Frequently Asked Questions about North Dakota Veterans Educational Training

What is Veterans Educational Training (VET)?

VET is a program that helps veterans prepare to enroll in a 2- or 4-year college or a post-high school trade school program. VET provides academic support and advice to enable veterans to reach their educational goals. The program is funded by the state of North Dakota.

Does it cost anything to attend VET?

No! VET services are _free_ to military veterans. Any text books or necessary classroom supplies are provided at no cost.

What are VET's eligibility requirements?

You must be a veteran of one of the United States military services. Any type of discharge other than "dishonorable" is good. Normally, we would need to see a record (DD-214 or similar record) to prove your status as a veteran. If you don't have a copy of your service record, we can help you get one. If you're still on active duty or in the Guard or Reserve, that works, too!

You must also be a U.S. citizen and resident of North Dakota. If not a North Dakota veteran, you must be at least thinking about attending a North Dakota school.

Where are the classrooms located?

Currently we have physical classrooms on the NDSU campus in Fargo (Ceres Hall), and on the UND campus in Grand Forks (McCannel Hall). Resources permitting, we hope to add physical classrooms in other places.

Can I attend VET if I don't plan to attend NDSU or UND?

Yes! We will help any qualified North Dakota veteran prepare for higher education no matter what school or certification program he or she plans to attend, even if it's outside the state of North Dakota. We'll help you choose the best program and school to fit your individual needs and goals.

What if I live in Minnesota? Can I still attend VET?

Maybe. If you're not a ND resident, you must be at least thinking about attending a North Dakota school. For example, if you live in Moorhead or East Grand Forks but are thinking about going to UND, NDSCS, or another North Dakota school, you would be eligible for ND VET. If space is limited, North Dakota resident veterans will be served first.

I'm not able to attend classes at the NDSU or UND campus. Can I do VET tutoring online?

Yes! We can send you forms to register through mail or e-mail. We'll also have you complete a math and English knowledge assessment through an online method. One of our tutors can work with you on a regular basis over the phone, through e-mail, video chat, etc. to advise and assist you through an online academic program tailored to your needs and goals.

When should I start VET?

It's best to begin VET about 6 – 8 months before your first planned college or trade school classes. This will give you time to finish the knowledge assessment and work at a comfortable pace on any areas that need shoring up. Depending on your other activities, you may be able to spend more or less time each week on VET work, and this will affect how soon you're ready for college. The earlier you start, the better.

But we will always do what we can with the time you have. It mostly depends on how much effort you want to put in. When we review your assessment results with you, we will give you an honest estimate of what it will take to be college ready, and what it will take from you to get there. Occasionally, we may advise that someone spend a little more time in VET before starting their college program.

When does the next VET class start?

VET is in session all year-round, including through the summer. We have an "open enrollment" format, meaning someone can start and finish at any time. Since VET academic support is all individualized, there is no class start date to miss, so you can begin absolutely any time. And when your education goals are reached or your schedule no longer allows, you can exit VET the same way.

How do I apply for VET?

There are a few options to apply. You can call or e-mail one of our coordinators to set up an appointment to come to the VET office at the school (UND or NDSU) to fill out our registration forms and confirm your eligibility. For anyone unable to get to one of our physical classroom sites, we can mail or e-mail the forms to you. Then just return them to us by mail or fax.

Where can I find a current tutoring schedule?

Visit our website at www.vetnd.org, or call or e-mail one of our offices for current academic support hours.

Do you offer night classes?

Last updated by James Stoddard, 231-9706 on 12/26/17. james.stoddard@ndsu.edu

No, unfortunately we are not able to offer nighttime or weekend academic support sessions at this time. We do have some online learning options that should work around your other activities.

Do I earn college credit from VET?

No. VET is not an accredited college, so no work will be accepted by a college for transfer credit. Our academic work is mostly done at the pre-college level. It's possible that you can place into a higher math or English class at the school you attend later because of work you do in VET, but that will depend on the school and your placement test results when you apply.

How long should I plan on being in VET before I am ready to go on to a post-secondary school?

Every veteran's situation is different, so this is really hard to say. There's no standard course start and end date for VET; all academic work is tailored to the individual's goals. We've worked with some veterans for just a month; others for a year or more, and anywhere in between.

When you start VET, we'll give you a short math and English test to see how close you are to the "college ready" level in those subjects. Our staff will then recommend some areas for further study. Depending on how many hours you can commit per week, we can work out an achievable timeline. We can do a lot of work over a short amount of time, or if you can't put in a lot of hours each week, we can spread it out over several months.

Does VET provide financial aid?

No, but we can help you understand and complete the processes for applying for military education benefits and other ways to get money to pay for school. We can help you complete a "FAFSA" (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), help you apply for scholarships, and put you in contact with the right counselors at the school(s) you're interested in.

We can also help you complete your VONAPP, the Veterans Online Application, which you must submit in order to use your GI Bill (Montgomery or Post-9/11) or other military education benefits.

If you're struggling with money in general, VET can assist by connecting you to resources in your area or from the VA that can help with your general money and/or housing situation.

Can VET tell me what GI Bill or other veteran education benefits I have?

Last updated by James Stoddard, 231-9706 on 12/26/17. james.stoddard@ndsu.edu

No. Only the VA can tell you which benefits you are able to use. We would strongly suggest that you work with a county veteran services representative to make sure you get a fast and complete answer.

Can VET help me find a job?

Well, not directly. We're not a <u>job</u> placement service; we're a <u>college</u> placement service! But we can help you do research to find a job or career that would be a good fit for you, and then advise you on what kind of school could help you get started in that field.

Although the main focus of our Computer Skills training is on those skills needed for college success, we can also teach you the computer skills that are helpful for submitting online job applications and creating resumes and applicant profiles.

Can VET help me choose a career or school?

Yes. Using tools like career interest surveys, our staff can help you figure out what jobs or career fields might be a good fit for you. It might even be something you've never even thought about before! Then we can suggest how to find schools that would be the best options to get the education you need to work in that field.

I've had some college before, or I'm currently enrolled in college. Would VET be helpful to me?

Maybe. What we teach in VET is mostly focused on getting veterans ready to enter school for the first time. If you've already been accepted into a college or job training school, even if you didn't finish, you're already at or above the "college ready" level. Since we teach mostly at the high school level, it probably isn't the help you need with your college-level classes.

In those cases, we normally make sure enrolled student veterans know how to use the learning and study help at their current school. There are usually a lot of options that are included with your student fees.

But if it's been a long time since a veteran has been in a classroom, or if there are other unusual circumstances, we can assess your situation and help you decide if VET would be useful to you.

How is VET funded?

The state legislature provides the money to carry out this program for the state's veterans. NDSU manages the VET program on behalf of North Dakota's State Board of Higher Education.

I have a question not answered on this page. What should I do?

Last updated by James Stoddard, 231-9706 on 12/26/17. james.stoddard@ndsu.edu

Feel free to call or e-mail us anytime with questions or concerns that you might have about starting college or how ND Veterans Educational Training might be able to help. We can be reached at the phone numbers below, or you can e-mail Jim Stoddard, the project coordinator, at **james.stoddard@ndsu.edu**.

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