



Veterans Information Handbook



Thank You for Your Service

Cosumnes River College
Veterans Resource Center
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Special thanks to our sister Veterans Program at Folsom Lake College for permission to use their format and much of their material as a base for this handbook. Steve Leake editor.

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PLEASE NOTE:

The information within this handbook is as accurate as we can make it at the time of editing and printing. It is inevitable that changes will occur in college processes and Veterans Affairs regulations and we will make every attempt to keep the Handbook up-to-date. Its purpose is to provide a convenient single resource that combines our college processes and relevant VA policies and information into a useable document. Users are encouraged to use the Handbook for an overview and to use the various VA web sites to confirm that they have all the information needed to obtain their benefits.



Introduction to Veterans Education Benefits at Cosumnes River College

There are several components to the delivery of Veterans benefits and services at Cosumnes River College. Each has its primary role and each would direct you to the correct component, but it will save time and frustration if you familiarize yourself with the roles of each. They are as follows:

1. The **CRC Veterans Services Office In Admissions and Records** (A&R) is the liaison between you, as a veteran or dependent, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. **We are the “certifying” officials** and are here to help answer your VA education questions! We will help process the necessary education benefits claims and certify your continued eligibility each semester you are at CRC.

We cannot, however, verify your **eligibility for** VA benefits - only **the VA can do that** through the application process. Apply through the VA site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

We will help you with the education benefits application process. Once you are approved for benefits by the VA, you will need to comply with all applicable regulations, policies and procedures at Cosumnes River College and you will do that through [the A&R](#) office.

2. The **Veterans Resource Center in LRC 214** is just that, a “resource” place. You wouldn’t come here for technical certification issues (go to Veterans Services for that). It is **a support service for all veterans and dependents regardless of whether or not you are using your education benefits at CRC**. We will hear your concerns and questions and direct you through the VA maze. You can meet here with other vets, use the computers and printer, have a cup of coffee or access information about education benefits as well as all other types of veteran benefits, college and community resources. This is **your** space.
3. **CRC Veterans counselors are located in the Counseling Center** on the second floor of the Library. You will meet with a counselor as part of your continued eligibility for education benefits at CRC and develop a VA Educational Program Planner which will serve as your road map for your studies. The counselors are also there to help you with any of your academic and personal counseling needs.

APPLYING FOR EDUCATION BENEFITS

Students applying for veterans education benefits should allow up to **twelve weeks** for processing before receiving benefits. The amount of benefits awarded is determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs and is based on the number of credit hours (units) for which a student is enrolled monthly. The process for applying for veterans educational benefits is different for New Students that have never received benefits before and for Continuing/Transfer Students that have already initiated benefits.

NOTE: Not all of the educational benefits described below, such as payment for apprenticeship, correspondence work and flight training will apply to Cosumnes River College, since we do not offer and are not approved to offer these types of programs. Please read about the different VA chapters and apply if you think you qualify.

Road Map for Success developed by Veterans Affairs

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/road-map>

This "Road Map" will help you determine what benefit is best for you and how to apply for it!

Many veterans and active duty personnel can qualify for more than one education benefits program, including the

- New Montgomery GI Bill Post-9/11 (Chapter 33)
- Old Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB, Chapter 30 and Selected Reserve, Chapter 1606)
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP, Chapter 1607)
- Post Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance program (VEAP, Chapter 32).

Depending on your individual circumstances, one of these programs may give you better benefits than the others. While you are the only person who can choose which program meets your needs, we have developed a step-by-step process that may help you compare the different education programs and decide which is best for you. This process includes links to additional information on the CRC or Veterans Affairs website that may help you make your decision.

1. **Determine Your Best Benefit**
2. **Collect Your Paperwork and Information**
3. **Calculate Your Benefits**
4. **Compare the Programs**
5. **Apply**

Service-Connected Disability?

If you are an active duty service member anticipating at least a 20% service-connected disability rating, or a veteran with a 20% or greater disability rating, you should first determine any benefits to which you are entitled under Vocational

Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E, Chapter 31). For additional information go to www.vba.va.gov

NOTE: If you need any help making your choice, VA Vocational and Employment counseling help is available to all veterans by calling toll free (800)-827-1000. You can also discuss your options with a VA education benefits specialist by calling toll-free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or TDD at (800) 829-4833.

VA EDUCATION BENEFITS

NOTE: We want you to know about the many benefits the VA makes available to veterans and their dependants as described below. This does not mean that they are all available at Cosumnes River College; just that they are available somewhere at a VA-approved program or school. If you are interested in training that is not available at CRC, contact the VA or ask the CRC Veterans Resource Center staff to help you locate an approved program.

Montgomery GI Bill Chapter 30 – Active Duty,

Establishes a program of educational benefits for eligible persons who have had their basic military pay reduced for their first 12 months of service and received a discharge specified as “Honorable” after at least two years of active duty. You may use these benefits for degree/certificate programs at CRC **or** correspondence, apprenticeship/on-the-job training programs, and vocational flight training programs at **other** institutions approved to offer these types of programs. Remedial, deficiency and refresher courses can be approved if your assessments support the need.

The maximum entitlement is **36 months of full-time benefits**. Monthly benefit rates are determined by the VA based on the type of training you take, its duration and whether the DOD put extra money into your MGIB fund known as a “kicker”. **Benefits terminate 10 years after release from active duty.**

Chapter 31 - Vocational Rehabilitation

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) *Vet Success* program is authorized by Congress under Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 31. It is sometimes referred to as the *Chapter 31 program or Rehabilitation*. The VR&E *Vet Success* Program is **administered by a different department of VA than regular education benefits**. The *Vet Success* program assists veterans with a service-connected disability to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, *Vet Success* offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

Contact the VR&E Benefits Office at **(916) 364-6500** or go in person to the Old Placerville Road address. You will have to make an appointment in person. Call first for days and times of operation. Several Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) are at this address, five days per week and can also help you.

**Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
10365 Old Placerville Road
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 364-6500**

The general VA benefits number is (800)-827-1000. Press "1," then "2," then "3" to get to Disability Benefits.

Tip: Use the ebenefits site to expedite things. Ebenefits is a portal and central location for veterans, service members, and their families to research, find, access and manage their benefits and personal information. **Call 1-800-983-0937** to get a premium account to access this system. This is suggested as the quickest way to file a "fully developed disability claim."

www.ebenefits.va.gov

Veterans **must meet with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) before completing the required college documents.** The VRC will provide an evaluation and help to select a plan to address the educational needs of the veteran. See the Vocational Rehabilitation Website <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/> for more information.

Vietnam Era, Chapter 32 - Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

VEAP is available if you first entered active duty between January 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985 and elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. Your contributions are matched on a \$2 for \$1 basis by the government. You may use these benefits for degree/certificate programs at CRC **or** correspondence, apprenticeship/on-the-job training programs, and vocational flight training programs at **other** institutions approved to offer these types of programs. In certain circumstances, remedial, deficiency and refresher training may also be covered if your assessments support the need.

Benefit entitlement is up to 36 months depending on the number of monthly contributions. You have 10 years from your release from active duty to use VEAP benefits. If there is entitlement not used after the 10-year period, your portion remaining in the fund will be automatically refunded.

Post-9/11 or "New" GI Bill, Chapter 33

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service after September 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days.

Veterans must have an honorable discharge or other qualifying discharge.

Based on your service, you are entitled to a percentage of the benefit (see information under **Benefit Payment Information**). To be eligible for 100% of the benefit, an individual must have served an aggregate of 36 months of active duty service, or have been discharged for a service-connected disability after 30 days of continuous service. For those who served fewer than 36 months, the percentage of benefits ranges from 40-90%.

You may use these benefits for degree/certificate programs at CRC **or** graduate and undergraduate degrees, vocational/technical training, on-the-job training, flight training, correspondence training, licensing and national testing programs, entrepreneurship training and a tutorial assistance program at **other** institutions approved to offer these types of programs. Information on the tutorial assistance program can be found by visiting the VA homepage: <http://www.va.gov/> and searching for "Tutorial Assistance Program"

This program provides up to **36 months of education benefits**. The period of **eligibility ends 15 years from the date of the last discharge or release from active duty**.

Service members enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill program will be able to transfer unused educational benefits to their spouses or children as of August 1, 2009.
www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/

Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve, Chapter 1606

To be eligible, a person must have a 6-year obligation to serve in the selected reserve signed after June 30, 1985. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. There are other eligibility requirements and eligibility for this program **is determined by the Selected Reserve components themselves**. The reserve component will issue a **NOBE** (Notice of Basic Eligibility) if eligible. VA makes the payments for this program.

You may use these benefits for degree/certificate programs at CRC **or** correspondence, apprenticeship/on-the-job training programs and vocational flight training programs at **other** institutions approved to offer these types of programs.

Maximum **entitlement is 36 months** of full-time benefits which **terminate 10 years from the date of eligibility** provided the veteran remains in the Selected Reserve during this period.

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), Chapter 1607

REAP is a Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components **called or ordered to active duty** for 90 consecutive days or longer after September 11, 2001 in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress.

This program makes certain reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001, either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

Survivors & Dependents, Chapter 35

Sons, daughters and spouses of veterans may be eligible for benefits if the veteran died while on active duty, died after discharge from active duty of a service-connected disability, is permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service-connected disability or listed as missing in action for a total of more than 90 days.

These benefits may be used for degree/certificate programs at CRC **or** correspondence, apprenticeship/on-the-job training programs and vocational flight training programs at **other** institutions approved to offer these types of programs. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course (not approved at CRC). In certain circumstances, remedial, deficiency, and refresher training may also be covered if your assessments support the need.

Eligible persons are **entitled to a maximum of 45 months** of full-time benefits. Generally, the eligibility period for sons and daughters is between the ages of 18 and 26. A spouse may use educational benefits during a **10 year period after eligibility is found**.

Veterans Benefits Processed by Other Campus Offices:

College Fee Waiver Program for Veterans Dependents by California Veterans Affairs

The dependent child, spouse or unmarried surviving spouses of a service-connected disabled or deceased veteran may be entitled to fee waiver benefits at all California community colleges, CSU system and UC system universities. For information, please contact your local County Veterans Service Office at (916) 874-6811 or the college Veterans Services office. You can also download an application at <http://www.calvet.ca.gov/>, then click on the "Vet Services" link, then on the "Education" link.

This benefit must be renewed each academic year. After a student has applied for the Fee Waiver with their local County Veterans Service office, and is approved, they will receive an approval letter in the mail. The student should bring this into the CRC Financial Aid Office and attach it to the BOG Fee Waiver form for processing. The **CRC Veterans Services Office does NOT process the Fee Waiver for Veterans Dependents, Financial Aid does.**

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR NEW AND TRANSFER STUDENTS

NOTE: This eight-step process may seem complex to you, but we have written it in detail to give you the best advice possible at each step. It is also complicated because you are applying for both your GI Bill benefits and for admission to Cosumnes River College at the same time. If you get confused along the way, please stop by the Veterans Resource Center in LRC 214 or call us at (916) 691-7455 for assistance.

1. **CRC application.** Apply online for admission to Cosumnes River College at www.crc.losrios.edu. Click the "Apply to CRC" link and follow the appropriate steps. Within one hour after submitting your application, you will receive an email with your Student ID number, which is needed to obtain services.

Begin the college matriculation process by following the **Steps to Success**, located at http://www.crc.losrios.edu/New_Students/Steps_to_Success.htm. Concurrently, you should be working on Step number 4 below (the application for veterans education benefits).

2. Apply for **priority registration**. Veterans, but not their dependents, are eligible. Contact the Veterans Services Office for more information at 916-691-7422.
3. Select and **enroll in your classes** and pay your fees. Classes fill quickly so **do not wait for VA approval before you register and pay for classes**. If you are a first time college student, you will receive counseling advice and learn how to register during the orientation which is one of the *Steps to Success*. You can also get ideas about good first semester courses for new college students from the FAQ link, which can be accessed from our main website at www.crc.losrios.edu/veterans. Transferring students with college units should get counseling advice first.

Chapter 33 or Chapter 31 only: if the VA will be paying tuition and fees, let the CRC VA certifying official know that you have enrolled so that they can put a "do not drop for nonpayment" or "DND" hold on your record. This will keep you in your classes until the VA pays for them. The CRC certifying official needs to have proof that you have applied to the VA to place this hold. This could be a copy of your application showing CRC as the school or confirmation of Chapter 33 or Chapter 31 benefits.

4. **File the VA application** for educational benefits. Submit appropriate VA application/form.
 - a. **New Students** (those who have never APPLIED for benefits). If you have already applied, the VA will have record of it. If not, complete VA form **22-1990 (veterans and reservists)** "Application for Education Benefits" or VA form **22-5490 (dependents)**
 1. Go to the online application at www.gibill.va.gov
 2. Move cursor over "Apply for Benefits" link in middle of home page and select "Apply Online (VONAPP)".
 3. Complete the information and print copy for the CRC VA office.
 - b. **Transfer Students** (previously received education benefits at another college):

- i. Complete VA Form **22-1995 (veterans and reservists)** "Request for Change of Program or Place of Training" or VA Form **22-5495 (dependents)**. Forms are available online at the VA web site or our "Forms" link or as hard copy in the CRC Veterans Services Office.

NOTE: It can take the VA up to twelve weeks to approve your benefits so apply well before the start of school to avoid delays.

5. Once you receive your **certificate of eligibility** from the VA, contact the CRC Veterans Services Office in Admissions and Records for an appointment to complete your CRC file. During this appointment you will complete the applicable CRC VA form(s).
 - a. CRC VA Intake Form; Make an Intake appointment as this will be completed by CRC Veterans Services staff.
 - b. CRC VA Statement of Student Understanding and Responsibilities Form; Done during your Intake appointment with CRC Veterans Services staff.
 - c. CRC VA Enrollment Status Form is filed by those who are using education benefits and are "continuing" to the next semester. It is filed after you've enrolled in classes for the upcoming semester.
6. Request official transcripts from all previously attended colleges, including military transcripts and foreign transcripts.
 - a. Federal regulations require veterans/dependents to submit **OFFICIAL** transcripts (this means sent **by** the college) to CRC from all schools, colleges, training institutions and technical schools attended. This includes all training and education received before entering active duty as well as any received during service and after discharge, even if VA benefits were not paid for attending the course or program.
 - b. You can request military transcripts at:
 - o AARTS <http://aarts.army.mil>
 - o SMART <http://www.navycollege.navy.mil/transcript.html>
 - o CGI <http://uscg.mil/hg/cgi>
 - o CCAF <http://maxwell.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp>
 - c. **Do not open sealed transcripts** when you receive them.
7. If first-time VA Education Benefits were approved, contact the Counseling Office at (916) 691-7316 to **make an appointment to meet with a veterans counselor** in order to develop your VA Educational Program Planner (identify yourself to the Counseling Office clerk as a veteran or dependent). **Do this during your first semester; you don't have to do this before enrolling for your first semester.** You may have to wait for several weeks to see the counselor, **so do not wait to see the counselor before you enroll in your first semester classes, as they will fill quickly and you will be left without classes.**

If you are a **new VA student with no college units**, follow the recommendations for first semester courses provided during your orientation and in the FAQ link found on this site.

Transferring VA students should have an educational plan already to guide them in course selection, but should seek advice from the counselors since they will know how your change of schools might affect your plan (course numbers and names, articulation of courses, etc.).

- a. Veterans and dependents using education benefits are required by law to declare a two-year major or certificate as listed in the CRC catalog, or a transfer major based on agreements with CSU and UC schools. “Undeclared” or “general education” majors are not acceptable for VA purposes. You must declare a major before your second semester.
 - b. The Educational Plan must be specific and indicate each class you must complete to fulfill your degree objective (GE requirements, major requirements, prerequisites and electives) as well as the coursework you have already completed toward your objective. Be aware that the VA places restrictions on what courses you may be paid for. A counselor’s recommendation may not be payable under VA regulations, especially if the class is a “recommended” elective and you have no room for elective credit.
 - c. Make sure to bring both your assessment results and copies of all your transcripts to the counseling appointment as the counselor will probably not have quick access to all of that information, and it is needed to do the plan.
8. **Apply for financial aid.** Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online (www.fafsa.edu.gov) to determine eligibility for other aid programs. You might well qualify for additional support in the form of federal and state grants, loans, fee waivers and federal work study. You may receive veterans education benefits AND financial aid at the same time. Eligibility and amounts are determined on a federal formula which evaluates income, assets and other information. **The normal age twenty-four “independence” requirement for financial aid does not apply to veterans who served on active duty.** This means that only **your** income (rather than parents) will be counted toward eligibility. **Tip:** since eligibility is based upon **last year’s income**, you might be considered ineligible if you recently separated from service and your income **might** have exceeded the maximum level. But, since your income likely has dropped considerably, you should talk to a CRC financial aid officer and file a *Petition for Special Circumstances*.

If you do get awarded financial aid, your amount may be reduced somewhat due to your GI Bill benefits. You may decide that you can get by on financial aid and student work (or VA Work Study) and choose to hold off on using your educational benefits until later for a more costly four-year or graduate degree.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AT COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE

All students receiving Veterans Educational Benefits are required to comply with all applicable Federal regulations and all institutional regulations and policies. Refer to the document below titled ***Statement of Student Understanding and Responsibilities*** which you signed at the time of Intake with CRC Veterans Services. This section of the *Information Handbook* looks closely at your responsibilities and reinforces and provides more detailed information (***see bold italics***) on several of these areas of responsibility. Accurate and timely payments depend on the degree to which you understand these fully.

CRC Veterans STATEMENT OF STUDENT UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For Students Receiving Veterans Educational Benefits

Name: _____ ID #: _____

1. I understand that once I have enrolled into **any** course, I am responsible for the payment of that course, whether or not I receive my VA educational benefits. I further understand that if I use the new GI Bill, Post 9/11 – Chapter 33 benefits, I must notify the CRC Veterans Services Office when I add classes every semester to avoid being dropped for nonpayment.

(The Veterans Services Office adds a DND “Do-Not-Drop” notation on your account for your protection...but you have to let us know when you add a class for it to work.)

2. I understand that the Department of Veterans Affairs requires me to have all prior college credits evaluated (***by the veterans counselor***). I also understand that it is my responsibility to request and provide CRC with official transcripts from all other colleges outside of the Los Rios Community College District.

(Don't wait until it is time to register for the second semester to begin this process as you will not be able to get certified for your second semester courses until these things are complete. Work on this early in your first semester and you will not have any delays.)

3. I understand that the VA requires me to select a major, and I must submit a VA *Educational Program Planner* in order to receive VA educational benefits. The VA will only approve courses for payment that are required according to my VA educational plan at CRC.

***(Change of Major/Goal:
To change a major/goal, the student must meet with a CRC counselor to develop a new VA Educational Program Planner. Coursework for the new major will not be certified until the new plan has been completed and is on file in the***

Veterans Services Office. It is the student's responsibility to meet with a counselor as early as possible to avoid delays in payment. It is imperative that you enroll only in courses required on your VA educational plan. Courses that do not follow your degree objective will not be paid.)

4. I understand that if I add, drop, stop attending or change my schedule in any way, I must notify the CRC Veterans Office immediately of this change. I also understand that the CRC Veterans Services Office cannot certify or make changes to my enrollment status until my classes have been officially added from the waiting list and show as *enrolled* on my records.

(If you do not attend class...you are not entitled to VA education benefits. If you stop attending a class, you must drop officially – either online or in person at the CRC Admissions and Records Office – and report the drop to the Veterans Services Office IMMEDIATELY. Federal law requires that students report any change in enrollment status which might affect VA educational benefits to the school and the VA.

Failure to drop a class can result in overpayment of benefits. When there is an overpayment, the VA will withhold future payments, or ask for repayment of the overpaid benefits. Depending on the situation, they can take you to court, charge interest, as well as withhold future tax refunds, attach wages, put a lien on property or deny home loans.

The item about being on the wait list bears some emphasis. You are not enrolled in a class when it is wait-listed...period. Therefore, the Veterans Services Office cannot certify it.)

5. I understand that courses which do not meet during the full semester session will be reported to the VA according to the start and end dates of these classes, (i.e., first 8 weeks, second 8 weeks, etc.), and that this may affect my VA educational benefits.

(Courses which are not full semester in length can lead to confusion and overpayment situations. For example, you have signed up for a total of 12 units for the semester, but 3 of those units don't start until the second eight-week term. Your benefits for the first part of the term are not going to be for 12 units, but for 9 because you are only paid while you are in the course. If you are going to be taking such courses, be very careful and check with your counselor and certifying official to avoid surprises.

6. I understand that if I receive an "F" grade for a class in which I received VA educational benefits that I must notify the CRC Veterans Services Office and report my last date of attendance. If I fail to do so, the CRC Veterans Services Office will adjust my enrollment certification to the Department of VA and this may affect my VA educational benefits with an overpayment issue.

F, W, INC, NP Grades

Since the VA will not pay for the period after a student has stopped attending class, CRC is required to report student attendance for all classes in which a student has received a "F", "W", "INC", or "NP" grade. If you receive such a grade, you will be sent a letter asking that you document the reason for the grade. You will be required to state if you completed the class and received the grade on the basis of the work completed for the class or if you stopped attending, in which case you must indicate the date you last attended. The reason for the substandard grade will be noted in your file. If the substandard grade is a result of non-attendance, the VA will be notified of the last date of attendance reported by you and the VA will reduce your units and pay rate effective the date you indicated as the last date of attendance. See #7 also.)

7. If a withdrawal or other punitive grade is assigned, an overpayment may be charged to the student. Per the VA – if an individual does not complete a course and does not substantiate mitigating circumstances for not completing that enrollment, they will be charged with an overpayment equal to the amount of ALL educational assistance paid for that period of time.
8. The VA does not allow payment for the following classes: physical education or athletic-related courses, "recommended" as opposed to "required" courses, and courses which are not transferable or not counted towards an AA/AS degree or certificate program **unless:** 1) it is listed in the catalog as a required prerequisite for your goal; 2) concurrent enrollment in such a class is listed as required by the catalog; or 3) it has been identified as a required elective by your counselor. In addition, the VA will not pay for remedial courses unless your assessment test scores justify the need.

(Repeated Courses

The VA will NOT pay for repeat courses, unless the class is a required class and can be repeated per the college catalog. No class where standard grades (A,B,C) are earned can be repeated for VA purposes. Exception: some courses require a specific minimum grade for successful completion or transfer. See the FAQ for VA policies regarding payment for various categories of courses.)

9. For continued payment, the VA requires that you make satisfactory progress towards your goal. This means maintaining a 2.0 cumulative GPA and completing at least 50% of your units each term. CRC is required to report a termination of your benefits if you go on academic dismissal. Counseling is required prior to readmission after dismissal.

(Minimum GPA Requirements/Dismissal

Students receiving VA education benefits (veterans, reservists and dependents) must maintain satisfactory progress. This is a VA requirement. If the student on VA education benefits falls below a 2.0 GPA over three consecutive semesters and is placed on academic dismissal, this is reported to the VA and benefits are suspended. To reinstate your benefits, you must meet with a counselor and submit a Petition for Readmission. Readmission is not automatic but earned through some mitigating circumstance or positive actions on your behalf. See the college catalog for more detailed information about Dismissal and Probation.)

10. **File Enrollment Status Form** All veterans and dependents are required to file an **Enrollment Status Form** with the CRC Veterans Services Office **EACH** semester. This form is your notification to our office that you want to use your VA education benefits again next semester– we never assume that you want to use your benefits.

Monthly Self-Verification

In addition to the above requirement, **Chapter 30, 1606 and 1607 only** students must, on **the last day of each month**, verify their enrollment with the VA for the previous month before the payment is made. The veteran has two methods to self-verify: 1) online at www.gibill.va.gov (go to WAVE link) **or** 2) by phone at 1-877-823-2378. Failure to verify on a monthly basis will result in nonpayment.

***Chapter 31, 33 and 35 students do not self-certify.**

(Enrollment Status Form

Certification is not “automatic” from one semester to the next; YOU must request it. To continue to collect benefits, submit a CRC VA Enrollment Status Form to the college Veterans Services Office EVERY semester (as soon as you register for classes). On this form, you will list the classes you are registered in for the upcoming semester and would like to count toward collecting your benefits. The certifying official will then cross check the listed classes with those authorized on your VA educational plan.

ANY enrollment changes to the courses on your Enrollment Status Form MUST be reported to the CRC VA Certifying Official immediately so that the certification is accurate and overpayment/underpayment situations do not arise.

How to report concurrent enrollment on your Enrollment Status Form

Please see your counselor if you are planning to enroll in a course at another college in addition to courses at CRC, your parent or primary school. They can advise you regarding which courses at the other college will meet your requirements and authorize them by completing a Veterans Services Consortium Request Form. Then, make sure to include it with your CRC VA Enrollment Status Form. If the course you're taking at another college is a required class on your CRC VA educational plan, we will send a “parent school” letter to the other college, giving them approval to certify your class(es). If you fail to do this, your payments will not reflect actual enrollment.

Monthly Self-Verification

The earliest date that you can self-verify is on the last day of each month since your payment is for the month just ended or “in arrears.” There are two ways to self-verify: by phone at (1-877-823-2378) through an Interactive Voice Recognition system or by WAVE (Web Automated Verification of Enrollment) at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>.

NOTE: Self-verification is only allowed when there are no changes to the enrollment during the previous month. If there were changes in the enrollment, the student should not use the automated verification system but must speak with a CRC Veterans certifying official.

For Students Using the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33):

- After submission of the Enrollment Status Form to the CRC Veterans Office, the college electronically submits the certification to the Muskogee Regional Processing Office. The housing allowance and book stipend are sent directly to the student while the fees & tuition are paid directly to the college. CRC will place a *Do Not Drop* indicator on these students' records so classes are not dropped for nonpayment. After we receive the payment from the VA, the Business Services office will post the payment to the student's account. If there is a balance due at the time, the student will be contacted by Business Services.
- Chapter 33 students are eligible for the monthly BAH (Basic Allowance for Housing) when enrolled in **more** than 50% rate of pursuit (51% or higher works). A full semester at 7 units is a 58% rate so think of 7 units as your **minimum** for any BAH. The BAH is paid in arrears for the prior month's attendance. The BAH is prorated based on your benefit level (40-100%). The BAH is then prorated to the student's rate of pursuit (rounded to the nearest tenth). For example, a student at the rate of pursuit of 75% would receive 80% of the monthly BAH. 75% of the full-time unit load (12 units) is 9 units for the full semester.
- The book/supplies stipend is \$1,000 per academic year. The stipend is \$41.67 per unit for up to 24 units; prorated based on the percentage of your benefit level.

I have read and fully understand the information given to me in this contract. I understand that failure to follow this information could result in a reduction or cancellation of my benefits. If I have any questions, I will contact the college's VA certifying official for clarification.

Student Signature

Date

Name (Please Print)

5 MUST- KNOW GI BILL FACTS

First-time users of the Montgomery GI Bill can find the process confusing and often frustrating. If you are planning to use your GI Bill benefit, there are 5 facts you must know to help make the process easier.

TIP - Apply early!

It can take over 12 weeks for the VA to process your GI Bill Eligibility application. The sooner you apply for your GI Bill eligibility, the shorter the delay in getting your payments. Early application at CRC also makes it much more likely that you will be able to get your classes.

Fact #1.

You have 10 years to use your Old Montgomery GI Bill benefits Chapter 30, Chapter 1606. The “new” GI Bill /Post-9/11 (Chapter 33) provides 15 years.

Once you have separated from the service, you have 10-15 years to use all of your benefits (depending on which chapter you are using). Although separating from service "starts the clock" on your time limit, you should know that if you rejoin active duty service for more than 90 days, your clock is reset. In other words, you get 10-15 years from your last discharge. (The Post-9/11 or “new” GI Bill has a 15-year entitlement – all other chapters are 10 years.)

Example: Seaman Smith left active duty and joined the Navy Reserve. Three years later she returned to active duty with seven years remaining on the MGIB clock. At that point, the clock is reset at the 10-year mark when she leaves active duty service again, at which point the 10- year clock will start ticking again. She now has a fresh 10 years left to use ALL of her benefits or she will lose her remaining balance, which then returns to Uncle Sam. She does need to reapply using Form 22-1990.

Fact #2.

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) is not Federal Financial Aid.

The MGIB is not considered Financial Aid in the traditional sense. College and University financial aid departments do not consider the MGIB financial aid because it is normally paid directly to you, not the school. Most schools will require you to sign a promissory note or apply for student loans to pay them up front. You will then be required to pay these loans – hopefully with your GI Bill payments. This also means that you may be eligible for student loans, scholarships, and Pell Grants along with the GI Bill.

Note: Although non-taxable, **GI Bill benefit payments do reduce the amount of student financial aid you might be eligible to receive.** The CRC Financial Aid Office, not Veterans Services, can tell you what the impact is.

Fact #3.

You can stop and start using the MGIB as needed.

Often, people believe that once you apply for benefits you have to remain enrolled in school to get the full benefit. That's not true; you can use the MGIB for any period of

time, take time off and re-apply to use it again at a later date. (Keeping in mind Fact number one)

You can also use it when you need it the most as you progress to your education goal. If you use your benefits strategically, your MGIB benefits can help you finish your associate's, and work on your bachelor's or, perhaps later, complete your master's degree. See the FAQ for additional information.

Fact #4.

Entitlement; A "month" of benefits doesn't always mean a month.

The GI Bill benefit provides 36 months of education benefits. The term "months" can often be confusing. The "36 months" of benefits does not mean you have only 36 months to use it (see Fact #3 regarding stopping and restarting).

Every time a veteran uses the current **maximum or full time** "payment rate" of MGIB benefits for an entire month, they use a month of the 36 months of benefits. Since the first and last months of each semester are only a couple of weeks long, you will receive a proportionately smaller "partial" payment, but be charged only a portion of your entitlement. The best way to stay on top of your remaining entitlement is to read the verification letter the VA sends to you each semester. It shows your remaining months."

Note: Work closely with the VA Office to determine the amount of entitlement you will have.

Fact #5.

The GI Bill pays according to the number of units you take (applicable to all chapters except Chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill which calculates *Rate of Pursuit*).

The GI Bill payment rates are based on several factors, the biggest being your unit load or rate of pursuit, depending on which chapter you are under. For example, a full-time (12 unit) Montgomery GI Bill Chapter 30 (with 3 years service) student will currently (in 2011) get \$1,473 a month, while a three-quarters time student will get \$1,104.75 and a half-time student will only get \$736.0 It is also important to know that the MGIB payment rates increase every year. See the current GI Bill rate tables online to view the details and this year's payment rate. Go to www.gibill.va.gov and then click on resources; the rate tables are listed in there. Rates change in October of each year.

The Chapter 33 **Post-9/11 GI Bill**, which includes a substantial housing allowance (BAH) goes by **Rate of Pursuit**, VA students must be enrolled in 12 units of full term courses the entire semester (Spring and Fall) to receive 100% BAH. **7 units is the minimum** that you need to take in order to receive any Post-9/11 GI Bill BAH. 7 units pays at 60% of BAH. **If you are below 7 units, you will not get anything for BAH.** For summer semester, the student needs to be enrolled in 51% of what is full time at CRC (summer at CRC-6 units). We advise at least 4 units for Summer session.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Direct Deposit

Students receiving Chapter 30, 33, 1606 and 1607 benefits have the option to have VA payments deposited directly into a checking/savings account of their choice. Call 1-877-838-2778 to set up an account or to update current direct deposit account information.

Payment of Educational Benefits

VA benefit checks are sent directly to the address the student indicated on the VA application (if not using direct deposit). Payment is based on the dates the required classes meet. Payment of benefits usually occurs between the 1st and the 15th of each month and covers the previous month. Inquiries regarding payments may be made directly to the VA at their toll free customer service number 1-888-442-4551.

Amount of Benefit Payments

VA monthly benefits are paid to the student based on the following:

Post- 9/11 GI Bill – Chapter 33:

Rate of pay

Eligible veterans receive a percentage of the benefit for tuition and fees, monthly housing allowance, and book stipend based on the months of active duty service after 9/10/01.

Benefits

Tuition and fees. Payment is made directly to CRC by the VA on behalf of the veteran. Provided the college VA Services Office is notified in a timely manner, the office can place a *Do Not Drop indicator* on the student's record, which prevents drops for nonpayment, as the college waits to receive the payment from the VA. If a student pays their fees, they can apply for a refund after the VA payment is made and applied to their account.

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). The monthly housing allowance is paid directly to the student at the start of each month for the previous month. It equals the DOD's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependent and the zip code of the school. You can find the BAH rates at www.gibill.va.gov

For the full semester, BAH payments are as follows: These rates are **based on** the veterans **rate of pursuit (ROP)**, which is unit related for the term, and are **for a veteran who is approved by the VA for 100% benefits**. If the veteran is approved for less than 100%, the percent of BAH would be reduced accordingly:

12 units = 100% rate of pursuit (ROP), receive 100% of BAH
11 units = 91% ROP, receive 90% of BAH
10 units = 83% ROP, receive 80% of BAH
9 units = 75% ROP, receive 80% of BAH
8 units = 67% ROP, receive 70% of BAH
7 units = 58% ROP, receive 60% of BAH

Books and supplies stipend is paid directly to the student when the school's enrollment certification is processed. The stipend pays \$41.67 per unit certified – up to a maximum of \$1000 per academic year.

Entitlement

Rate of Pursuit (ROP) Chapter 33 Veterans are generally entitled to 36 months of benefits. Rate of Pursuit determines the number of months deducted from your entitlement for the length of the semester. VA calculates rate of pursuit by dividing the number of certified units by the number of units considered full-time by the school. In the case of CRC, 12 units is considered full-time. Example: Enrollment in 7 certified units is a ROP of 58% of a month to be deducted from your 36 months of entitlement. That is **above 50%** so you would be eligible for some BAH.

Please note:

- The Post 9/11 GI Bill does **not require monthly attendance verification** by the veteran.
- Veterans who have used Chapter 30 and transfer to Chapter 33 Post- 9/11 benefits will only receive the number of months remaining under their entitlement.
- **Veterans who exhaust their Chapter 30 entitlement and then apply for Chapter 33 will receive up to an additional 12 months of Chapter 33 entitlement.**

All other GI Bills - Chapters 30, 35, 1606 and 1607:

The rate of pay depends on the number of units that were certified. For the full semester (fall or spring), it breaks down as follows:

12 or more units = full time

9-11 = $\frac{3}{4}$ time

6-8 = $\frac{1}{2}$ time

**Students enrolled less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time will receive benefits for Tuition and Fees only.*

For summer session, it breaks down as follows:

8 week session:

6+ units = full time

4-5 = $\frac{3}{4}$ time

3 = $\frac{1}{2}$ time

6 week session:

4+ units = full time

3 units = $\frac{3}{4}$ time

2 units = $\frac{1}{2}$ time

How Entitlement is Charged

You will receive an award letter from the VA after your courses have been certified by the college. It will show your entitlement.

Full-Time Chapter 30/35/1606/1607
One day charged one day of entitlement

Part-Time Applicable percentage charged, i.e., $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{1}{4}$

Chapter 33

Full-Time	If tuition & fees paid: one day for each day of the certified enrollment period If BAH paid: one day for each day of the certified enrollment period If book stipend paid: one day for every \$41.67 paid, with any remaining amount rounded to the nearest amount evenly divisible by \$41.67
Part-Time	If tuition & fees paid: a percentage of a day for each day of the certified enrollment period. If BAH paid: a percentage of a day for each day of the certified enrollment period If book stipend paid: one day for every \$41.67 paid, with any remaining amount rounded to the nearest amount evenly divisible by \$41.67

Processing Time

The CRC VA Services Office usually processes and submits certifications to the VA online within thirty days of receipt from the student. During peak periods the process may be longer, providing all required documents are current and complete. Multiple schedule changes, out of date educational plans, or outstanding transcripts or changes to your major WILL cause a delay in processing.

Retroactive Payments VA benefits can be paid retroactively for enrollment in required classes up to one year prior to the date VA receives a student's application.

Advance Payment

If you are a first-time student using GI bill benefits or have used the GI Bill before and been out of school for a semester, you can request Advance Pay. We accept requests for Advance Pay **60 to 90 days prior to the beginning of the semester**. The check would contain the first partial month and the next full month of attendance. It will be sent to the college and the VA Office staff will check to see that you are still enrolled in your classes before releasing it to you. The VA would send your **next check** to you at the beginning of **the fourth month of attendance** since you have already been paid for the first two.

Round-Out for Final Semester

During a student's final term only, if at least one course meets a requirement per the student's V.A. Evaluation, all additional courses taken that term may be certified regardless of whether the courses are required.

Problems With Payments

Contact the Department of Veteran Affairs at 1-888-GIBILL (1-888-442-4551) or Visit www.gibill.va.gov and go to 1.) Questions and Answers or 2. Go to your Wave Account (If you have not set one up, be sure to do so).

RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

Important CRC Phone Numbers

Campus Police Services	Emergency 2221 (on campus)	Non-emergency 558-2221
Admissions & Records/VA Services		916-691-7411 FAX 916-691-7467
VA Certifying Officials:		
Blanca Miranda		916-691-7422 mirandb@crc.losrios.edu
Peggy Ursin		916-691-7837 ursinp@crc.losrios.edu
Assessment		916-691-7332
Counseling		916-691-7316
Disability Support Services DSPS		916-691-7275
Extended Opportunities Program EOPS		916-691-7365
Financial Aid		916-691-7325

Critical Campus Student Support Programs for Veterans

Veterans Resource Center, LRC 214

We work with the CRC Veterans Services office to offer the veteran or their dependants a one-stop resource. Our mission is simple; to help you succeed in reaching your educational and life goals. We strive to staff the Center with knowledgeable and supportive veterans to create an atmosphere where you can come for help or just stand down while on campus.

Counseling Services, L 200

Counselors are available to assist you with a wide variety of issues: personal, academic and career. They can serve as your guide through the often confusing career process and understand the nuances of academic planning. Build an SEP (Student Educational Plan) with your counselor. It will provide your road map while at CRC. Veterans should identify themselves to the administrative staff so that they can meet with a veterans counselor. For appointment information, stop in or call 916-691-7316.

Financial Aid, L107

Financial aid is available through the college for students who need financial support in order to pursue their college education. The college provides assistance in the form of grants, scholarships, loans and part-time jobs. Except for scholarships, all programs require that a student show financial need in order to qualify. For more information about financial aid, contact 916-691-7325.

EOPS/CalWORKS and CARE, L106

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) provides support to economically and educationally disadvantaged students. Services include academic and personal counseling; assistance in completing admission, registration and financial aid forms; priority registration and university transfer services. Part of EOPS, the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) program provides support services to single heads of household receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). CARE students receive academic and personal counseling; peer advising; priority registration; and financial assistance. For more information about EOPS, contact 916-691-7365.

Disability Support, Programs, and Services (DSPS), P48

Services include, but are not limited to:

- Registration assistance
- On-campus assistance
- Personal, vocational and academic advisement
- Interpreting and captioning services
- Note taking
- Reader/tutor referral
- Assistive technology and adaptive equipment
- Materials in alternative media
- Test accommodations
- Campus and community referrals

For more information, please call 916-691-7275.

Reading & Writing Center, LRC 203

The Reading and Writing Center (RWC) provides help with reading and/or writing assignments for any class. The RWC staff does not offer proofreading/editing services. Rather, their purpose is to help students help themselves learn to read more effectively and develop/present ideas coherently in essays and other types of writing. Students enrolled at CRC may register to use the RWC, whether or not they are taking an English class. However, enrollment in ENGLB 70 is required. 691-7123.

Math Center, LRC 205

The purpose of the Math Center is to help students succeed in their math courses in a supportive learning environment. Tutors are available at all times that the Math Center is open to help students develop confidence and proficiency in their math skills. Videos for most classes can be checked out for viewing in the Center. Many of our classes have computer components or additional computer help that are installed on the Math Center computers. To be able to use the Math Center, you must register for either Math 81, Math 82, or Math 83, depending on which math course you are currently enrolled in. 691-7459.

Health Services, OPS 126

College nurses are available. Call 691-7584. Services include:

- First aid
- Evaluation of medical problems
- Confidential health advising and support
- Health screening
- Tuberculin skin testing
- Health insurance information
- Outreach and prevention services

Tutorial Services, LRC 216

The tutoring program offers students free tutoring assistance for their courses. The tutoring program offers individualized and small group tutoring in various subjects, dependent upon the availability of qualified peer tutors. 691-7425

FEDERAL BENEFIT RESOURCES

VA Muskogee Regional Office	1-888-442-4551
VA Education Benefits	www.gibill.va.gov/
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	www.va.gov
The Veterans Service Organizations Directory	www.va.gov/vso
Department of Defense	www.defenselink.mil
Veterans Online Application Website	http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp
New GI Bill calculator	www.gibill.va.gov or http://www.newgibill.org/calculator
WAVE (for monthly self verification)	https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave or 1-877-823-2378
Regional Vet Center link	www.va.gov/rcs
Transition Assistance Program	http://www.taonline.com/TapOffice/
PTDS and Combat Veterans	http://www.ptsd.va.gov/index.asp
Returning Service Members	http://www.oefoif.va.gov/
VA Forms	http://www.va.gov/vaforms/
VA Debt Management Center	http://www1.va.gov/debtman/
National Resource Directory for Wounded, Ill and Injured Service Members, Veterans & Their Families	http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/
Wounded Warrior programs	http://www.vetsuccess.gov/wounded_warrior
Military OneSource	http://www.militaryonesource.mil/

Military OneSource is a free service provided by the Department of Defense to **service members and their families** to help with a broad range of concerns including; money management, spouse employment and education, parenting and child care, relocation, deployment, reunion, and the particular concerns of families with special-needs members.

Julie Baumgartner

Tel: 916-217-5197

Julie.baumgartner@militaryonesource.com

Veteran Business Outreach Center

VA Archives <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

If you've been discharged from military service, your personnel files are stored here at the National Archives and Records Administration. Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain free copies of their DD Form 214 (Report of Separation) and other military and medical records.

ebenefits

ebenefits is a portal and central location for veterans, service members, and their families to research, find, access, and manage their benefits and personal information. **Call 1-800-983-0937** to get a premium account to access this system. This is suggested as the quickest way to file a "fully developed disability claim."

www.ebenefits.va.gov

VA Regional Office

Sacramento Branch Veterans Service Center at 10365 Old Placerville Road, Sacramento, CA.

This office is the "branch" office of the Oakland Regional Center.
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/oakland/> Go onto this site first and read the advice.

Services include:

Claims assistance
Verification of VA Benefits
VA loan guaranty certificates of eligibility

Note: Bring a copy of your DD214 with you

This **Sacramento** office is open on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** only from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Get there early. For priority service, call for an appointment at 916-364-6500.

On the other days, you can get assistance from the partnering VSOs (Veterans Service Organizations) housed in the same area. You can initiate your disability claim and learn about your benefits through them also. See the list of VSOs later in this document.

Sacramento Area Veterans Centers

The VA has established Veterans Centers around the country to assist veterans with a wide range of issues. The main site for the VA is
<http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

Sacramento and Citrus Heights Vet Centers offer readjustment counseling; which includes a wide range of psycho-social services offered to eligible veterans and their families in the effort to make a successful transition from military to civilian life.

Services provided include:

- Individual and group counseling for veterans and their families
- Family counseling for military-related issues
- Bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death
- Military sexual trauma counseling and referral

- Outreach and education including PDHRA, community events, etc.
- Substance abuse assessment and referral
- Employment assessment & referral
- VBA benefits explanation and referral
- Screening & referral for medical issues including TBI, depression, etc.

Sacramento Vet Center

1111 Howe Avenue Suite #390
 Sacramento, CA 95825
 916-566-7430

Citrus Heights Vet Center

5650 Sunrise Boulevard
 Citrus Heights, CA 95610
 916-535-0420 or 877-927-8387

STATE OF CALIFORNIA VETERANS RESOURCES

California Department of Veteran Services, 1227 "O" St., Sacramento, CA 95814

1 (800) 952-5626
 1 (800) 324-5966 (TDD)
 1 (800) 221-8998 (Outside California)

www.calvet.ca.gov

This is a very robust website and full of good information and links.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) makes many benefits available to veterans such as low cost loans, Veterans homes, license plates, disabled veterans business enterprise opportunities (DBVE), outreach to homeless vets and the *College Fee Waiver Program for Veterans Dependents by California Veterans Affairs*(this is processed by the County VA).

They participate and promote veterans resource fairs and "stand down" events around the state.

You do not initiate your federal benefits here. Do that at the County Veterans Service and the Vet Centers or at the Sacramento regional VA branch office on Old Placerville Road. The State staff is informed and can refer you to the appropriate office for just about anything. The center on "O" street is easily accessible by light rail (downtown train) and there is a supply of free parking right in front for you.

Submit CalVet's "reintegration" form and you will be put into their data base to receive important benefit information. Go to the CalVet site and locate the form at <https://cvcs.calvet.ca.gov/Pages/Intake/ReintegrationForm.aspx>

If you'd like to work for them as a Veteran Work Study employee, contact them. They utilize many such veteran workers.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY VETERANS RESOURCES

Sacramento County Veterans Office <http://dhaweb.saccounty.net/Veterans/>

2007 19th Street (between T and U Streets)

Sacramento, CA 95818

Tel: 916 874-6811 or FAX 916-874-8868

Walk-ins Mon-Fri 0800-1600

Phone inquiries Mon-Fri 0800-1700

Plenty of parking. You can initiate claims here. This is the office that processes the College Fee Waiver Program for Veterans Dependents (see pg. 28).

Sacramento County Veteran Services assists with:

- Disability Compensation (service connected)
- Re-evaluation Increase
- Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for surviving spouse and children
- Pension (for war-era veterans)
- Death Pension for surviving spouse and children
- Dependent allowances
- Housebound and A&A allowance
- California Yountville Veterans Home Admissions
- Request and Correction of Military Records
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- VA and Cal-Vet Home Loans
- Education benefits
- Life Insurance
- Burial Benefits

OTHER IMPORTANT VETERANS RESOURCES

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center

7270 East Southgate, Sacramento, CA 95823 Telephone: (916) 393-8387

www.svrc-vvc.org

The SVRC provides veterans with employment assistance and training, a 2-year transitional housing program, 90-day drug and alcohol treatment program for men and women, veterans rent and utility assistance, Homeless Reintegration Program (HRP) to help homeless veterans find work and training. This is a part of Vietnam Vets Inc., one of the early and very successful veterans organizations.

Veteran Business Outreach Center

7270 East Southgate, Sacramento, CA 95823 916-393-1690

www.vboc-ca.org

VBOC's mission is to advance the growth and commercial competitiveness of veteran-owned small business enterprises through education and services focusing on business development, technology deployment and e-commerce.

Military transcripts

Army/American Council on Education Registry <http://aarts.army.mil>
Transcript System (AARTS)
Sailor/Marine American Council on Education
Registry Transcripts (SMARTS) <https://smart.navy.mil/smart/welcome.do>
Community College of the Air Force
<http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp>

HEALTH CARE

VA Northern California Healthcare System

Sacramento VA Medical Center

A 60-bed, state-of-the-art, inpatient facility offering a full range of comprehensive health care services including medical, surgical, primary and mental health care. The medical center, which is comprised of 24 medical-surgical beds, 16 TCU beds, 10 ICU beds, 10 PICU, and a four room operating suite, also houses a cardiac catheterization lab, a gastrointestinal & endoscopy suite, angiography capability and 16,000 square-feet of research laboratory. The medical center offers a wide range of outpatient and diagnostic services, including mammography, MRI, CT, and PET scanning.

10535 Hospital Way

Mather, CA 95655

Tel: 916- 843-7000

<http://www.northerncalifornia.va.gov/>

Information and Assistance 916-366-5366 or 916-843-7000 or 1-800-382-8387
For appointments in General Medicine, call 916-366-5450 (option 3 for appointments) or 916-843-7220 for radiology & mammogram appointments. For Eligibility and Enrollment call 916-843-7035.

VA OEF/OIF/OND Transition Patient Advocate

The VA OEF/OIF/OND Transition Patient Advocate assists returning veterans by providing information on benefits and eligibility and facilitates a smoother transition to civilian life while ensuring veterans are treated fairly in all matters involving the VA.

Tel: 916-843-9016

10535 Hospital Way

Mather, CA 95655

VA McClellan Outpatient Clinic

The McClellan Outpatient Clinic provides a wide range of medical and ancillary services and programs including; primary care, audiology, compensation and pension exams, a home-based primary care program, laboratory, mammography, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, prosthetics, radiology, special program exams, and women's health services.

This facility is in the North Highlands area at the old McClellan field area.

5342 Dudley Blvd.

Sacramento, CA 95652

Tel: 916-561-7400

<http://www.northerncalifornia.va.gov/visitors/mcopc.asp>

National Center for PTSD

www.ncptsd.org

Defense and Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Center <http://www.dvbic.org/>

Extremely useful site, loaded with educational and clinical information. Can order or download many brochures.

TBI Organization site and newsletter <http://www.whatistbi.org/index/home>

My HealthVet

www.myhealthvet.va.gov

A VA website that allows veterans to view VA appointments, check their lab results, do online prescription refills and also check prescription history. You may also view your VA health records and your DOD service information.

The Mesothelioma Cancer Alliance <http://www.mesothelioma.com/veterans/>

Many veterans may have been exposed to asbestos while serving in the military, which is one of the main causes of Mesothelioma. The Alliance provides information and support services for veterans who have Mesothelioma.

REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT

VR&E Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

http://www.vetsuccess.gov/va_vre_and_vetsuccess

Sacramento County Employment Development Department (EDD)

2901 50th Street

Sacramento, CA 95817

916-227-0320 or 227-0315 or 227-1393

EDD has veterans employment specialists on staff.

Mather Career Center

PM: 916-228-3136

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center www.svrc-vvc.org

CRC Career Center

http://www.crc.losrios.edu/Student_Services/Career_Center.htm

Career One Stop Veterans Re-Employment

<http://www.careeronestop.org/ReEmployment/Veterans/Default.aspx>

HOUSING

Homeless issues: **CalVet** 916-503-8379

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

<http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp> or <http://www.va.gov/homeless/> This web site is a portal to many other resources for vets with housing issues. You can link to many other resources such as the HUD-VA subsidized housing program.

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center www.svrc-vvc.org

They are local and have housing for both men and women. It is right off Florin Road.

WOMENS' VETERAN RESOURCES

Women Veterans of America <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/> Site includes links to many other resources of interest to women veterans

CalVet works on behalf of women veterans. See their contact information.

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center www.svrc-vvc.org

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (VSOs)

Veterans Service Organizations play a crucial role by helping you to know about and obtain all the veterans benefits to which you are entitled. They all offer great information on their websites and can help steer you to needed benefits and cut through red tape. Vets can assign the VSO Service Officers power-of-attorney to assist with filing their disability claims with the VA.

These organization Service Officers can help with:

- Service-Connected Disability Compensation Benefits
- Non Service-Connected Disability Pension Benefits
- Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Benefits
- Death Pension Benefits
- Aid & Attendance Entitlement
- VA Medical Care Eligibility & Access
- Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits
- California College Fee Waiver Program
- VA Life Insurance
- State Veterans Homes
- Requests for Military Records
- Discharge Upgrade Information
- Burial Benefits
- Other Ancillary Benefits & Programs

NOTE: These VSO organizations have offices in the same area as our Sacramento Branch VA office at 10365 Old Placerville Rd. and are also open when the Sacramento VA is not. Talk to their VSO (Veterans Service Officer).

<http://www.amvets.org/> AMVETS Tel: 916-364-6792

<http://www.vfw.org> Veterans of Foreign Wars

<http://www.nvf.org/> National Veterans Organization

<http://www.dav.org/> Disabled Veterans of America

<http://www.legion.org/> American Legion

OTHER USEFUL SITES

There are dozens of vet-related sites. The ones listed below seem particularly well organized and focused. You will find an enormous number of links and useful information on these sites.

<http://www.semperfund.org/> Organization provides financial assistance

<http://iava.org/> **Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America** (Iava) has a great GI Bill calculator on their site.

<http://www.military.com/> **Military.com** website...**everything** military such as benefits, legislative news, career fairs, "buddy finder," etc. You can subscribe to receive their newsletter, which is very helpful. **A very useful site.**

<http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/> **Troops to Teachers**

<http://www.todaysgibill.org/> Today's GI Bill—Connecting Veterans to Higher Education

<http://www.afterdeployment.org/> This is a **very** interesting and **informative** site with short inventories to raise awareness of issues on almost any topic related to the lives of those who have or will deploy and their families; topics like "PTSD" or "Kids deploy too." It provides tips and resources for dealing with these issues as well.

www.thesoldiersproject.org **The Soldiers Project**

Provides free counseling and support to military service members who have served or who expect to serve in the Iraq and/or Afghanistan conflicts. They serve active duty as well as members of activated reserve or guard units. In addition, services are available to the families and other loved ones of service members. They provide help to service members and families struggling with issues related to the overwhelming trauma of war including the cycle from pre-

deployment to deployment to homecoming and re-entry to civilian life. Services are readily accessible and entirely free of charge. They do not report to any government agency. Locally, contact **The Soldiers Project Sacramento** sacramento@thesoldiersproject.org 877-557-5888 or 916 792-3728 M-Th, or National # 877-557-5888

<http://www.vets4vets.us/> **Vets4Vets**

<http://rucksack.iava.org/> **Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America**

<http://coalitionforveterans.org/> **Coalition of Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans**

www.womenveteransofamerica.com/ **Women Veterans of America**