

MODULE #13 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

DATE STARTED: _____ **LOCATION:** _____

SERVICE OFFICER/TRAINEE SIGNATURE: _____

TRAINER SIGNATURE: _____

DATE COMPLETED _____

I. Please rate the effectiveness of this training module.

Objective		Acceptable	Marginal	Unacceptable
Knowledge of Eligibility & Purpose.	Objective Achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of teaching methods used			
Objective Programs Covered	Objective Achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of teaching methods used			
Objective Effects on VA Compensation	Objective Achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of teaching methods used			
Objective Ancillary Benefits	Objective Achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of teaching methods used			
Objective	Objective Achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of teaching methods used			
Objective	Objective achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of teaching methods used			
Objective	Objective achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of teaching methods used			

MODULE # 13 CONTINUED

Objective		Acceptable	Marginal	Unacceptable
	Objective Achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of methods used			
Objective				
	Objective Achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of methods used			
Objective				
	Objective Achieved			
	Applied objective content through practical exercises			
	Effectiveness of methods used			

SUBJECTIVE EVALUATION

		Good	Fair	Poor
1. Please rate the extent to which you met your personal objective for this module				
2. Rate the information provided in the Training Manual & other reference materials				
3. Please evaluate the physical environment where the training was held.				
4. Is there anything that we could have done to make this training better for you? (Please comment)				

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VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Objective: To learn the elements of the VA Vocational Rehabilitation program, and what benefits and services are available for a veteran training under this program.

References:

Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 31.

38 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21, Subpart A, §§ 21.1–21.430.

Adjudication Manual 21-1, Part IV, Chapter 23, paragraph 23.09; and Part VI, Chapter 4, paragraph 4.02.

VA Pamphlets 28-82-1, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents

Instructions: Study the assigned reference materials learn the basic requirements for a program of Vocational Rehabilitation, and how to apply for it.

Summary:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation program is designed to help a service-disabled veteran overcome employment handicaps imposed by such disability, so that the veteran is able to find and keep suitable employment as well as to achieve maximum independence in daily living. The primary goal of the program is to train disabled veterans for appropriate employment; although education benefits for school attendance may be authorized if that is determined to be the best way to prepare a particular veteran for entry or re-entry into the labor force. Vocational Rehabilitation benefits must not be viewed as a supplement to or a substitute or replacement for VA education assistance benefits available under other programs.

Eligibility for and entitlement to Vocational Rehabilitation requires that a veteran have a service-connected disability or disabilities ratable at 20% or more, and have an employment handicap resulting primarily from such disability or disabilities. A veteran with a 10% service-connected disability (including multiple non-compensable conditions for which compensation at the 10% rate is paid under 38 CFR § 3.324) may also qualify, on a showing that such disability or disabilities produces a "serious" employment handicap. Statutory ratings under 38 U.S.C. 1114(k) (loss of a creative organ) or the former subsection (q) (arrested tuberculosis) do not qualify. The period of eligibility is 12 years from date of discharge from service or 12 years from the date VA first notifies the veteran of a qualifying service-connected disability, whichever is the later. This may be extended for severely disabled veterans who are unable to begin or complete their program within that time because of their disability, or who are determined to have a severe employment handicap such that they require additional time for rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation services may continue until the veteran has reached his or her rehabilitation goal, but the education or training portion of a rehabilitation program may not exceed 48 months, except under exceptional circumstances. VA may continue to provide counseling, job placement, and post-employment services for up to 18 additional months. Veterans in a Vocational Rehabilitation program of education or training who are also eligible for benefits under one or another VA education and training assistance programs must elect from which

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program they will draw benefits; concurrent benefits may not be paid under more than one program for the same course of education or training.

A veteran who applies for Vocational Rehabilitation must be entitled to receive compensation (or would be entitled except for the receipt of military retired pay). The application for Vocational Rehabilitation may be submitted together with the application for compensation, or may be filed at any time thereafter, subject to the 12-year time limit. An active duty service member who is hospitalized awaiting separation from service for disability may apply for Vocational Rehabilitation without applying for compensation. The active duty service member must have a service-connectable disability, which is immediately ratable at 20% or more to qualify for consideration. To apply, complete VA Form 28-1900.

When an application is received and it is established that a qualifying degree of disability is present, the applicant will be given counseling, testing, and evaluation to determine whether an employment handicap exists, and if so, whether training and/or rehabilitation services are feasible or necessary. Rehabilitation programs may include employment (including self-employment) services and assistance; educational (college-level) or vocational (trade, business or technical school) training; apprenticeship or on-job training; or farm cooperative training. For severely disabled veterans there may be training in a rehabilitation facility, in a sheltered workshop, or in-home; the program may also include independent living services and training.

While in training a veteran will be paid a monthly subsistence allowance, varying according to the type and rate of training, the number of dependents, and other factors. In addition, VA will pay all training expenses, including tuition, fees, books and supplies, and the cost of any necessary tools, equipment, and uniforms. The veteran is also entitled to any medical and dental treatment (or reimbursement for the costs of such treatment), including prosthetic devices or other special equipment/special restorative services, necessary to continue or complete his/her program. When necessary, the veteran may be provided special help such as tutoring assistance, readers for the visually impaired, or sign language interpreters for the hearing impaired. If the veteran encounters unexpected financial difficulties while training, a no-interest loan service is available. VA provides counseling services, including educational, vocational, personal, and employment counseling are available, as well as career planning and job placement services.

A veteran who is rated as totally disabled because of individual unemployability may apply for and pursue a program of Vocational Rehabilitation without jeopardizing the total disability rating. Even if the veteran is then rehabilitated and able to obtain employment, the total disability rating will continue undisturbed for a minimum of 12 months so the veteran can demonstrate that he or she is able to maintain substantially gainful employment, and is no longer unemployable.

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Review Questions: Vocational Rehabilitation

Using the assigned references and reading materials, answer the following questions:

1. In addition to having a service-connected disability, a veteran must have _____ resulting primarily from such disability or disabilities. 13-1.
2. A veteran normally must have a minimum disability rating of _____ to be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation. 13-1
3. Generally, how long may a veteran in a program of Vocational Rehabilitation pursue a course of education or training? 13-2
 - a. 36 months
 - b. 45 months
 - c. 48 months
 - d. As long as is necessary
4. While training in a program of Vocational Rehabilitation, the veteran may be entitled to which of the following: 13-2
 - a. VA payment for costs of training, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, and tools and uniforms.
 - b. Any medical and/or dental care necessary to allow the veteran to continue training, or reimbursement for the costs of such care.
 - c. Payment of a monthly subsistence allowance including additional amounts for dependents, if any.
 - d. All of the above.
5. Generally, a veteran has _____ years from the date of separation from service or _____ years from the date VA notifies him or her of qualifying disability, whichever is the later, to complete a program of Vocational Rehabilitation. 13-1
6. When a veteran applies for Vocational Rehabilitation, what must happen: 13-2
 - a. Veteran must undergo counseling
 - b. Veteran must be evaluated to determine whether there is an employment handicap
 - c. Determination must be made as to whether a rehabilitation program is feasible
 - d. All of the above.
7. If a service-disabled veteran who has been rated as totally disabled because of individual unemployability begins a program of Vocational Rehabilitation, the rating of individual unemployability will be reduced: 13-2, 13-3
 - a. Immediately.
 - b. Never—individual unemployability must be shown to be permanent at the time it is assigned, so whatever happens thereafter is irrelevant.
 - c. At the time the veteran is declared to be rehabilitated.

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- d. After the veteran has been declared rehabilitated, has been placed in a suitable employment situation, and has maintained that employment for at least 12 months.
8. Besides courses of education and/or training the Vocational Rehabilitation program may also provide instruction and training for very severely disabled veterans: 13-2
- a. In a rehabilitation facility or sheltered workshop, or in-home
 - b. Independent living services and training
 - c. Both a and b
 - b. None of the above.

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FORMS

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

VA Form 28-1900 - Application for Vocational Rehabilitation



Department of Veterans Affairs

DISABLED VETERANS APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
(Chapter 31, Title 38, U.S.C.)

PURPOSE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION: Vocational Rehabilitation provides services and assistance to certain veterans with disabilities to get and keep a suitable job. If employment is not reasonably feasible, vocational rehabilitation may be able to provide services to support veterans with disabilities to achieve maximum independence in their daily living activities.
IMPORTANT: To see if you should fill out this form, please read the information on back.

1. FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME OF VETERAN John Ellis Doe		2. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 123-45-6789	3. VA FILE NO. <i>(If different, from Item 2)</i> CSS 123-45-6789	4. DATE OF BIRTH <i>(Month, Day, Year)</i> 04/01/80
5A. MAILING ADDRESS <i>(No. and street or rural route, City, State and ZIP Code)</i> 100 Veteran Avenue Raleigh, NC 27999		6. DAYTIME TELEPHONE NO. <i>(Include Area Code)</i> (919) 777-1234	8. VA OFFICE WHERE RECORDS ARE LOCATED Winston Salem RO	
5B. E-MAIL ADDRESS OF VETERAN <i>(If, available)</i> None		7. EVENING TELEPHONE NO. <i>(Include Area Code)</i> (919) 777-4321	9. NUMBER OF YEARS OF EDUCATION 12	
10. IF YOU ARE MOVING WITHIN THE NEXT 30 DAYS, GIVE US YOUR NEW ADDRESS		11. LIST ANY PREVIOUS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS YOU HAVE BEEN IN AND GIVE THE DATES <i>(Include both VA and non-VA programs)</i>		DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE <i>(VA DATE STAMP)</i>
		PROGRAM DATE		
		None		

12. SERVICE INFORMATION (Enter the following information for each period of active duty. Show ALL active duty)

SERVICE NUMBER <i>(Prefix and suffix)</i> (A)	BRANCH OF SERVICE (B)	DATE ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY (C)	DATE LEFT ACTIVE DUTY (D)	TYPE OF SEPARATION OR DISCHARGE (E)
123-45-6789	Army	4/15/1998	12/30/2004	Honorable

13. IF YOU ARE NOW WORKING (Enter the following information for your current job)

A. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER Ace Packing Co. 150 Corporate Drive Raleigh, NC 27999	B. DUTIES OF YOUR JOB Loading and unloading trucks	C. MONTHLY SALARY OR WAGES 2,300.00
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14. IF YOU ARE NOW HOSPITALIZED, WHAT IS THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR HOSPITAL?
N/A

15A. WHAT IS YOUR DISABILITY RATING? 50%	15B. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR DISABILITY (DISABILITIES)? 30% S/C TBI 20% S/C Right Leg 10% S/C Htn
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16. DID YOU SERVE IN: *(Check ALL that apply)*

<input type="checkbox"/> WORLD WAR II	<input type="checkbox"/> POST KOREAN CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/> GULF WAR
<input type="checkbox"/> POST WORLD WAR II ERA	<input type="checkbox"/> VIETNAM	<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM
<input type="checkbox"/> KOREAN CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/> POST VIETNAM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the information I have entered on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I realize that making willful false statements concerning a material fact in a claim of vocational rehabilitation benefits is a punishable offense that may result in fine or imprisonment or both.

17A. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>(Do not print) (Sign in ink)</i> John E. Doe	17B. DATE SIGNED 4/20/2009
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