Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP)

Registration Process and Enrollment Certifications

June 2021
Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this presentation, you will be able to:

- Describe the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP)
- Understand the terms of the Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment Form
- Complete the registration process for VRRAP
- Complete VRRAP Enrollment Certifications
- Complete Adjustments, Amendments and Terminations for VRRAP
- Complete the Employment Certification Form
VETERAN RAPID RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRRAP)
What is VRRAP?

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) was enacted on March 11, 2021.

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 may 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.
VRRAP Overview

The program is limited to a maximum of 17,250 participants or $386M, whichever is reached first.

VA may not pay retraining assistance for covered programs of education that begin on or after December 11, 2022.

For training that starts before December 11, 2022, VA may pay retraining assistance two years passed that date.
VRRAP Overview

To be eligible for VRRAP, a Veteran must meet all the following requirements:

- At least 22 years old, but not older than 66
- Unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Not eligible for GI Bill or VR&E benefits (or, if you’re eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you’ve transferred all your benefits to family members)
VRRAP Overview

To be eligible for VRRAP, a Veteran must meet all the following requirements:

- Not rated as totally disabled because you can’t work
- Not enrolled in a federal or state jobs programs
- Not receiving unemployment benefits (including CARES Act benefits)
REGISTRATION PROCESS
Registration Process

Education Institutions seeking to participate in VRRAP must:

- Submit the Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment Form to the VRRAP processing team at EDUVRRAP.VBAMUSK@VA.GOV.

- The VRRAP team will process the agreement and send the institutions an approval letter and a list of approved programs.

- Upon receipt of approval, the education institutions can submit enrollment certifications.

Note: Education Institutions cannot submit enrollment certifications prior to receiving their approval.
PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM
VRRAP’s unique pay structure requires participating education institutions to submit a Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form.

By submitting this agreement with the original signature of an official legally authorized to bind the educational institution to these terms, 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;
The institution is:

- 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 the program;

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<th>A. PROGRAM TYPE (Associate or Certificate)</th>
<th>B. PROGRAM NAME</th>
<th>C. RELATED HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATION</th>
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The institution is:

- Agreeing to not seek payment from an eligible Veteran who fails to complete the 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 accredits of any program listed in during the five-year period preceding March 11, 2021.
Steps to complete the form

1. **Participating Educational Institution** - Enter the name, mailing address, facility code, and check the type of agreement (New Open-Ended Agreement).

2. **Program Type** – Enter Associate Degree or Certificate for which you will certify enrollment of eligible veterans under VRRAP. NOTE - Bachelors and Graduate degree programs don't qualify.

3. **Program Name** - Enter the name of the program as listed in the approval for GI Bill benefits or Veteran Employment through Technology Courses (VET TEC) by the State Approving Agency or VA.

4. **Related High-Demand Occupation** - Enter the high-demand occupation associated with the associate or certificate program entered (see VA’s official list of high-demand occupations for VRRAP compiled by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics).

5. **Points of Contact (Item 7)** - Enter the contact information for the institution's financial representative and the School Certifying Official. These contacts may or may not be the same individual.

6. **SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL** - The signature must be from an official legally authorized to bind the institution to this agreement with VA. The title, telephone number, and date must be provided. Agreements will not be processed without a valid signature.
VA will pay the educational institution at the following milestones:

- 50 percent of total amount of program when Veteran starts program
- 25 percent of total amount of program when Veteran completes program
- 25 percent of total amount of program if Veteran finds employment in a field related to program of education within 180 days of completing the program
  - A prorated amount will be paid for the portion of the program pursued if an eligible veteran does not complete the program but, nonetheless finds employment in a field related to the program of education during the 180-day period
ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATIONS
Enrollment Certifications

The use of VA-ONCE is mandatory when submitting enrollment certifications, amendments, adjustments or terminations for VRRAP.
INITIAL ENROLLMENT SUBMISSION -

- The VA Enrollment Certification (VA Form 22-1999) can be submitted up to 14 calendar days prior to the start of the program.
- When submitting in advance, a correction (VA Form 22-AM1999) to the original VA Form 22-1999 must be submitted to verify attendance.
- The remarks section for the initial enrollment certification must contain the **entire length** of the program (beginning and ending date) and the tuition and fees for the entire program.

**Please note:** VA payments to the education institutions will be based on the information listed in the remarks section on the initial enrollment certification. Therefore, **you must enter the entire length of the program and the tuition and fees for the entire program in the remarks section.**
Verification of Attendance

- An “Amended Enrollment Certification” (VA Form 22-AM1999) **MUST** be submitted to verify attendance once the veteran has started the term. This certification allows the VRRAP Processing Team to release the first VRRAP funds to the school for the certified student Veteran.

- “Verification of Attendance” must be entered in the remarks section.
Program Completion

- On or after the last day of the program, once the student has met all necessary requirements to be issued a Certificate of Completion, the certifying official will submit a Notice of Change in Student Status (VA Form 22-1999b) reporting “End of Term or Course” effective the last day of the term.

- A prorated amount will be paid for the portion of the program pursued if an eligible veteran withdraws and provides notice to the educational institution that he/she no longer intends to pursue the program of education.
Changes to Enrollment Certifications

Amendments and Adjustments works the same as any other VA benefit.

- The certifying official must submit a Notice of Change in Student Status (VA Form 22-1999b) to report any changes to the enrollment certification within 30 days of the change.

- Reductions – The amount paid to the educational institution will not be prorated due to a reduction in term.
Although VRRAP terminations are processed the same as any other benefit, the impact on the Veteran is **significantly different** than any other VA benefit.

- The law states once a student receives benefits for a VRRAP program and terminates, the student cannot re-enroll or enroll in any other program under VRRAP.
- If a Veteran attends one or more day of class and terminates with the intent of re-enrolling later in the year, the veteran will not be able to re-enroll in VRRAP. Also, the Veteran will only receive MHA payment for the day or days of attendance.
- If a veteran enrolls and **terminates before the first day of term**, the Veteran can re-enroll in VRRAP.
Termination

- When submitting a termination, the SCOs must enter the number of days the Veteran attended the program.
- If the termination occurs within 14 days of the first day of term, the VRRAP processing team will contact the SCO for attendance verification.
- If the termination occurs 15 days or more after the first day of term, the VRRAP processing team will process the termination without requesting attendance verification.
- Prorated amount will be paid for the portion of the program pursued if an eligible Veteran withdraws and provides notice to the Educational Institution that he/she no longer intends to pursue the program of education.
VRRAP EMPLOYMENT
The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program is focused on the successful placement into related employment upon completion of a Veteran’s program of education.

What is Considered Employment for VRRAP?

- Traditional employment in a career in the program of study
- Self-Employment, the Veteran owns their own business and can demonstrate utilizing the skills learned from the VRRAP program
- Paid internships, apprenticeships, and contract employment
Employment Certifications

**Employment Certification Form**

- VA must be notified when the student Veteran has found related employment. This must be accomplished within 180 days of completing the program using the Employment Certification form.

- A prorated amount will be paid for the portion of the program pursued if an eligible veteran does not complete the program but, nonetheless finds employment in a field related to the program of education during the 180-day period.
Employment Certification

How to certify employment

• The Veteran must complete the applicable sections on Part I and Part II of the Employment Certification form and return it to the school certifying official (SCO).

• The SCO must complete Part II section II on the Employment Certification form and send it via email to EDUVRRAP.VBAMUSK@VA.GOV (the VRRAP Processing Team), once the student Veteran finds employment.

*If a student Veteran is affirming employment via Self-Employment, additional information may be required such as a federal tax ID and corporation papers. Additionally, VA may require a written explanation as to how the skills learned by the student Veteran in their VRRAP program will assist in growing their business. For additional questions regarding related employment, please contact the VRRAP Processing Team.
VA-ONCE UPDATES
VA-ONCE Updates

The following changes were made in version P062.4 of VA-ONCE:

• The addition of a new chapter, VRRAP, Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program
• All VRRAP submissions will be automatically routed to the Muskogee RPO for processing
• VET TEC schools are permitted to submit VRRAP claims
• If the benefit type is VRRAP:
  – STEM is not allowed
  – Associates-IHL Undergrad & NCD are the only valid training types
  – Bachelors and Graduate training is prohibited
  – Advance Pay and Accelerated Pay are disabled
  – The begin date for enrollments must be on or after 3-11-21
  – Entire length of program (begin date and end date) as well as Tuition and Fees for the entire program must be in remarks section on initial enrollment certification
VA-ONCE Updates Screen Shots

Addition of VRRAP to the chapter drop downs.
VET TEC facilities were previously limited to selecting ONLY the VET TEC benefit type. VET TEC facilities can now select either VET TEC or VRRAP as the benefit type.
Edits have been added for VRRAP.

The STEM checkbox cannot be checked when the chapter is VRRAP.
Training must be Associates Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) Undergrad or Non-College Degree (NCD).

On the Certs page, Advance Pay and Accelerated Pay are disabled.
VRRAP terms cannot begin before 3/11/21, the date legislation was enacted, and Tuition and Fees are required for the entire program.

Tuition and fees are required for the entire program for all VRRAP Enrollments.
Enter the **entire length of the program** (Begin Date & End Date) as well as the Tuition and Fees for the **entire program** in the Remarks section.

![Edit Enrollment Screen Shot]

Length of entire program: 03/12/2021 thru 05/12/2022
T&F for entire program: $8400.00

**Please note:** VA payments to the education institutions will be based on the information listed in the remarks section on the initial enrollment certification. Therefore, you must enter the entire length of the program and the tuition and fees for the entire program in the remarks section.
VRRAP terminations are certified the same way as all other benefits, only VRRAP is the benefit type.

Select **terminate** from the drop-down menu

Select the appropriate reason for termination from the drop-down menu
KNOWLEDGE CHECK
The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (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.

A  TRUE

B  FALSE
The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (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.
When submitting the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form, the Educational Institution acknowledges that VA will pay for the actual net cost for tuition and fees:

A. On a monthly basis

B. On a staggered basis when specific milestones are met; 25% upon enrollment; 25% upon completion of the program; 50% at employment in the field of study

C. On a staggered basis when specific milestones are met; 25% upon enrollment; 50% upon completion of the program; 25% at employment in the field of study

D. On a staggered basis when specific milestones are met; 50% upon enrollment; 25% upon completion of the program; 25% at employment in the field of study
Knowledge Check

When submitting the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment form, the Educational Institution acknowledges that VA will pay for the actual net cost for tuition and fees:

A. On a monthly basis

B. On a staggered basis when specific milestones are met; 25% upon enrollment; 25% upon completion of the program; 50% at employment in the field of study

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D. On a staggered basis when specific milestones are met; 50% upon enrollment; 25% upon completion of the program; 25% at employment in the field of study
Knowledge Check

VA payments to the education institutions will be based on the information listed in the remarks section on the initial enrollment certification. Therefore, you must enter the ________________________ in the remarks section.

A. Entire length of the program but not the tuition and fees for the entire program

B. Entire length of the program as well as the tuition and fees for the entire program

C. Tuition and fees for the entire program but not the entire length of the program.

D. Entire length of the term as well as the tuition and fees for the entire term
VA payments to the education institutions will be based on the information listed in the remarks section on the initial enrollment certification. Therefore, **you must enter the ______________________ in the remarks section.**

- **A** Entire length of the program but not the tuition and fees for the entire program
- **B** Entire length of the program as well as the tuition and fees for the entire program
- **C** Tuition and fees for the entire program but not the entire length of the program.
- **D** Entire length of the term as well as the tuition and fees for the entire term
REMINDERS
1. Click on the URL or copy and paste it in your web browser.  
   https://vba-tpss.vbatraining.org/assess/trkSignIn?refid=XSCO
2. Enter your email address and eight (8) digit facility code and click Next. (If you do not have a user profile, click New User Account and follow the steps to set up your profile.)
3. Scroll down and click the Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training tab
4. Select the applicable training session from the list of topics that appears on the right side of the screen by clicking Begin
5. To enter Conference/Workshop/Virtual Training Title: Click the dropdown arrow and select SCO Virtual Training Session and click Submit
6. Enter the start date and the end date
7. Enter your Facility Name, City and State (Main Campus) and click Submit
8. Certify your attendance by clicking Agree and then submit.
9. Print your training certificate and keep for your records
SCO Training Reminders

Here are important training dates for School Certifying Officials (SCO).

- **Annual Training Window Opened.** Updated training requirements for all new SCOs and continuing education requirements for existing SCOs are effective.
- **60-Day Training Alert!** Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice.
- **15-Day Training Alert!** Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice.
- **Existing SCOs - No training in progress**
  - New SCO - Training is continuous throughout the year

- **October 1, 2020**
- **July 1, 2021**
- **August 15, 2021**
- **Sept 1-30, 2021**

- **June 1, 2021**
  - 90-Day Training Alert! Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice.

- **August 1, 2021**
  - 30-Day Training Alert! Notifications and reminders of the approaching August 31st continuing education deadline will be posted on the GI Bill website and sent to SCOs via Gov Delivery notice.

- **August 31, 2021**
  - Annual Training Window Closes! Continuing education requirements for existing SCOs completed.

Please remember, if you don't complete your annual training requirements,

VA has the authority to remove your access from VA-ONCE and the SAA has the authority to disapprove your school’s programs.
Complete Your SCO Annual Training by August 31, 2021

Section 305 of the Colmery Act requires SCOs at "Covered Educational Institutions" to complete annual training by August 31st.

To complete the annual training click on the link: SCO Annual Training.
Additional School Administrator Resources

**Communication Tools**

Our COVID-19 Factsheet provides pre-drafted language to help you communicate special COVID-19 rules with your GI Bill® students.

**Stay up to date on GI Bill® benefits**

- @GIBillEducation
- @VAVetBenefits
- Subscribe to Email

**NEW School Resource Page**

**SCO Training**

**COVID-19 FAQs**

**General FAQs**

**School Certifying Official’s Handbook**

*ChooseVA*
Submit Your Questions

Any Additional Questions?

- Complete the [survey](#) and submit your questions
- Check the latest VRRAP FAQ release!