



## Fact Sheet - Chapter 31 - Vocational Rehabilitation (VR&E)

### Helpful Hints

- Your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor must authorize your degree plan and classes.
- The VA will only pay for classes applicable to your degree plan.
- Your degree plan is the program listed for you on your Comprehensive Education Plan.
- The VA does not pay for developmental classes (under 100 level) in either online or hybrid format. Take those in person.
- The VA considers hybrid and self-paced classes as online.
- For full Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA), you must be full time from the beginning to the end of each semester. (Full time is at least 12 *continuous* credit hours for spring and fall; 7 *continuous* credit hours for summer.)
- If you choose exclusively online classes, you will receive only **half** of the national MHA based on VA enrollment status.
- **Check your student email account regularly. This is our primary method of communication with students.**

### Pay Rates Effective October 1, 2023

Based upon 6.2% Consumer Price Index (CPI) Increase. Rate changes occur January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Number of Dependents	Full Time	Three-Quarter Time	One-Half Time
No Dependents	\$768.42	\$577.38	\$386.32
One Dependent	\$953.15	\$715.90	\$478.66
Two Dependents	\$1,123.23	\$839.78	\$562.64
Each Additional Dependent	\$81.85	\$62.97	\$42.00

Please contact your Voc-Rehab Counselor for pay rates under the Post 9/11 Subsistence Allowance.

Effective **10-1-2023**, the maximum monthly rate for Chapter 31 Subsistence Allowance is **\$3,251.38**.

- The quarter-rate may be paid only during Extended Evaluation.



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### Commonly used Phone Numbers and Websites

<b>Veterans Crisis Line - call 24/7 (or text 838255)</b>	<b>Dial 988 then PRESS 1</b>
GI Bill Hotline (24x7) – VA Benefits & Services	800-698-2411
Veterans Services Office – County of Ventura 2901 N. Ventura Rd, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Oxnard M-F 8-5:00 pm	805-477-5155
VA Los Angeles Regional Office – Veterans Benefits Admin. 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles M-Fri 8-3:30 pm	800-827-1000
Direct Deposit - Sign up or change	877-838-2778
GI Bill	<a href="http://www.gibill.va.gov">www.gibill.va.gov</a>
eBenefits	<a href="http://www.ebenefits.va.gov">www.ebenefits.va.gov</a>

### Definitions

**Academic Probation:** Schools that have an academic progress policy allowing for a period of academic probation prior to termination for Unsatisfactory Progress (Academic Suspension) are required to notify VA promptly. Ventura College (VC) requires the student to maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher. If the student fails to maintain a GPA of 2.0, the student will first be placed on Academic Probation. If the student fails to maintain a GPA of 2.0 during their probation period, the student will then be placed on Academic Suspension.

**Change of Address and Direct Deposit:** Information must be kept current. Students can call 877-838-2778 or go to [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov) to update their information. Delays in payments can occur when address and direct deposit information is inaccurate.

**Course Applicability:** Only courses that satisfy requirements outlined by the Ventura College catalog or graduation evaluation form can be certified for VA purposes. If the student takes a course that does not fulfill a program requirement, it cannot be certified for VA purposes.

**Course Substitutions:** If the college allows substitutions for program requirements, VA will allow course substitutions if the school approves them and they are documented in the students' file (Degree Modification). The SCO must have access to a copy of the approval in order to certify substitutions.

**Debts and Over-Payments:** A debt is established on the student when:

- The student:
  - Withdrew on or after the first day of term.
  - Reduced hours whether the reduction occurred before or during the term.
  - Attended at least one day of any of the classes certified and a payment has been issued.
  - Dropped a course or added a course.
- The school reported a change in enrollment and reported a reduction in tuition and fees due to a student's action reducing or terminating courses.



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**Last Date of Attendance (LDA):** VA requires the school to report the LDA if the student:

- Officially withdraws.
- Is administratively withdrawn or *stops attending without officially withdrawing*.

**Non-Punitive Grade:** A grade that does not count as earned credit and is not considered in progress standards for graduation. A withdrawal after the drop period is a non-punitive grade. They do not apply to the degree, and they do not affect academic progress (GPA).

**Prior Credit:** VA **requires** the school to review prior credit from previous institutions as well as any military training and grants credit as appropriate to the student's current program.

**Punitive Grade:** A grade assigned for pursuit of a course which is used in determining the student's overall progress toward completion of this school's requirements for graduation (e.g. passing or failing grades). A punitive grade does affect the criteria (GPA) to be met by the student for graduation.

**Remedial and Developmental Courses:** Any course below the 100-course level. VA prohibits the school from certifying remedial and developmental courses that are taken online or hybrid format. Student must take this class in a traditional, in-person setting.

**Repeating Courses:** VA allows the school to certify repeated courses if the student fails a course that is required to complete minimum requirements for graduation. VA prohibits the school from certifying a repeat course if the course was completed successfully, unless the degree program requires a higher grade than achieved. For example, if Nursing requires a "B" or better in a BIO class and the student received a C, the school can certify this class as a repeat.

**Supplemental and Concurrent Enrollment (GUEST Students):** A student may take courses at more than one school that apply to their degree program. The school that will grant the degree is the student's "primary" school. All other schools are "secondary" schools. VA can pay benefits for courses taken at secondary schools. VA will pay for the credits taken at the secondary school even if the student is only enrolled at the secondary school (supplemental enrollment). If the student is enrolled at the primary school and the secondary school at the same time (concurrent enrollment), VA will pay for the combined credit, taking overlapping enrollment dates into account. Students are required to submit a **Primary School Letter (Parent Letter)** to the secondary school in order to receive benefits for the specified course(s). Only courses listed in that Parent Letter can be certified to the VA.