



# Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP)



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Trivia: Established as a place for Civil War soldiers to recuperate and transition back into society, it has now been converted to apartments for Veterans facing homelessness. Where is this located?



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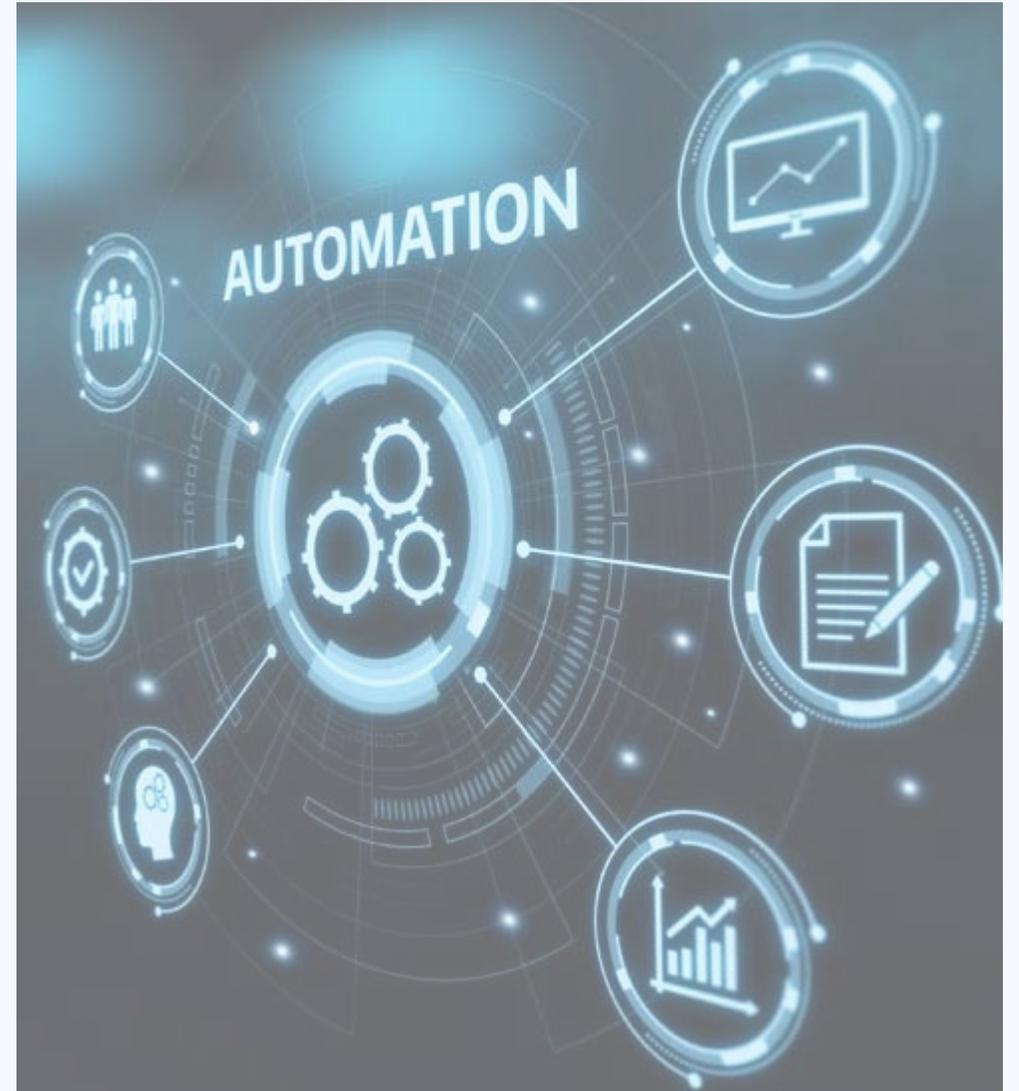
## TODAY WE WILL REVIEW:

- An overview of the VRRAP program
- Eligibility Requirements
- Occupations Covered
- Benefits
- Terminations
- Questions from AVECO
- Frequently asked questions



## Overview of VRRAP

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.



Choose **VA**



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## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### All of these must be true:

- At least 22 years old, but not older than 66, **and**
- Unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, **and**
- Not rated as totally disabled because you can't work, **and**
- Not enrolled in a federal or state jobs program

**Note:** VRRAP benefits can't be used at the same time as unemployment benefits (including CARES Act benefits).



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

At the time of application for VRRAP, a beneficiary can't be eligible for any of these other benefits:

- Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Montgomery GI Bill
- Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)
- Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

**Note:** A beneficiary can get VRRAP benefits if they were at one time eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill but have transferred all benefits to family members.



## WHAT OCCUPATIONS ARE COVERED?

### What types of education and training programs does VRRAP cover?

VRRAP covers education and training programs approved under the GI Bill and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) that lead to high-demand jobs. These include associate degrees, non-college degrees, and certificate programs. The Department of Labor determines what's considered a high-demand job for VRRAP.

[Find out which jobs are considered high demand \(PDF\)](#)

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## BENEFITS

**What benefits are available through this program?**

If eligible for VRRAP:

- Up to 12 months of tuition and fees, **and**
- A monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill rates



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## HOW LONG WILL THIS BE AVAILABLE?

We'll stop accepting new VRRAP enrollments on December 11, 2022—or when we reach either the \$386 million funding limit or the 17,250 participant limit, whichever comes first. If someone is already enrolled in a program under VRRAP, they will continue to get their payments.

*All **programs** must begin prior to December 11, 2022. Veterans will be eligible to receive up to 12 months of entitlement to basic monthly housing and facilities will receive payment of tuition and fees to completion of their approved VRRAP program.*



# CURRENT USAGE

VRRAP Statistics 13-Jun-22					
<b>VRRAP (Total Beneficiaries Receiving or Received Retraining Assistance)</b>			<b>VRRAP (Participant Data)</b>		
<b>Participation/Fund/Obligation</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Percentages</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Percentages</b>	
<b>Total Participants Allowed</b>	17,250		<b>Total Applications Received*</b>	20,965	
<b>Total Participants to Date</b>	6,311	37%	<b>Certificates of Eligibility</b>	13,767	66%
<b>Initial Program Funds</b>	\$386,000,000.00		<b>Ineligible</b>	5,238	25%
<b>Total Completed Payments to Date</b>	\$102,233,264.70		<b>Pending Decision**</b>	180	1%
<b>Completed MHA Payments to Date</b>	\$47,547,924.57		<b>Inventory***</b>	1,780	8%
<b>Completed T&amp;F Payments to Date</b>	\$54,685,340.13		<b>Top 3 VRRAP Denial Reasons</b>		
<b>Total Allocated to Date</b>	\$180,432,905.52	47%	<b>Eligible for GI/VRE benefits</b>	3,733	71%
<b>Total Remaining Funds</b>	\$205,567,094.48	53%	<b>No Qualifying Service</b>	640	12%
			<b>Not unemployed due to COVID</b>	604	12%
			<b>VRRAP Enrollments &amp; Employment</b>		
					<b>Percentages</b>
			<b>Total Participants to Date****</b>	6,311	
			<b>Presently in Attendance</b>	2,840	45%
			<b>Total of Program End Date Reached</b>	2,835	45%
			<b>In-Between Terms</b>	636	10%
			<b>Total of Program End Date Reached</b>	2,835	
			<b>Total Report of Graduation</b>	1,547	55%
<b>VRRAP (Educational Institution Data)</b>					
<b>Total Participation Agreements Received</b>	1,188				
<b>Educational Institutions Approved</b>	1,056	89%			
<b>Educational Institutions Ineligible</b>	84	7%			
<b>Educational Institutions Pending Decision</b>	1	0%			



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 that once a student receives benefits for a program and then terminates, the student cannot re-enroll or enroll in any program under VRRAP
- If a Veteran attends one or more days of class and terminates with the intent of re-enrolling later that year, the Veteran will not be able to re-enroll in VRRAP. Additionally, the Veteran will only receive MHA payment for the day or days he/she attended
- If a Veteran enrolls and **terminates before the first day of term**, the Veteran can re-enroll in VRRAP



- Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill cap applies for private school. For student who start in a session after the 22/23 GI Bill cap is updated, will VRRAP student be eligible for the updated Cap amount? **Yes, if the entire program starts after 8/1. Programs that started prior to 8/1 are locked-in at the '21-'22 cap... regardless of how many "sessions" for that program may be after 8/1. Remember, schools had to tell us the complete cost of the program up front, so there's no way to incorporate any added costs or t&f's for "sessions" that come after 8/1.**
- If a school discontinues participation in the VRRAP program, can a student transfer to a different school? **Only in a situation where VA or an SAA has withdrawn the approval or the school has closed.**
  - If so, assuming they used up some months of their 12 months eligibility at the school that no longer participates in VRRAP, will the student receive a new 12months of eligibility or will the amount of used months be deducted from the original 12months? **Used entitlement is lost**
  - In regard to a student transferring to a different school - Does the previous institution need to terminate the existing VRRAP certifications in order for the student to continue using their VRRAP benefit at the transfer/new institution? **This is not allowed, except in specific circumstances**
  - Does the VA automatically provide a new COE to the student? **Yes, but again... this is not a voluntary matter... only special cases because the school was withdrawn.**



- Students may be taking an onsite course at a different location than their home location. From a VRRAP standpoint, how should this look in VA Once? We have received information from VRRAP processors that they can not process “Guest” or secondary facility codes  
**This has been asked and answered. The simple answer is “no.” We have already said, we need all reporting from the facility at which the school wants to receive payment for all certifications or terms involved.**
- We need clarity on what happens when a student starts their session enrolled in 2 classes and withdraws from one class. Is that allowed under VRRAP? **Reductions are allowed, and should be reported but remember the school has been based on the total cost of the program and this does not impact T&F payments.**
- What if a student starts the term and discontinues from all classes, then wants to continue their education the following term? Is that allowed under VRRAP? **No, withdrawing means losing VRRAP slot.**
  - o What about in the instance of mitigating circumstances? **If they withdrawal they are out of VRRAP**
- When a student withdraws (terminates their program), we have been receiving a small additional payment beyond the 50%. These are students that withdrew during their first term. Does anyone know why this might be? **It is the prorated amount allowed under the terms of the agreement**



## 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.



## **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?

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