**What is Veterans Educational Training (VET)?**

VET is a program funded by the state of North Dakota to help qualified veterans prepare to enroll in a post-secondary school (university, community college, and vocational/technical programs). VET provides academic support and advice to enable veterans to achieve their academic goals.

**Does it cost anything to attend VET?**

No! VET services are free to qualified veterans, and any textbooks or classroom materials required 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” qualifies. Normally, we would need to see documentation (DD-214 or similar document) to verify your status as a veteran, but we can also help you get a copy if you don’t have 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 considering 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 establish physical classrooms at other locations.

**Can I participate in 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 participate in ND VET?**

Maybe. If you’re not a ND resident, you must be at least considering 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. Priority will be given to North Dakota resident veterans.

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

Yes! We can complete your enrollment through mail or e-mail, and then complete an academic skills assessment through an online method. One of our academic support advisors can work with you on a regular basis over the phone, through e-mail, Skype or a similar tool to advise and assist you through an online academic program tailored to your needs and goals.

When should I start VET?

Ideally, you should begin VET approximately 6 – 8 months before your first planned college or technical school classes. This will give you time to accomplish the academic assessment and work at a comfortable pace on any areas that need shoring up. Depending on your other activities, you may be able to dedicate more or less time each week to VET, so you may reach the point of college readiness faster or slower than you think. The earlier you start, the better.

But we will always do what we can with whatever time we have, and 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 assessment of what it will take to be college ready, and what it will take to get there. Occasionally, we may advise that someone just 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 academic 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 enrollment forms and confirm your eligibility. For anyone unable to get to one of our physical classroom locations, we can mail or e-mail the forms to you, and you can 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?**

No, unfortunately we are not currently able to offer nighttime or weekend academic support sessions, but 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 post-secondary institution, and our academic work is mostly done at the pre-college level. As such, no college credit is earned from doing VET academic refresher training.

**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 an academic assessment to see how close you are to the “college ready” standard in Math and English. Our staff will make recommendations on what you might need academically prior to entering a college program, and 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 financial aid. We can assist with completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), help you research scholarships for which you could apply, and put you in contact with the appropriate financial aid officials at your prospective school.

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

If you are struggling financially in general, VET can assist by connecting you to resources within the community or the VA that can help with your general financial and/or housing situation.
Can VET help me determine my eligibility for GI Bill or other veteran education benefits?

No. The only agency that can tell you the benefits for which you are still eligible is the VA. We would strongly recommend you work with a county veteran services representative to ensure no delays in getting an accurate determination.

Can VET help me find a job?

Well, not directly. We’re not a job placement service; we are a college placement service! However, we can help you do research to find a job or career that would be a good fit for you, and then help determine what kind of education you would need to be successful in that field.

Although the primary focus of our Computer Skills training is on those skills needed for college success, we can also teach you the computer skills necessary to submit online job applications and create applicant profiles.

Can VET help me choose a career or school?

Yes. Using a variety of career interest inventories, your advisor can help you determine what jobs or career fields might be appropriate for you. It might even be something you’ve never considered before! Then we can help you research which schools might 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. VET’s individualized academic support is mostly focused on getting participants ready to enter school for the first time. If you’ve already been accepted into a college or technical school, you’re at or above the “college ready” standard, so what we have might not be the help you need with your college level classes.

In those cases, we generally encourage and assist enrolled veteran students to connect with the academic support resources at their current school, which are usually significant and free! All the major schools within the North Dakota University System and Minnesota Public Colleges and Universities have robust academic support centers available to any enrolled students, and some have additional services for qualifying students, such as UND’s Student Support Services program or NDSU’s Math Emporium.

But if there’s been a long break since a veteran’s last classroom experience or some other unusual circumstances, we can definitely evaluate your situation and help you decide if VET would be useful to you.
How is VET funded?

NDSU administers the VET program on behalf of North Dakota’s State Board of Higher Education, but the state of North Dakota provides all money for this program through the Office of the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System.

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

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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