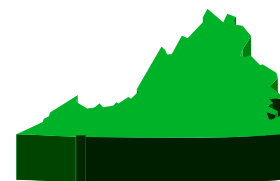


# V.E.T.S. in College Update



VCU-RRTC

April 2011 Volume 1

Virginia Commonwealth University-RRTC, a grantee of the CNI Trust Fund (#10-176), is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation or disability.



Education coaches currently serve **21 active participants**. All participants live within the Commonwealth; **40% of participants live outside of Central Virginia**. The majority of veterans are working toward their first associate's or bachelor's degree; however, a few veterans are returning to school for a master's degree.

## Classroom Accommodations

### Myth

- Accommodations make class easier for people who can't handle the coursework.
- Everyone in the class will know that I'm receiving accommodations because my instructors or college staff will make it obvious.
- My classmates will know my business, and I don't want them to think differently of me.
- Only people who grew up with a disability (i.e. learning disability, congenital blindness, etc.) receive accommodations.
- If I go to the college's disability support services office, I have to use their accommodations since they'll have all my documentation and class schedule.
- I can receive accommodations as soon as I decide I need them so there's no point in giving them documentation before.
- All I have to do is walk in to the office and tell the disability staff I have an injury/disability, and the college has to provide accommodations in the classroom.
- Faculty must provide accommodations once I have a disability, and I can make up all the work that I previously did without the accommodations.
- It doesn't matter; accommodations don't help anyone pass their classes, learn more, or take tests better.
- My college doesn't have a disability support services office nor do they offer accommodations because it's a community college, online school, or no one at the school has a disability.

### Truth

- Accommodations "level the playing field" for students who learn in different ways.
- Most accommodations are subtle like extended time on a test, copies of notes, or a preferential seat in the classroom.
- College staff and faculty have to keep records confidential so no one else has to know.
- Soldiers who have acquired disabilities due to injury can receive accommodations with documentation.
- Some students who register with the disability support office don't take the optional accommodations until they decide it's necessary; but, it is important to try the accommodations to see how they work for you. If they aren't helping, go back to the disability support office to discuss other options.
- After submitting documentation, most disability support offices need several weeks before accommodations can be in place.
- Each college requires proper documentation of an injury/disability (a recent neuropsychological exam, medical exam, educational evaluation by a professional).
- Accommodations don't keep every student from failing, but different accommodations affect each student in different ways.
- Not all colleges will have an entire office dedicated to disability support; however, there is an individual (usually in the student affairs office) who must coordinate these services. By law, colleges must offer reasonable accommodations to students who request them and have documented need.

## Updates

- V.E.T.S. in College will soon undergo an **internal evaluation** to disseminate the supported education model.
- The advisory committee will meet next on **Monday, July 18**

Visit our project website: [www.worksupport.com/vets](http://www.worksupport.com/vets)

## Colleges of Active Participants

Many of the active participants are currently enrolled at these colleges:

- Northern Virginia Community College
- J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
- Strayer University
- University of Phoenix
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Commonwealth University

Many of the active participants are at various stages in the enrollment process at these schools:

- Longwood University
- J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
- John Tyler Community College