no job training programs. Are we eligible to participate in VRRAP?**

VRRAP benefits may be paid for programs not leading to a bachelors or graduate degree but do lead to high-demand jobs. Consequently, if your school offers associate degrees you may qualify. More information is available on VA's website at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q8. Are flight schools eligible? If so, will the annual flight school cap apply?**

No, non-degree programs at flight schools don't qualify.

**Q9. Does VRRAP include Emergency Medical Technicians Training?**

Yes, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is listed on the U.S. Department of Labor's high demand occupation list. For a list of approved schools and programs please refer to <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q10. Does VRRAP apply to Apprenticeship programs that are administered via an Education Institution, i.e. Community College?**

No, apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs don't qualify.

**Q11. Are IHL / NCD Programs eligible for VRRAP?**

Covered programs approved for GI Bill benefits, not leading to a bachelors or graduate degree, that are designed to provide training for a high-demand occupation (or are approved for VET TEC) can qualify for VRRAP. More information may be found online at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q12. Are work study programs eligible for VRRAP?**

No, VRRAP participants don't qualify for VA work-study benefits.

**Q13. How will a Veteran be able to find an eligible program?**

Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) beneficiaries can check our list of participating schools. We'll update this list as schools sign up. Please refer to <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q14. Can a student currently enrolled in a degree program, participate in VRRAP?**

It is possible, provided that the Veteran and the program meet the applicable VRRAP criteria. Eligibility criteria for retraining assistance under the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) may be found at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q15. Can Graduate Certificates be submitted as a program type?**

Graduate certificates may qualify, provided that they meet the applicable VRRAP criteria. For a list of eligibility criteria and high-demand occupations, please refer to <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q16. Will non-credit certificate programs be allowed to participate?**

Programs need not be credit bearing in order to qualify. Covered programs approved for GI Bill benefits, not leading to a bachelors or graduate degree, that are designed to provide training for a high-demand occupation or are approved for VET TEC, may qualify under VRRAP. For more information on eligibility criteria and a list of high-demand occupations, please refer to <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q17. Can Veteran's transfer VRRAP benefits to their dependents?**

No, benefits under the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) may not be transferred to dependents.

**Q18. For those of us who have high demand occupation career pathways already approved on VET TEC, can we submit the same career pathways for approval on VRRAP?**

Yes.

**Q19. Will Veterans receive an acknowledgement of eligibility?**

Veterans who are determined eligible for Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance (VRRAP) benefits will be provided with a Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

**Q20. What documents are needed to verify employment?**

The Employment Certification Form, VA Form 22-10201, must be completed and signed by both the Veteran AND the training provider and submitted to VA before VA can issue the final Tuition and Fee payment to the training provider.

**Q21. Can our Veterans use VRRAP benefits if they have exhausted their Post-9/11 GI BILL benefits (either by length or delimitation date) or VR&E benefits?**

Yes, such Veterans may qualify for VRRAP as long as they meet the other eligibility criteria. As of the date of the receipt by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an application for assistance, the Veteran may not be eligible to receive educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code.

**Q22. If a Veteran transferred his/her remaining Post 9/11 benefits to dependents, is the Veteran eligible for VRRAP?**

A Veteran who has transferred all Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement to one or more dependents, as of the date the application is received by VA, will be considered to be ineligible for benefits under chapter 33. He/she would have to meet additional criteria in order to be eligible for VRRAP.

**Q23. Does VRRAP only apply to CH 33 eligible Veterans?**

No, in fact, Veterans eligible for CH33 (under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code) as of the date of the receipt by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an application for assistance, are ineligible for VRRAP. For more information on eligibility criteria, please refer to <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q24. Can a Veteran use both VET TEC and VRRAP benefits at the same time or can he/she only use one?**

No. On the one hand, in order to be eligible for VET TEC, a Veteran must have eligibility to GI Bill benefits on the date of application. On the other hand, in order to be eligible for VRRAP, a Veteran must not have eligibility to GI Bill benefits on the date of application.

**Q25. What determines a permanent disability for eligibility?**

As of any date during the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program, is not in receipt of compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling by reason of unemployability.

**Q26. Will students pursuing an Associate Degree have VRRAP support for their last semester that starts in January of 2023, when VRRAP benefits end 12/11/2022?**

No, VA's authority to pay VRRAP benefits ends 21 months after the date of enactment.

**Q27. Are undergraduate degrees eligible for VRRAP?**

Associate degree programs may be approved for VRRAP. The law specifically states that bachelor's degrees don't qualify.

**Q28. Can the same student attend more than one program in the 12 months if they are interested in 2 different specialty areas if courses are available and the previous program was completed successfully?**

No.

**Q29. We have a one-year teaching certification program for students who already have a bachelor's degree. If they used VA benefits to get their bachelor's degree would they be eligible to use VRRAP to get teaching certification?**

It's possible. There are a number of teaching positions on the Department of Labor's high demand occupation list, and unemployed Veterans who previously exhausted their GI Bill benefits may qualify for VRRAP. Additional information can be found at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q30. Can Veterans currently enrolled in a program but may be nearing exhaustion of their benefits (CH.33) apply for VRRAP and then earn an extra 12 months to complete a degree?**

As of the date of the receipt by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an application for assistance, a Veteran may not be eligible to receive educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code.

**Q31. Does a Veteran need an honorable discharge to be eligible for VRRAP?**

In order to qualify for VRRAP, a Veteran must have been discharged or released from duty under conditions other than dishonorable. It need not be fully honorable.

**Q32. Does a Veteran need to be enrolled in the program full-time to receive a housing allowance, or will it be prorated for part-time attendance?**

Veterans do NOT need to be enrolled full-time; VA will pay a prorated amount of the monthly housing allowance, for less than full-time attendance.

**Q33. Will only programs completed within 12 months of school attendance be covered by VRRAP?**

No, covered programs may be more than 12 months in length.

**Q34. Can VR&E students also apply for VRRAP?**

As of the date of the receipt by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an application for assistance, a Veteran may not be eligible to receive educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code.

**Q35. What happens if a student uses all his education benefits but may be Chapter 31 eligible?**

As of the date of the receipt by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an application for assistance, a Veteran may not be eligible to receive educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code.

**Q36. One of the requirements for Veterans to be eligible is "Unemployed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Will there be a detailed list showing what qualifies?**

No. By law VA is relying on the Veteran to certify that, as of the date of the receipt by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an application for assistance, he/she is unemployed by reason of the covered public health emergency. Additional eligibility for Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance (VRRAP) benefits may be found at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q37. Who, specifically, is the target market for this initiative?**

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) offers education and training for high-demand jobs to Veterans who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Q38. What is the eligibility criteria for the Veteran?**

Eligibility for Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance (VRRAP) benefits may be found at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

**Q39. Even though the school bills for the entire cost of the program, will the student still be able to get housing benefits even if the program takes three years?**

No. Housing stipend payments will end once 12 months of full-time benefits (or the part time equivalent) have been used.

**Q40. Can we choose to request an agreement for only one or a limited number of programs at our school, or must we choose to sign the agreement and participate in all eligible programs?**



On the VA Form 22-10271, training providers may specify the programs that will be available for VRRAP benefits, and it doesn't have to include all of the school's programs approved for GI Bill benefits or VET TEC. Interested schools should submit a Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form, VA Form 22-10271, as well as a VA-FSC Vendor File Request Form, VA Form 10091, to VA [VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov](mailto:VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov), for review and approval.

**Q41. Is there a requirement for Students to attend class in person versus online?**

No, VRRAP specifically includes different housing stipend rates for those training in person and online.

## **Policy**

### **Q1. Will VRRAP students count toward our 85/15 Rule?**

No

### **Q2. Can you clarify "net" tuition? Do we need to require the student to apply for Federal, State funding first?**

Net costs for tuition and fees have the same meaning that it does under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Students are not required to apply for Federal or State Funding first.

### **Q3. Is there additional oversight or monitoring that schools are required to complete during the program?**

No

### **Q4. Do we just submit one cert at the start of the program? Are schools expected to allow continuous enrollment when there's a balance on the student's account from previous terms?**

No. Schools are expected to follow their established policies that are part of their approval for GI Bill or VET TEC benefits.

### **Q5. Will Refunding tuition/fees if student withdraws after add/drop week be based on the 50% already received, or would it be based on what that semester's tuition is under a normal enrollment?**

It should be based on the actual net charges associated with only the period of the program pursued. Schools are expected to follow their published and approved refund policies, and any tuition and fees that would be refunded should be sent back to VA.

### **Q6. Would we need to reduce reported T&Fs for any T&F specific scholarships as we do for regular Post 9/11 GI Bill recipients?**

Yes, net costs for tuition and fees has the same meaning that it does under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

### **Q7. How is employment defined, i.e., full-time, or part-time? Is initial employment verification adequate or does it also have to be for a minimum period?**

For the VA to release the final tuition and fees payment, both the Veteran and facility will need to certify that the Veteran has achieved employment within the field of study. Employment may be either full-time or part-time and there is no minimum period of employment required before submission of certification.

### **Q8. How does Title 38 U.S. Code Chapter 36 § 3696 (a)-(d) apply?**

Program approval for VRRAP is predicated on approval for GI Bill or VET TEC benefits. Violations of the requirements codified in section 3696(a) through (d) of title 38, U.S.C., will result in the withdrawal of program approval for GI Bill or VET TEC, AND VRRAP.

### **Q9. Would the Vet still qualify for Pell grants or Stafford loans?**

Yes, however, loans cannot be used to circumvent the spirit of the "Provider Agreement" which dictates no out-of-pocket expense for the veteran. Grants seem to be the only Title IV funding that makes sense in these cases.

**Q10. Can this program be a different pricing than our other programs offered such as Chapter 31 and Chapter 33?**

No. Program approval for VRRAP is predicated on approval for GI Bill or VET TEC benefits. Consequently, the pricing must be identical to that which is approved for GI Bill or VET TEC.

**Q11. Will the student be locked into a program or can they change at any time?**

If a Veteran fails to complete the program for which Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) benefits were awarded, he/she is barred from further VRRAP participation. Changes to a different program under VRRAP are not allowed.

**Q12. Can the student also apply for Title IV funding while receiving VRRAP?**

Yes, students may also apply for Title IV funding. However, Title IV funding cannot be held by the institution to pay for unmet costs of a student that fails to graduate or find employment. By law, schools may not seek payment from the Veteran due to such non-completion or failure to find employment.

**Q13. If the student applied for financial aid and VRRAP, will the school be permitted to keep the portion of the financial aid they are eligible for to cover any unpaid portion if they leave before they complete the program?**

Program approval for VRRAP is predicated on approval for GI Bill or VET TEC benefits. Schools are expected to follow their established policies that are part of their approval for GI Bill or VET TEC.

**Q14. If a Veteran is eligible for a fee waiver, are we still reporting the cost of the program? Or, much like other chapters, should we only report mandatory fees?**

Net costs for tuition and fees have the same meaning that it does under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

**Q15. Could a student skip a semester of enrollment and then return to their studies? (For example, not be enrolled summer term but coming back in the fall)? Also, if they are allowed to skip a term, would this count against their 12 months of eligibility in the program or is that calculated as 12 actual months of enrollment (calendar months vs. enrollment months)?**

While there is no requirement for continuous enrollment, it must be kept in mind that VRRAP is limited to 21 months in duration, and schools are required to follow their established policies for student progress. Entitlement will only be charged for periods of program pursuit, as it is under the various GI Bill programs.

**Q16. If we have a program that is completed in 12 months of school attendance, however due to not having classes over the summer the time frame is slightly more than calendar 12 months. Can it be covered?**

Enrollment months, not calendar months, would be the more accurate description. As with the GI Bill programs, VRRAP benefits are paid for pursuit of the program and are not payable for breaks between terms. Entitlement will be charged just like under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, in that the charge will be prorated for partial months or less than full time training.

**Q17. Will VRRAP records be subject to ECSS compliance?**

Yes

**Q18. Will VRRAP schools be told that they must follow their approved GI Bill(R) attendance, conduct, and progress policies?**

Yes

**Q19. Does the Veteran owe any money back to VA or the school if they do not finish the program or secure employment in the chosen field/area?**

VA will not create debts solely because of failure to complete a program or secure employment in the chosen field. However, a debt may be created for monthly housing allowance benefits if paid beyond the last date of attendance, for which the Veteran will be responsible. Both Veterans and schools should promptly notify VA of changes in enrollment. Also, by law, educational institutions may not seek payment from the Veteran for any amounts otherwise payable by VA had the Veteran completed the program or secured employment.

**Q20. My school offers approved Associate Degree programs that cross academic years, if we increase our per-credit cost or fees can I submit amended charges to VA?**

Educational Institutions must certify the actual net cost for tuition and fees for the entire program to VA upon enrollment. VA's authority to issue payments to schools is limited to three points in time: when the eligible Veteran begins the program, completes the program, and secures employment in a related field within 180 days of completing the program.

**Q21. Does the Veteran need to finish school and find employment within the 21 months of program duration in order for VA payments to be received?**

No, retraining assistance may be paid for Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) benefits, provided the program started prior to December 11, 2022.

**Q22. Are books, tools, supplies, etc. included in tuition and fees?**

Program approval for VRRAP is predicated on approval for GI Bill or VET TEC benefits. Consequently, what is (and isn't) included in tuition and fees for VRRAP is identical to what's included for those programs as approved for GI Bill or VET TEC.

**Q23. How long does the student need to be employed before the school receives the final 25%? And What happens if the student does not become gainfully employed? Does all the money paid by the VA get returned like in VET TEC?**

The Employment Certification Form, VA Form 22-10201, must be completed and signed by both the Veteran AND the training provider and submitted to VA, before VA can issue the final Tuition and Fee payment to the training provider. There is no employment duration requirement for the final payment. Also, unlike VET TEC, VRRAP does not have preferred providers and schools do not need to return payments associated with tuition and fees if a Veteran does not secure employment.

**Q24. Is there an 18-month wait period for the Veterans to take additional trainings once they complete one training or pathway?**

A Veteran may only receive VRRAP benefits for pursuit of one covered program of education.

**Q25. The criteria says it should not lead to a bachelors or graduate degree. Does not mean the list of high-demand occupations are only for certificate level?**

No. Associate degree programs may be approved for VRRAP, as can graduate certificate programs and teaching certificate programs that generally require possession of a bachelor's degree.

**Q26. Rule states that a Veteran cannot be receiving unemployment. Is this just while they are in the program? Or are they ineligible if they received it within the last year?**

A Veteran must not be in receipt of unemployment compensation as of the first day on which VRRAP monthly housing allowance benefits will be paid. Unemployment benefits received prior to that date have no impact on eligibility.

**Q27. Does VRRAP use entitlement against other VA educational benefit? Does it count towards the max total 48 months of entitlement?**

No, VRRAP is not one of the benefit programs listed in section 3695 of title 38, United States Code, as counting toward a combined entitlement limitation.

**Q28. If we want to include high growth IT areas such as Machine Learning and RPA Automation that is not on the High Demand Occupation List, how do we get it approved on VRRAP?**

A program may be approved for VRRAP by either (1) being approved for GI Bill benefits, not leading to a bachelors or graduate degree, designed to provide training for a high-demand occupation; or (2) be approved for VET TEC benefits. These are the only two ways that a program may be approved for VRRAP.

**Q29. By signing the 22-10271, is the institution agreeing not to seek out the remainder of the tuition/fees from a VRRAP student?**

Yes. Educational institutions may not seek payment from an eligible Veteran who fails to complete a program and/or fails to find employment in a related field during the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the Veteran withdraws from the program of education for any amounts that VA would have paid had the Veteran completed the program and/or found such employment within the 180-day period. However, the educational institution may charge the Veteran for any tuition and fees in excess of an annual cap amount.

**Q30. Is there a time period when the schools can enroll in VRRAP or is the application process open till the funding runs out?**

Training providers may voluntarily choose to submit a Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form, and any other required documentation, for review and approval at any time. However, the program will end 21 months from the date of enactment, when \$386 million has been spent, or 17, 125 Veterans have been awarded benefits, whichever comes first.

**Q31. How is the students' enrollment to be reported in VAONCE?**

School Certifying Officials (SCOs) will certify credits, tuition and fees through VA-ONCE. Educational Institutions will be provided with training material on enrollment certifications, specific to the Veteran

Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP). Information specific to VRRAP, for Educational Institutions, may be found at [https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap\\_educational\\_institutions.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap_educational_institutions.asp).

**Q32. Who can verify if our program aligns with the list of published occupations?**

Additional information regarding the tasks, skills, and credentials associated with specific high demand occupations may be found through the Department of Labor's O\*Net website (<https://www.onetonline.org/>) which can be compared against your programs' curricula and competencies. Additionally, you can contact VA by email at [VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov](mailto:VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov) for additional assistance.

**Q33. Do schools need to charge the whole program upfront on our ledger cards? This is not allowed for Pell students. The student may be both. Please advise.**

The net tuition and fee charges for the entire program must be certified to VA up front. Ledger entries and accounting for Pell Grants should follow Department of Education requirements.

**Q34. Does VRRAP pay 50% of the entire program costs upon starting the program?**

Educational institutions will receive 50 percent net tuition and fee charges, up to the annual academic year cap for training at private and foreign schools under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, when the eligible Veteran begins the program of education.

**Q35. Would a license fee be an eligible fee given that this program is intended for the Veteran to go to work and some jobs require a license?**

Licensing fees may only be covered by the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) if they are included in the required fees charged to all enrolled students in the program as it is approved for GI Bill benefits or VET TEC.

**Q36. Is there a deadline to submit the participation agreement?**

Training providers may voluntarily choose to submit a Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form and any other required documentation, for review and approval at any time. However, it should be kept in mind that VRRAP ends 21 months after enactment.

**Q37. Can the same student attend more than one program in the 12 months if they are interested in 2 different specialty areas if courses are available and the previous program was completed successfully?**

No. VRRAP benefits may only be paid for pursuit of one program.

**Q38. If a student obtains employment but refuses to sign the required form, will the school still not receive the last 25% of the payment?**

The Employment Certification Form, VA Form 22-10201, must be completed and signed by both the Veteran AND the training provider and submitted to VA before VA can issue the final Tuition and Fee payment to the training provider.

**Q39. If a Veteran drops their program due to extenuating circumstances/mitigating circumstances will there be an appeals process to potentially regain VRRAP eligibility?**

By law, a Veteran who receives VRRAP benefits and fails to complete the program of education is prohibited from further participation. VA may grant a waiver to this policy if a Veteran withdraws due to being called to active duty during their training.

**Q40. Does self-employment qualify as obtaining employment after Program completion?**

Self-employment qualifies as employment, if the Veteran owns or operates a business and is utilizing the skills obtained through the completion of the program of study.

**Q41. Does the student have to be employed in the area of study? What if they complete the program but can't find a job in that area? Will the school still receive the final 25%?**

In order to receive the final tuition and fee payment, employment must be secured in the field in which the Veteran was trained within 180 days from the successful completion or withdrawal date of the program. It is the responsibility of both the Veteran and training provider, to confirm the Veteran's employment status to the VA, before the final payment can be issued. VA may request additional supporting evidence to substantiate employment including an offer letter, pay stub, promotion offer, note from manager, or marketing material showing expansion in scope or level of services for Veteran owned businesses. Paid internships, paid apprenticeships, and contract employment are included as employment.

**Q42. If the intuition handled VRAP in the past, would it still be considered "new open-ended agreement"?**

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) is distinct from the Veteran Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) and any prior agreements are not transferable to this program of retraining assistance.

**Q43. Is the numbers and jobs provided by The Employment Security Commission?**

Section 8006 of Public Law 117-2, limits the number of eligible Veterans who may receive retraining assistance to 17,250; however, no retraining assistance may be paid after the date that is 21 months after the date of enactment, March 21, 2021. The program is also limited to a maximum of \$386,000,000. The list of high-demand occupations is compiled by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

**Q44. Any chance this program will be extended since it started nearly a month ago and is still not in place yet?**

Currently, VRRAP ends 21 months after the date of enactment, December 11, 2022. VA has no authority to extend the program, new legislation would be required.

**Q45. If costs are identified up front, what happens if a student needed to retake a class? Will the school get reimbursed for this extra charges?**

Educational Institutions are required to submit the tuition and fees cost for the program and would not be subject to change due to a student retaking a class.

**Q46. Can the school decide not to participate?**

Participation as a Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) is voluntary.



## Participation of Schools

### **Q1. Will a list of participating schools be distributed in the future or is there a list currently?**

A list of programs approved for retraining assistance under the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) may be found at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

### **Q2. How will a school determine if a Veteran has GI Bill benefit remaining and therefore, not eligible for VRRAP?**

As a general rule, Veterans will know whether or not they have remaining entitlement under a GI Bill education program. You can also contact the School Certifying Official Hotline for questions regarding individual Veterans.

### **Q3. What is the impact if an Institution chooses not to participate in the VRRAP program?**

There is no requirement for training providers to participate in the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP). Educational Institutions who voluntarily submit the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form, VA Form 22-10271, must also submit a VA-FSC Vendor File Request Form, VA Form 10091, to VA [VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov](mailto:VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov), for review and approval. In addition, approved training providers must register with the Tungsten Network.

### **Q4. The information states schools cannot pursue any financial obligation from a Veteran who did not find employment or dropped their program within 180 days. Does this imply that schools will then be able to pursue collection for any unpaid amounts after the 180-day mark?**

No. By law, schools are prohibited from collecting from the students any amounts otherwise payable by VA if a Veteran had completed the program or had secure employment in a related field within 180 days. This is clearly spelled out in section 8006(d)(4) of PL 117-2.

### **Q5. Is the Participation Agreement, if approved, the only thing we need to start enrolling Veterans in the program?**

Educational Institutions who voluntarily submit the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form, VA Form 22-10271, must also submit a VA-FSC Vendor File Request Form, VA Form 10091, to VA [VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov](mailto:VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov), for review and approval. In addition, approved training providers must register with the Tungsten Network.

## Other

### **Q1. If our type of training/certificate program does not exactly match what is listed , then how will the Veteran select the program?**

Veterans participating in the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) may only utilize retraining assistance benefits at providers who are approved and want to voluntarily participate. A list of approved training providers may be found at [https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap\\_educational\\_institutions.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap_educational_institutions.asp).

### **Q2. Would we work with our SAA or ELR for VRRAP?**

Program approval for VRRAP is predicated on approval for GI Bill or VET TEC benefits. Consequently, unless your programs aren't currently approved for GI Bill or VET TEC, you don't need to work with your Education Liaison Representative (ELR) or State Approving Agency (SAA). More information on participating in VRRAP is available at [https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap\\_educational\\_institutions.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap_educational_institutions.asp).

### **Q3. If a Veteran calls the VA, will they be able to help them walk through the application process?**

Veterans who would like more information about the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) should navigate to <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/> or call the Education Call Center at 888-442-4551 (TTY: 711). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET.

### **Q4. When does VRRAP go into effect?**

VRRAP was effective upon enactment, March 11, 2021. Applications and participation agreements are currently being accepted for individuals and schools to participate in the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP). The application, VA Form 22-1990S, may be found at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>.

### **Q5. Who do we send the Participation Agreement to?**

Educational Institutions should submit the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form, VA Form 22-10271, as well as a VA-FSC Vendor File Request Form, VA Form 10091, to VA [VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov](mailto:VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov), for review and approval.

### **Q6. Will there be additional webinars to go over reporting and technical aspects the SCOs will need to perform if participating in VRRAP?**

VA will be providing additional guidance and information, including webinars if needed. Educational Institutions may find additional information on participation in the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) at [https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap\\_educational\\_institutions.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap_educational_institutions.asp).

### **Q7. Will the SCO have to report drops/withdrawals of individual classes?**

Educational Institutions should report changes to enrollments as soon as possible, through the VA-ONCE application. Payments for the VRRAP monthly housing stipend and entitlement charge are both dependent upon the Veteran's rate of pursuit.

**Q8. Would housing rates be impacted by non-standard terms as it is for traditional Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits?**

The monthly housing stipend for Veterans participating in the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) will depend on the participant's rate of pursuit and won't include breaks between terms. Consequently, non-standard terms will impact monthly housing allowance rates.

**Q9. How will the college be notified that a student is eligible for VRRAP?**

Veterans who are determined eligible for Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance (VRRAP) benefits will be provided with a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). Veterans will be directed to take the COE to the School Certifying Official at their preferred training provider. A list of participating training providers may be found at: [https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap\\_educational\\_institutions.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap_educational_institutions.asp).

**Q10. Can Veterans use ask a question to start the process of application?**

Veterans may refer to <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/Veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>, for more information on the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP). Veterans may also apply for VRRAP benefits on the website.

**Q11. Will there be a specific contact for SCO's to use regarding questions about VRRAP?**

Educational Institutions may submit questions pertaining to the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) to [VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov](mailto:VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov).

**Q12. Will the student apply and then seek a program to apply for or will that be part of the application process? At what point does the participation agreement come in the process?**

A student's application is separate from the process for schools to participate as training providers. Students may apply for benefits before or after they have selected a program for retraining assistance. Educational Institutions must complete and submit a voluntary Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form, VA Form 22-10271, as well as a VA-FSC Vendor File Request Form, VA Form 10091, to VA [VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov](mailto:VBAMUS/RO/EDU/VRRAP@va.gov), for review and approval.

**Q13. Assuming that VAONCE will be used to submit the enrollments for VRRAP, will a new VAONCE user guide section be developed for VRRAP?**

Educational Institutions will be provided with training material on enrollment certifications, specific to the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP). Information specific to VRRAP, for Educational Institutions, may be found at [https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap\\_educational\\_institutions.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap_educational_institutions.asp).

**Q14. Will students in this program have a VRRAP rep like VR&E students?**

No, Veterans participating in the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) will not have a program-specific representative or counselor.