

This is a list of some Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) benefits categorized by degree of disability. Please contact us for additional information as benefits can be subject to change and may have additional eligibility requirements.

Release of Information Consideration

Have you considered having a Release of Information on hand for someone to speak on your behalf? Different entities require different documentation and our office, La Crosse County Veterans Service Office, would also require specific documentation. If interested, contact the office to discuss:

- La Crosse County Veterans Service Office Release of Information
- VA Healthcare: Request for and Authorization to Release Health Information (VA Form 10-5345)
- VA Benefits: Authorization to Disclose Personal Information to Third Party (VA Form 21-0845)

Wisconsin State Education Benefits

A school must be in the State of Wisconsin to qualify. Online schooling to a school outside of Wisconsin is not eligible.

- **WI GI Bill** – The Wisconsin GI Bill provides tuition remission (forgiveness) for 128 credits or 8 semesters, whichever is longer. The tuition remission is for the combined total credits and semesters attended at all University of Wisconsin (UW) and Wisconsin Technical College System institutions, including graduate programs. Eligibility:
 - A Wisconsin resident at the time of entry into active military service
 - A Wisconsin resident for at least five (5) consecutive years preceding the beginning of any semester or session for which he or she registers at a qualifying institution.
- **Wisconsin Veteran Grant for Private Non-Profit Schools** – Grant is available to Wisconsin residents who are attending a Wisconsin Private-Non-Profit school of higher education. Student eligibility of this grant is for a period of no more than 128 credits, 8 semesters, or 8 sessions.

Benefits based on Service-Connected Disability Percentage:

0% to 20%

Federal –

- Access Pass – A free, lifetime pass that provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five Federal agencies. <https://store.usgs.gov/access-pass> (Disability must be considered a **permanent disability** to be eligible)
- Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.
- Home loan guaranty fee exemption
- VA Healthcare Priority medical treatment card.
- VA co-pays waived and VA Travel Reimbursement for all service-connected visits.
- Eyeglasses provided at VA (10%)
- Eligibility VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP), the opportunity to purchase dental insurance at a reduced cost
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling under Title 38 USC Chapter 31 (must be at least 10%)
- Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (Maximum of \$10,000 coverage) must file within 2 years from date of new service connection.
- 10-point Civil Service preference (10 points added to Civil Service test score).
- Clothing allowance for veterans who use or wear a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (artificial limb, braces, wheelchair) or use prescribed medications for a skin condition which tend to wear, tear, or soil clothing.

- Commissaries, Exchanges, and Recreation Facilities are open for Purple Heart recipients, former POW, and designated VA primary family caregivers. The following facilities are included: Commissaries, Military service exchanges, Golf courses, Bowling centers, Recreational lodging, RV campgrounds, Movie theaters and more.
- Temporary 100% evaluation for a service-connected disability requiring:
 - Hospitalization more than 21 days; or
 - Surgical treatment requiring at least one month convalescence; or
 - Immobilization by a cast of one or more joints.

State –

- Civil Service – 15 points for State of Wisconsin
- Disabled veteran parking license plates are available to any Wisconsin motorist who is a veteran with a **permanent disability** incurred while in active U.S. military service that limits or impairs the ability to walk. For complete rules, visit: <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/vehicles/dsblid-prkg/dvetplat.aspx>

30 %

In addition to the above:

Federal –

- Additional allowance for dependent (spouse, child(ren), dependent parent(s), stepchild(ren), full time students between ages of 18 and 23 and parent(s).
- Additional allowance for a spouse who is a patient in a nursing home or helpless or blind or so nearly helpless or blind as to require aid and attendance of another person.
- Non-competitive Federal employment.
- Special adaptive equipment may also be applied for if there is ankylosis of one or both knees or on or both hips.
- VA Travel Reimbursement – mileage reimbursement when traveling for approved VA medical care.

State –

- Dependent (Spouse and / or Child(ren)) Wisconsin GI Bill remits (forgives) full tuition and segregated fees for eligible (see WI GI Bill above on determination of Eligibility) dependents for up to eight semesters or 128 credits, whichever is greater, at any University of Wisconsin System or Wisconsin Technical College System school.
- Dependent (Spouse and / or Child(ren)) Wisconsin Veteran Grant for Private Non-Profit Schools is available to Wisconsin dependents residents who are attending a Wisconsin Private-Non-Profit school of higher education. Student eligibility of this grant is for a period of no more than 128 credits, 8 semesters, or 8 sessions.

40%

In addition to the above:

Federal –

- Automobile grant and/or special adaptive equipment for an automobile provided there is loss or permanent loss of use of one or both, loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands or permanent impaired vision of both eyes with central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in better eye.

State –

- None

50%

In addition to the above:

Federal –

- VA medical outpatient treatment for any condition except dental.
- Hospital care and medical services in non-VA facilities under a pre-authorized fee basis agreement.
- Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) is a Department of Defense (DoD) program that allows some individuals to receive both military retired pay and VA disability compensation.

State –

- Disabled Veterans Recreation Card entitles the veteran to a fishing license, small game license, and a park admission sticker for \$7.00.

60%

In addition to the above

Federal –

- Possible increased compensation, paid at the 100% rate, based on Individual Unemployability (IU); applies to veterans who are unable to obtain or maintain substantially gainful employment due to service-connected disability.

70% to 90%

In addition to the above

Federal

- Eligibility for Nursing Home care through VA or VA contracted nursing home

State

- Waivers of vehicle admission and trail pass fees for State of Wisconsin Parks and Trails.
- Resident Disabled Veteran Reduced-Fee Fishing License for \$3.00

100% (Permanent and Total or based on Individual Unemployable) **In addition to the above:**

Federal –

- Dental treatment through VA
- National Service Life Insurance total disability income provisions.
- Civilian Health and Medical Program for dependents and survivors (ChampVA).
 - Note: Dependents in receipt, or eligible for, TriCare are not eligible for ChampVA.
- Survivors and dependents education assistance under Title 38 USC Chapter 35.
- Military ID & Authorization to access Military Base Exchanges and Commissaries. With the military ID, you may be eligible to special offers through theme parks, or other organizations (Disney, Six Flags, etc. Check websites for details.)
- Specially Adapted Housing for veterans who have:
 - Loss of permanent loss of use of both lower extremities; or
 - Blindness in both eyes having light perception only plus loss of permanent loss of use of one lower extremity; or
 - Loss or permanent loss of use of one extremity together with an organic disease which affects the functions of balance and propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or wheelchair.
- Special Home Adaptation Grant (for veterans who don't qualify for Specially Adapted Housing) may be applied for if the veteran is permanently and totally disabled due to blindness in both eyes with visual acuity of 5/200 or less or the loss or permanent loss of use of both hands.
- May relieve you from having to repay a William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loan, Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loan, and/or Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins Loan) Program loan or complete a TEACH Grant service obligation based on your total and permanent disability.
- Some Veterans Affairs (VA) life insurance policyholders may have their premiums waived, if they become totally disabled. If your policy allows for a waiver, you must meet the following requirements:
 - You must have a mental or physical disability that prevents you from substantial gainful employment.
 - Your total disability must begin before your 65th birthday and must continue for at least six consecutive months.
- Veterans with a 100% P&T VA disability compensation rating may be eligible to receive Social Security disability benefits.

State –

- Wisconsin Veterans Property Tax Credit provides eligible veterans and un-remarried, surviving spouses a refundable property tax credit for their primary, in-state residence on the state income tax form.
- 10 points Wisconsin Civil Service preference for Spouses of disabled Veteran.