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VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OVERVIEW

§21.1 Training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

(a) *Purposes.* The purposes of this program are to provide to eligible veterans with compensable service-connected disabilities all services and assistance necessary to enable them to achieve maximum independence in daily living and, to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3100)

(b) *Basic requirements.* Before a service-disabled veteran may receive training and rehabilitation services under Chapter 31, Title 38 U.S.C., three basic requirements must be met:

(1) The Department of Veterans Affairs must first find that the veteran has basic entitlement to services as prescribed by §21.40.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3102)

(2) The services necessary for training and rehabilitation must be identified by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veteran.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3106)

(3) An individual written plan must be developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veteran describing the goals of the program and the means through which these goals will be achieved.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3107)

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984; 50 FR 9622, Mar. 11, 1985]

NONDUPLICATION

§21.21 Election of benefits under education programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(a) *Election of benefits required.* A veteran must make an election of benefits among the programs of education administered by VA for which he or she may be eligible. A veteran who has basic entitlement to rehabilitation under chapter 31 and is also eligible for assistance under any of the other education programs administered by VA

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must make an election of benefits between chapter 31 and any other VA program of education for which he or she may be eligible. The veteran may reelect at any time if he or she is otherwise eligible. (See §§21.264 and 21.334.)

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1781(b))

(b) *Use of prior training in formulating a rehabilitation program.* If a veteran has pursued an educational or training program under an education program listed in §21.4020 of this part, the earlier program of education or special restorative training shall be utilized to the extent practicable.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3695(b))

[53 FR 880, Jan. 14, 1988, as amended at 57 FR 57108, Dec. 3, 1992]

§21.22 Nonduplication—Federal programs.

(a) *Allowances.* A service-disabled veteran who is eligible for benefits under Chapter 31, may not receive a subsistence allowance or elect payment of an allowance at the educational assistance rate under Chapter 30 pursuant to §21.264 if the veteran:

(1) Is on active duty and is pursuing a course of education which is being paid for by the Armed Forces (or by the Department of Health and Human Services in the case of the Public Health Service), or

(2) Is attending a course of education or training paid for under Chapter 41, Title 5 U.S.C. and whose full salary is being paid to such veteran while so training.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3681; Pub. L. 98-525)

(b) *Services which may be authorized.* A service-disabled veteran who is in one of the two categories defined in paragraph (a) of this section is entitled to receive all benefits, other than an allowance, to which he or she is otherwise entitled under Chapter 31, including:

(1) Payment of any tuition and fees not paid for by the Armed Forces.

(2) The cost of special services, such as reader services, tutorial assistance,

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and special equipment during the period of such training.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3681)

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 4283, Jan. 30, 1989; 57 FR 57108, Dec. 3, 1992]

CLAIMS

§ 21.30 Claims.

A specific claim in the form prescribed by the Department of Veterans Affairs must be filed for:

- (a) A program of rehabilitation services, or
- (b) Employment assistance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 3102, 3117, 5101(a))

§ 21.31 Informal claim.

Any communication or action indicating an intent to apply for rehabilitation or employment assistance, from a veteran, a duly authorized representative, or a Member of Congress may be considered an informal claim. Upon receipt of an informal claim, if a formal claim has not been filed, an application form will be forwarded to the veteran for execution. In the case of a claim for rehabilitation, or employment assistance, the formal claim will be considered filed as of the date of receipt of the informal claim if received within 1 year from the date it was sent to the veteran, or before cessation of the course, whichever is earlier.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 5101(a), 5103(a))

§ 21.32 Time limit.

(a) *Time limit for filing evidence.* The provisions of this paragraph are applicable to an original application, formal or informal, for rehabilitation or employment assistance and to a claim for increased benefits by reason of the existence of a dependent.

(1) If a claimant's application is incomplete, the claimant will be notified of the evidence necessary to complete the application;

(2) If the evidence is not received within 1 year from the date of such notification, benefits may not be paid by reason of that application.

(b) *Failure to furnish claim or notice of time limit.* The failure of VA to furnish a claimant:

(1) Any form or information concerning the right to file a claim or to furnish notice of the time limit for the filing of a claim is not a basis for adjusting the periods allowed for these actions;

(2) Appropriate notice of time limits within which evidence must be submitted to perfect a claim shall result in an adjustment of the period during which the time limit runs. The period during which the time limit runs shall be determined in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section. As to appeals see § 19.129 of this chapter.

(Authority: (38 U.S.C. 5113))

(c) *Adjustment of time limit.* (1) In computing the time limit for any action required of a claimant or beneficiary to perfect the types of claims described in paragraph (a) of this section, the first day of the specified period will be excluded and the last day included. This rule is applicable in cases in which the time limit expires on a workday. Where the time limit would expire on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the next succeeding workday will be included in the computation.

(2) The period during which the veteran must provide information necessary to perfect his or her claim does not begin to run until the veteran has been notified of this requirement for submission of information. The date of the letter of notification informing the veteran of the action required and the time limit for accomplishing the action shall be "The first day of the specified period" referred to in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5101, 5113)

CROSS-REFERENCE: Due Process. See § 3.103.

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984, as amended at 55 FR 12821, Apr. 6, 1990]

DEFINITIONS

§ 21.35 Definitions.

(a) *Employment handicap.* This term means an impairment of a veteran's ability to prepare for, obtain, or retain