

Veterans Voice radio show— www.1490wosh.com or
AM1490 - 1st Tuesday each month at 0830.

VETERANS VOICE

Winnebago County Department of Veterans Services Newsletter

August 2018

Educational Benefits

As a Veteran, you may be eligible for educational benefits through numerous GI Bill programs. Once you've decided to use your GI Bill benefits it's important to choose the proper school and type of training. VA's decision-making tools will help you get the most from your benefits.

CareerScope

In addition to Career Counseling, the Department of Veterans Affairs provides the interest and aptitude assessment tool known as CareerScope at no cost to all eligible benefit recipients. CareerScope has been used frequently by Veterans to determine the best career path for transition to civilian life.

Whether you wish to pursue education and training in a field you already know, or you wish to branch out to other fields that interest you, CareerScope can help. With CareerScope you will be provided with an assessment of your interests and aptitudes, and given recommendations about which careers you may enjoy and be successful doing, and what courses or training programs you should focus on to pursue those careers.

To access CareerScope you must be a Servicemember, Veteran or dependent eligible to receive VA education benefits. [Click here if you are eligible.](#)

Education and Career Counseling

VA's Education and Career Counseling program is a great opportunity for Servicemembers, Veterans and dependents to get personalized counseling and support to

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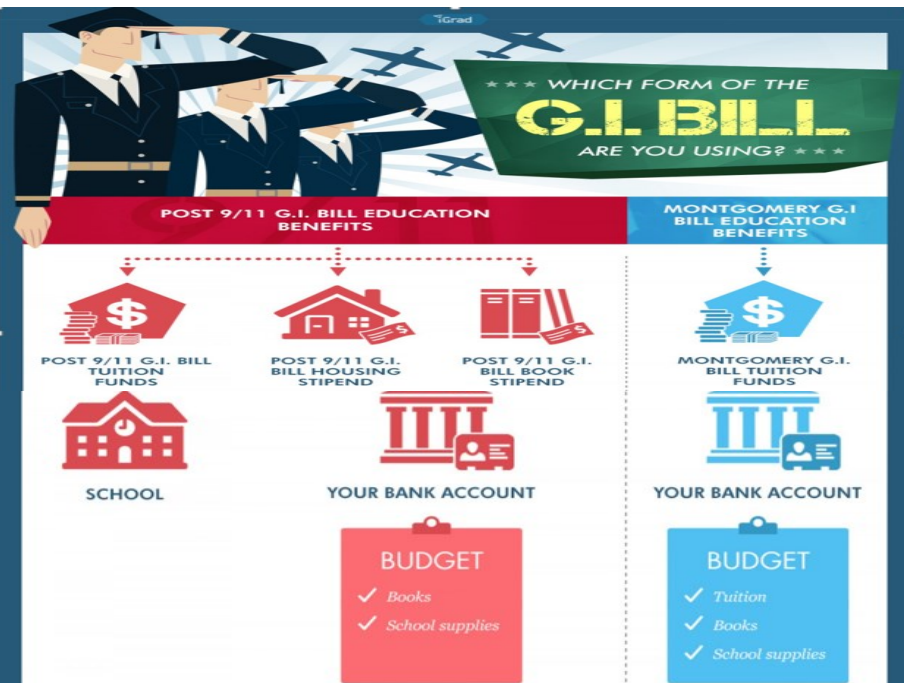
“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

- George S. Patton

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Financial Information and Service Center (FISC)

FISC is a program that offers personal counseling on a variety of financial matters. Credit cards, bankruptcy, budgeting, student loans and more. Counselors can help you understand your credit score, or deal with foreclosure or delinquent mortgage.

They are based at the Goodwill Community Campus, 1800 Appleton Road, Menasha, with offices in Green Bay, Oshkosh and Sturgeon Bay. They are also available by phone at 800-366-8161.

FISC is a non profit organization licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions and nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation for Children and Families.

When money concerns seem overwhelming, talk with a certified financial counselor who can help you gain control over your money and remove tension and stress. [Click here](#) to get started.

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help guide their career paths, ensure most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their goals.

Services Include Assisting the Servicemember/Veteran with:

- Career Choice—understand the best career options for you based on your interests and capabilities.
- Benefits Coaching—guidance on the effective use of your VA benefits and/or other resources to achieve your education and career goals.
- Personalized Support—Academic or adjustment counseling and personalized support to help you remove any barriers to your success.

Comparison Tool/Payment Rates

You may be eligible for several of VA education and training benefits, but there are many things to consider before you apply for a GI Bill program. For most participants, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is the best option. Other students would benefit more from the Montgomery GI Bill.

- [Compare VA education benefit programs](#)
- [Review current payment rates](#) for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty), Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve), Reserve Educational Assistance Program and the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.

Your decision to apply for a certain benefit could impact your eligibility for other benefits. To apply for your VA education benefits, consult with the VA Certifying Official at the school of your choice. This official has application forms and can help you apply. If you have questions or need further assistance please contact our office and schedule an appointment with one of our benefit specialists.

RAPID APPEALS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (RAMP)

What is RAMP?

RAMP allows Veterans to seek faster resolution of their disagreement with VA's decision on a disability compensation claim. Opting into RAMP means you can remove your appeal from the old, limited appeals process and enter the new, more efficient review process. In RAMP, you can choose between two new ways to have your disagreement reviewed: as a supplemental claim or via a higher-level review. VA will then provide you with a decision on your disagreement in an average of 125 days.

VA Appeals Modernization

RAMP is part of VA's larger Appeals Modernization Program. On August 23, 2017, the President signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (Appeals Modernization Act) into law, creating a new process that allows VA to improve the delivery of benefits and services to Veterans and their families.

The Appeals Modernization Act establishes a new review process for VA claims that is timely, transparent and fair. Although the new Appeals Modernization Act process does not go into effect until February 2019, VA is giving eligible Veterans the opportunity to participate in two of the new review lanes early through RAMP.

Review Lanes

The two new review lanes are the Supplement Claim Lane and the Higher-Level Review Lane. You should select the Supplemental Claim Lane if you have additional evidence that is new and relevant to support granting your benefit. You should select the Higher-Level Review Lane if you have no additional evidence to submit in support of your claim, but you believe that there was an error in the initial decision. If you disagree with a decision you received from RAMP, you can choose to have your claim reviewed again either as a higher-level review or as a supplemental claim. Choosing one review option initially does not prevent you from choosing another review option after you've received an initial decision in RAMP. For example, if you initially choose the Higher-Level Review Lane and disagree with VA's decision from that review, you can then choose the Supplemental Claim Lane to add new and relevant evidence to support your claim. Alternatively, you may choose to file an NOD directly to the Board.

Are You Eligible For RAMP?

Veterans who have a disability compensation appeal pending in one of the following legacy appeal stages are able to opt into RAMP: Notice of Disagreement (NOD); Form 9, Appeal to Board of Veterans' Appeals; Certified to the Board (sent to the Board but not yet formally placed on its docket); Remand from the Board of VBA.

Opting Into RAMP

Now, any eligible Veteran may choose to opt into RAMP. There are three ways you can opt into RAMP. You may receive an invitation in the mail. You can visit VA's RAMP information page at: <http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals-ramp.asp> and print out the RAMP form. Or you can contact our office and schedule an appointment with one of our Benefit Specialists.

Upcoming Events

Click on pictures below for upcoming event information



Everyone is invited to attend a
TOWN HALL

MILO C. HUEMPFNER HEALTH CARE CENTER
&
VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

Thursday, August 16
12:30 - 2:30 p.m. ★ Green Bay
★ American Legion Post 11★
1708 N. Irwin Avenue, Green Bay

We look forward to hearing directly from you on issues that concern or affect you as we work to provide the quality, accessible health care you expect and have earned.

For more information: 414-382-5363
vhamiwpublicaffairs@va.gov



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Milwaukee VA Medical Center

CONTACT US

**Winnebago County
Veterans Service Office**

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112 Otter St.
Oshkosh, WI 54901
(920) 232-3400

Neenah Location
211 N. Commercial
Neenah, WI 54956

Stay informed about
benefits; join our e-mail
list. Send a request to:

CVSO@co.winnebago.wi.us

Visit us on the web at:

[www.co.winnebago.wi.us/
veterans](http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/veterans)



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For a list of more
events, check out our
[calendar!](#)