

VETERAN RAPID RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRRAP)

OVERVIEW & PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS



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Presentation Objectives

At the end of this presentation:

- Understand the background of VRRAP and the steps that VBA Education Service is taking to implement the program
- You should understand the reasons VA chose to create a School Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement form for VRRAP
- Understand the most important elements of the VRRAP Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement form

VRRAP Background

- The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) was enacted on March 11, 2021, effective immediately. VRRAP is part of the America Rescue Plan of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package, with aid targeted to help individuals and businesses recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Eligible Veterans participating in VRRAP will receive up to 12 months of tuition and fees and a monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill® rates. Covered education programs must provide training for a high-demand occupation, which is determined by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics. GI Bill® approved programs of education, excluding bachelor's and graduate degrees, and VET TEC approved training are eligible.
- The program ends 21 months after enactment and is limited to a maximum of 17,250 participants or \$386M.

Implementation

EDU is working with internal and external stakeholders, to address four key areas to fully implement the program:

- *Application for Benefits* – There is no existing application for Veterans to apply for VRRAP benefits.
- *Management Solution* – VRRAP is distinct from other GI Bill® benefits programs, and there is currently no system available to manage the program and calculate benefits.
- *Participation Agreements* – EDU will require educational institutions to agree to the terms and specify which programs are covered, in order to participate in VRRAP.
- *Payment Solution* – The law, as written, requires VRRAP benefits to be paid from General Operating Expense (GOE) funds. Other GI Bill® programs are paid via Readjustment Benefits Account (RBA) funds.

Achievements to Date

EDU has already taken several steps to deploy VRRAP

- EDU stood up an integrated project team solely focused on implementing and administering this program; associated processing and payment work will be completed at the Muskogee Regional Processing Office (RPO).
- The Department of Labor provided a final High Demand Occupation List, confirmation on available data, information pertaining to jobs programs, and outreach and communications materials.
- EDU finalized and communicated the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement, VA Form 22-10271.
- EDU updated the VBA website with [VRRAP](#) information.

Notional Timeline

- **Phase 1** – VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs News Release, dated **March 12, 2021**, announced VRRAP in the American Rescue Plan.
- **Phase 2** – EDU released the High-Demand Occupations List with educational institutions and students on **March 29, 2021**.
- **Phase 3** – EDU communicated the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement, VA Form 22-10271, with potential training providers on **April 5, 2021**.
- **Phase 4** – EDU plans to launch the Veteran Application for Benefits and begin enrolling Veterans into the program - **TBD**

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

VA FORM 22-10271

VA Form 22-10271

Department of Veterans Affairs		VETERAN RAPID RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment	
IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 3 AND 4 BEFORE COMPLETING THE FORM.			
NAME OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION		FACILITY CODE □ - □ - □ □ □ □ - □ □	
MAILING ADDRESS OF INSTITUTION		AGREEMENT TYPE (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> NEW OPEN-ENDED AGREEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> MODIFICATION TO EXISTING AGREEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWAL OF AGREEMENT	
<p>The above named educational institution agrees to participate in VRRAP (established by section 8008 of Public Law 117-2) with respect to an enumerated list of covered programs, subject to the terms, conditions and representations provided in this agreement and the provisions of law, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations, and policies governing the program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">If this agreement is accepted by VA, it will be considered an <u>open-ended agreement</u> that is in effect until VA or the institution notifies the other party of changes, or one of the statutorily imposed limits (i.e., time, participants; or funding) of VRRAP is reached. It will serve as acknowledgment that the educational institution will certify the enrollment of eligible veterans for benefit payments under VRRAP.This agreement serves as an agreement by the educational institution to adhere to VRRAP reporting and payment requirements. It does not constitute a separate approval for VA educational assistance benefits. Only institutions approved to enroll veterans in programs of education for the purposes of VA educational assistance benefits (i.e., GI Bill benefits under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, or benefits under the VA High Technology Pilot Program (commonly referred to as "VET TEC") as specified in the note at section 3001 of title 38, United States Code)) may participate in VRRAP.The terms of this agreement will be available for public viewing on VA's GI Bill website at www.gibill.va.gov.An educational institution with multiple campuses may submit a single Agreement and Acknowledgment covering more than one campus by attaching an addendum to this agreement listing all campuses. The listing must include the name, address, and facility code of each campus. The institution must certify that all campuses covered under this agreement are subject to the authority of the authorizing official signing the agreement.The educational institution agrees to certify "enrolled" eligible veterans under VRRAP in the following programs (The programs must not lead to a bachelors or graduate degree and must lead to enrollment in a high-demand occupation).			
A. PROGRAM TYPE (Associate or Certificate)	B. PROGRAM NAME	C. RELATED HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATION	

A. PROGRAM TYPE (Associate or Certificate)	B. PROGRAM NAME	C. RELATED HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATION	

(Attach additional listings (if necessary))

6. By submitting this agreement with the original signature of an official legally authorized to bind the educational institution to this agreement, the institution is-

- Agreeing to certify upon the veteran's enrollment the actual net cost for tuition and fees for the entire program of education to VA, up front, for an eligible veteran;
- Acknowledging that VA will pay for the actual net cost for tuition and fees -
 - Based on the provisions of section 3313(c)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, including the Academic Year cap applicable for programs pursued at private or foreign schools;
 - On a staggered basis when specific milestones are met;
 - On a prorated basis if the student fails to complete a program;
- Agreeing to not seek payment from an eligible veteran who fails to complete a program and/or fails to find employment in a related field within 180 days of completing or withdrawing from a program for any amounts that VA would have paid to your institution had the veteran completed the program and found employment within 180 days.
- Attesting that a show cause order has not been received from the accreditor of any program listed in Item 5 (above) during the five-year period preceding March 11, 2021.
- Agreeing to invoice the VA through the Tungsten Network for Payment of Tuition. One Invoice will be submitted per veteran at the following points. 1) the student begins attending courses, 2) the student completes their program of education, and 3) the student gains employment in the field of study.

7. POINTS OF CONTACT

School Financial Representative

Name (First, middle, last)	Telephone No. (Include Area Code)	E-mail
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School Certifying Official

Name (First, middle, last)	Telephone No. (Include Area Code)	E-mail
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8. SIGNATURES

AGREED TO:

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL	TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL	TELEPHONE NUMBER	DATE SIGNED
PRINT NAME OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL			

FOR VA USE ONLY

ACCEPTED BY:

SIGNATURE OF VA OFFICIAL	DATE SIGNED
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Why use a “Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement?”



- VRRAP has a unique payment structure.
- VRRAP has additional tracking and reporting requirements, required for the facility to receive payments.
- VRRAP will use a unique invoicing system, requiring facilities to register and obtain access prior to payment.
- Some facilities may be prohibited from participation and not all programs are allowed

It is important that facilities acknowledge these factors before committing to the program.

Unique Payment Structure, cont.

By submitting this agreement with the original signature of an official legally authorized to bind the educational institution to this agreement, the institution is-

- Agreeing to certify upon the Veteran's enrollment the actual net cost for tuition and fees for the entire program of education for an eligible Veteran;
- Acknowledging that VA will pay for the actual net cost for tuition and fees-
 - Based on the provisions of section 3313(c)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, including the Academic Year cap applicable for programs pursued at private or foreign schools;
 - On a staggered basis when specific milestones are met;
 - 50% upon enrollment;
 - 25% upon completion of the program;
 - 25% at employment
 - On a prorated basis if the student fails to complete the program;

Unique Payment Structure

- Agreeing to not seek payment from an eligible Veteran who fails to complete a program and/or fails to find employment in a related field within 180 days of completing or withdrawing from a program for any amounts that VA would have paid to your institution had the Veteran completed the program and found employment within 180 days.
- Agreeing to invoice the VA through the Tungsten Network for Payment of Tuition. One Invoice will be submitted per veteran at the following points,
 - the student begins attending courses,
 - the student completes their program of education, and
 - the student gains employment in the field of study.
- To Invoice VA, schools must register for the Tungsten Network. Instructions on how to register can be found [HERE](#), along with additional information and training videos on how to utilize the application.
- Prior to Invoicing VA, all educational institutions must be Vendorized. To request Vendorization, follow instructions found on VA Form 10091.

Prohibitions and Program Eligibility

The educational institution agrees to certify enrolled eligible Veterans under VRRAP in the following programs:

- Programs approved for VA educational assistance under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, that do not lead to a bachelor's or graduate degree and are designed to provide training for a high-demand occupation

(**NOTE:** See list of high-demand occupations compiled by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics)

- High technology programs of education offered by a qualified provider, under the meaning given such terms in section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. § 3001 note), generally referred to as “VET TEC.”
- **NOTE:** *By law, in the case of an accredited program of education, a program of education is not considered a covered program of education under VRRAP if the program has received a show cause order from the accreditor of the program during the five-year period preceding March 11, 2021; VA will verify through Department of Education.*

ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS

General Q&A

- **What are high demand occupations?**
 - The full list is available on our website (<https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap.asp>). It includes healthcare, education, media, engineering, and high-tech opportunities.
- **Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, tuition and fee payments are capped at a maximum amount per academic year for private and foreign schools, does it work the same way under VRRAP?**
 - Yes, tuition and fee payments under VRRAP are subject to the same academic year cap as private and foreign institutions of higher learning.
- **Can VRRAP benefits be paid for pursuit of an approved program at a foreign institution of higher learning?**
 - Yes, benefits can be paid for pursuit of an approved program at a foreign school, provided that the program leads to employment in a U.S. high demand occupation.
- **Can VRRAP benefits be paid for pursuit of an approved on-the-job or apprenticeship training program?**
 - No. Benefit payments under VRRAP (tuition & fees and the housing stipend) are determined under specific provisions of the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, which do not include those applicable to on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, non-degree flight training at a pilot school, or correspondence training.

General Q&A , cont.

- **Can VRRAP benefits be paid for pursuit of an approved program at less than full time?**
 - Yes, VRRAP benefits can be paid for pursuit of a program on a part time basis.
- **Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, my school certifies tuition and fees on a semester basis, is it the same under VRRAP?**
 - No. While term dates and credits will still be certified, the net tuition and fee charges for the entire program must also 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.
- **If the student drops out and decides not to complete the program, does my school have to return the 50% of the net tuition and fee charges paid when the Veteran began the program?**
 - 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 it’s published and approved refund policies, and any tuition and fees that would be refunded should be sent back to VA..
- **If a Veteran fails to complete the program but finds employment in a field related to the program within 180 days of withdrawal, can my school receive an additional payment for net tuition and fee charges?**
 - Yes, VA will issue a prorated payment for the additional 25% of the net charges that would have been paid upon finding employment in a related field, based upon the portion of the program that was pursued.



QUESTIONS

Submit your Questions in the Q&A Pod

EDUVRRAP.VBAMUSK@va.gov