

For Advisors: Clarify the System. Anchor the Plan.

Many veterans arrive on campus with only a basic understanding of their benefits—and often have misinformation. You are their interpreter. Use this section to help veterans understand what they're entitled to and how to apply it for maximum impact.

Advisor Strategies:

- Use the GI Bill Comparison Tool in every intake session
- Explain VR&E support tracks (especially for nontraditional students)
- Confirm if chosen programs are eligible (accredited, certifiable, stackable)
- Connect students with on-campus VA certifying officials

Advisor Tip:

Stackable credentials can provide a faster and more effective solution than full degrees for veterans seeking quick employment, especially when combined with job placement programs.

Benefit Navigation Checklist & GI Bill Comparison Tool

Benefit Navigation Checklist

Use this checklist to ensure you fully understand and optimize your available benefits before committing to an educational path.

- ☒ I have confirmed my GI Bill eligibility status.
- ☒ I have reviewed what my GI Bill covers: tuition, housing, books, and fees.
- ☒ I have checked whether my intended school or program is approved for VA benefits.
- ☒ I have reviewed the difference between using the GI Bill and using VR&E.
- ☒ I understand the 5 support-and-services tracks under VR&E.
- ☒ I have determined if my goals qualify under VR&E support.
- ☒ I have accessed my Certificate of Eligibility (COE).
- ☒ I have met with a school certifying official (SCO).
- ☒ I have created a long-term education plan aligned with my career goals.
- ☒ I have printed or saved my benefit application confirmation.

GI Bill Comparison Tool Worksheet

Use this worksheet to compare up to two schools, certifications, or licensure programs side-by-side using the GI Bill Comparison Tool.

Criteria	Program 1	Program 2
School/Program Name		
Location (City/State)		
Type (Degree, Cert, License)		
Program Length		
Full-time/Part-time Option		
Housing Allowance		
Out-of-Pocket Costs		
VA Benefit Eligibility		
Accreditation Status		
Career Placement Rate		

Use the GI Bill Comparison Tool online: <https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>