



NOTES FOR ACADEMIC ADVISING FOR VETERANS*

- Choose a major with the veteran carefully.
 - 1.) Be aware that VA educational benefits have many stipulations especially in the time frame for using benefits. The availability of benefits does not always last until the degree is complete.
 - 2.) Many student veterans are accepted under Performance Based Admission (PBA) if they do not meet admission requirements as a freshman or a transfer.

- Registered classes must apply towards the degree program otherwise the VA will not pay for courses.
 - 1.) Exception: In the first year using benefits, non-degree (not transfer) students can take any courses according to the VA, but should attend to college writing, math, and Gen Ed requirements.

- Considerations for withdrawal or failure in a course:
 - 1.) Generally a Course Withdrawal (“W”) will create a debt with the VA (the money for that class will need to be repaid).
 - 2.) There is a limit on the number of W’s that can be accrued:
 - At the 6th W grade, an advisory notice will be sent to the student.
 - At the 10th W grade, a hold will be placed on future registration, which will be released upon approval of student’s Academic Progress Plan by their academic advisor.
 - Details of the construction and submission of the Academic Progress Plan may be found through OASIS and the Records Office.
 - 3.) If a course is failed, no debt is created and VA benefits will be applied towards retaking the class. Beware of this option because the “clock” for using benefits continues.
 - 4.) Under the State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP), if a veteran fails a course, they will owe RIC the cost of the course. [The STAP Waiver is for RI National Guard members only.]
 - 5.) If a veteran experiences challenges in a course and must leave the course, explore options that balance these factors.

- Amount of time to complete degree:
 - 1.) All veterans receive an individual Certificate of Eligibility (COE) which tells them their respective “expiration date” for using their educational benefit.
 - 2.) Post 9/11 GI Bill veterans have 15 years to use the benefit from date of last discharge.

- Amount of time to use benefits:
 - 1.) A veteran is awarded 36 months of educational benefits in Post 9/11 GI Bill.
 - 2.) This does not have to be 36 consecutive months of schooling; the benefit is only being used when the veteran is enrolled in courses.
 - 3.) If he/she takes a semester off, the benefit is not being used for that time period.

- After meeting with your academic advisor you must meet with:
 - VA Certifying Official: Certification of enrollment process to facilitate VA education payments, Cindy Salzillo, Building 4, East Campus, csalzillo@ric.edu; 401-456-9771.

- After meeting with your academic advisor you may also find it helpful to meet with:
 - VetSuccess on Campus Coordinator: Questions or difficulties regarding VA benefits, Micaela Black Estrella, Building 5, East Campus, micaela.black@va.gov; 401-648-1597.
 - Veterans Resource Center: Resource for military students and families, Building 5, East Campus, vrc@ric.edu; 401-456-8449.

**This document does not encompass all details pertaining to veteran enrollment, please see Micaela Black (above) for further information.*