

Guide to using the Veterans Education Benefits for Career Training and Certifications

NEW HORIZONS CAREER DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS



Now that you've completed your military service and are transitioning to or have returned to civilian life, you need to make the right next step for your career and future. Although it may seem difficult to translate the leadership and technical skills you acquired in the military for a civilian job, these valuable and marketable talents can help you succeed in a number of fields.



Career opportunities that put your current talents to work abound, and many don't require a college degree but instead look for vocational training. Delivering hands-on training and practical skills, career and technical education (CTE) is a recognized form of academic, technical, and vocational training that prepares you to step into any one of a thousand professions.

Whether the career path you choose requires a training program, apprenticeship, or certification to validate your skills and expertise, the Veterans Education Benefits can help you gain your footing by funding vocational training for a successful next chapter.

Types of Vocational Opportunities

There are endless vocational career opportunities. You might consider a job as an auto or truck mechanic. Or, if you're interested in the healthcare field, there are jobs such as:

- **Pharmacy technician**
- **Dental assistant**
- **Radiologic technician**
- **Medical billing administrator**



If you've spent time working with computers during your service, you may be interested in information technology (IT), which is a rapidly growing field. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), jobs in IT management are expected to grow faster than other industries at 11 percent from 2018 to 2028.¹ Some IT-related careers include:

- **Business intelligence analyst**
- **Cloud architect**
- **Data scientist**
- **Database developer**
- **Help desk specialist**
- **Network administrator**
- **Security/cybersecurity professional**

Jobs in IT Management are expected to grow faster than other industries at 10 - 15 percent by 2030.*

Computer and Information Systems Managers (O-NET OnLine 11-3021.00 National Trends), January 2022.

A career in IT can be lucrative as well. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median wage for IT managers in 2018 was \$142,530, with the lowest 10 percent of managers in the IT industry earning less than \$85,380 and the highest 10 percent earning more than \$208,000.²

Even if you've never considered a career in IT, having foundational technology and computer skills—such as in Microsoft Office—could increase your value and improve your chances for a better career in today's technology-driven workplace.

When acquiring the right certified vocational skills, remember that you have a distinct advantage: your veterans benefits. Veterans Education Benefits specifically help military personnel transition to civilian life, and your Veterans Education Benefits may help pay for the vocational training you need to launch a successful career.



The Advantages of Career Training and Certification

Although you have a number of options for making the most of your Veterans Education Benefits, here are some of the biggest advantages to pursuing vocational training and certification:

Career training takes less time than traditional degree programs.

Although timelines vary, certification or training programs can take as little as a few months, whereas an associate's degree takes two years to complete, and a bachelor's degree can take four years or more. Certificates are available for a variety of professions, including those in the IT field, through studying and passing a qualification exam.

Career training is typically less expensive than a college degree.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average annual cost for tuition, fees, room, and board at an undergraduate institution range from \$17,237 to \$44,551 (depending on whether it's a public or private institution).⁷ Your Veterans Education Benefits may reduce the cost of career certification.

Career training gives you practical and applicable real-world skills.

As the world becomes more technology driven and interconnected, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the demand for qualified computer technicians, IT managers, systems administrators, healthcare workers, administrative assistants, and more continues to grow.⁸



Career training can be a springboard for job growth.

A certification provides independent validation of your expertise in your chosen field. To receive a certification, you need to pass a comprehensive exam or meet other criteria to prove your competence and your ability to perform on the job. These certificates are module- and lab-based and given by professional associations and trusted organizations, so getting their stamp of approval carries real weight, showing that you can perform duties as needed.

Career training can be the perfect complement to your military skills.

The hands-on training you received during your service gives you experience and know-how that can help you get ahead in a skilled trade or profession. Military service also provides training in soft skills such as leadership and interpersonal skills that are extremely valuable to employers. Your resume should reflect your technical and administrative skills without military jargon, and additional career training will prove that you know how to translate those skills to the civilian workplace.

Choose the Right Career Path

After your military service, you want a career that is challenging, is in demand, and offers room for growth. You also want to choose a training program that has hands-on classroom instruction and qualified instructors.

Find a career training institution with experienced and passionate counselors who can offer personalized guidance and tips for how to apply your knowledge after you get certified. Here are just some of the IT programs you might be interested in:





Office Administrator

Similar to how a U.S. Army administrative specialist needs to have good clerical, organizational, and communication skills, an office administrator performs essential business functions, including:

- Drafting correspondence
- Coordinating executive schedules
- Organizing files
- Serving as the gatekeeper for the company

They're also responsible for directing vital services, such as facilities planning, office operations, and maintenance. Training to be an office administrator also gives you valuable hands-on experience with tools such as Microsoft Office.

Median annual wage: \$38,850* in January 2022

Potential jobs:

- Executive assistant
- Office manager
- Operations specialist
- Account coordinator
- Sales administrator

*Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical and Executive (O-NET OnLine 43-6014.00 National Trends), January 2022. Salary ranges vary based on job experience.



Network Systems Administrator

If you have experience as an IT specialist or want to launch a satisfying career in IT, then network administration is a good way to get started. Network administrators are responsible for the design and installation of computer networks, including:

- Local area networks (LANs)
- Wide area networks (WANs)
- Intranets and extranets
- Other types of data communications infrastructure

In addition to managing the actual network, network administrators are also responsible for systems security, database management, research, and related activities that are vital to successful business operations.

Median annual wage: \$65,450* in January 2022

Potential jobs:

- Network technician
- Network architect
- Help desk specialist
- Systems administrator
- Support engineer
- Computer systems analyst

*Computer Network Support Specialists (O-NET OnLine 15-1231.00 National Trends), January 2022. Salary ranges vary based on job experience.

A man with a beard, wearing a dark shirt and jeans, is standing in a server room. He is looking at a laptop screen that is part of a server rack. The room is dimly lit with blue light, and the server racks are filled with equipment.

Database Administrator

Managing data itself is another IT role that is essential to today's successful businesses. As a database administrator, you are responsible for overseeing business intelligence, including implementing, testing, and managing pools of data. This not only requires knowledge of database management systems but also data security, data normalization, database coding, and other specialized skills.

Median annual wage: \$98,860* in January 2022
Potential jobs:

- **Systems administrator**
- **Database analyst**
- **Data communications specialist**
- **Database developer**
- **Network administrator**

*Database Administrators (O-NET OnLine 15-1242.00 National Trends), January 2022. Salary ranges vary based on job experience.



Cybersecurity Professional

With the need for skilled people who can prevent hackers from stealing critical information or toppling computer networks, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a strong job outlook for security analysts.¹³ In fact, the bureau reports that jobs in information security are predicted to grow 32 percent from 2018 to 2028—much faster than the average for all occupations.

As you apply the skills you acquired for your cybersecurity certification, you will learn the fundamentals of computer security, including how to:

- Harden internal systems and services
- Secure internetwork devices
- Secure network communications
- Manage certifications
- Develop and manage security policies
- Monitor and analyze infrastructure

Network security is an important part of cybersecurity, and certification will include LAN and WAN security and ensuring network uptime.

Median annual wage: \$103,590* in January 2022

Potential jobs:

- Information systems analyst
- Security manager
- Security specialist
- PC/network/systems support specialist

*Information Security Analysts (O-NET OnLine 15-1212.00 National Trends), January 2022. Salary ranges vary based on job experience.



Project Manager

Just as the armed forces need military planners, every field needs project management. An IT project manager role will call upon you to plan, initiate, and manage IT projects, including leading the technical staff and serving as a liaison with senior management to ensure corporate objectives are met. A project manager is responsible for planning every stage of a technology project, including assessing business implications for each stage and ensuring that deadlines and cost targets are met. Project Management Professional (PMP®) certification is considered by many to be the gold standard for project management.

Median annual wage: \$77,420* in January 2022

Potential jobs:

- IT project manager
- Management analyst
- Medical and health services manager
- Quality control analyst
- Technical project lead
- Software QA engineer

*Project Management Specialists (O-NET OnLine 13-1082.00 National Trends), January 2022. Salary ranges vary based on job experience.



Software Developer

Writing software isn't just for software companies. Most organizations with sophisticated computer technology require software developers to write and maintain custom programs for business-critical systems. A software developer is responsible for designing, developing, and testing applications for business, healthcare, industry, aerospace, the military, and other sectors. Developers also are responsible for designing and analyzing databases, setting operational parameters, and formulating and analyzing software requirements.

Median annual wage: \$110,140* in January 2022

Potential jobs:

- **Systems software developer**
- **Web developer**
- **Systems software engineer**
- **Webmaster**
- **Infrastructure engineer**
- **Systems coordinator**

*Software Developers (O-NET OnLine 15-1252.00 National Trends), January 2022. Salary ranges vary based on job experience.



Use Your Veterans Education Benefits to Secure Your Future

As the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a strong job outlook for the information technology space,²⁰ now is the time to pursue career training and certification in order to secure a promising career in the IT field. Not only is IT career training and certification the easiest way to launch your career in information technology, but once you start working in the field, you'll gain hands-on experience and develop expertise that can be applied to other positions and careers.

If you are a veteran or a family member of a veteran, it all starts with making the most of your Veterans Education Benefits. If you are interested in pursuing a career in IT, start by contacting your veteran adviser to review your Veterans Education Benefits and see what educational options you have.

Get Started with New Horizons Career Development Solutions

Contact New Horizons Career Development Solutions to discuss how we can put your Veterans Education Benefits and other veterans benefits to work for you. We provide a variety of career training programs designed specifically to help you start on a new career path, and our classes are eligible for Veterans Education Benefits. We also have experienced counselors to help you choose the right programs to achieve your career objectives, and our experienced instructors can prepare you for your certifications exams.

Contact New Horizons Career Development Solutions to discuss how we can put your Veterans Education Benefits to work for you. Contact New Horizons Career Development Solutions today to discuss your vocational training options and available financial aid.

Your new IT career is waiting!



Sources

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