

Wisconsin State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts



The state of Wisconsin provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Property Tax Credit
- Veteran Employment Benefits
- Veteran Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Wisconsin Property Tax Credit

Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit

This credit program provides a refundable property tax credit for the primary residence (in-state) via the state income tax form for:

- Eligible veterans age 65 or older who entered service from Wisconsin and have a combined VA service-connected disability rating of 100%.
- The unremarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran.
- The unremarried surviving spouse of a veteran who entered active duty as a Wisconsin resident, died in the line of duty, and was a Wisconsin resident at the time of death.

Visit Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://dva.state.wi.us/Ben-TaxBenefits.asp#property> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Wisconsin Veteran Employment Benefits

Transition Assistance for Veterans Leaving Active Duty

Veterans transitioning from active duty can contact the WDVA Transition & Employment Section for

state-wide employment information. The office provides employment assistance and labor market information to veterans in transition from active duty to civilian life and the civilian job market in Wisconsin.

Local Veterans Employment Representatives

Employment assistance is available to all Wisconsin veterans in the local one-stop job centers. Veterans Employment Representatives complement the information provided at a Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Seminar.

Veterans as Apprentices

Veterans, their eligible dependents, eligible members of the National Guard, and the Reserves may benefit from Apprenticeship programs.

For more information on apprenticeship opportunities in Wisconsin, visit the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards website <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship>.

Hire Veterans First

The Hire Veterans First program is a National initiative established by the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) of the Department of Labor (DOL). Their objective is to show support for America's veterans to send the message out to employers "Hire a Veteran First -- American Excellence at Work".

Veterans Preference

Civil Service Preferences (State) --- Eligible veterans are entitled to an extra 10 points added to a passing score on a state civil service examination. Veterans with a VA approved SCD of less than 30 percent are entitled to 15 points and those with a rating of 30 percent or more are entitled to 20 points added to their passing score. Spouses of certain disabled or deceased eligible veterans may also have points added to a passing score. (Preference points are available only when you initially apply for permanent state employment.)

Veterans with a 30 percent or greater SCD may be hired for a permanent, entry-level position with the State of Wisconsin on a noncompetitive basis. Check with the hiring agency for more information.

Employment Assistance Opportunities

- **Entrepreneurial Training** --- a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and the Veterans Corporation offers Wisconsin veterans starting [a](#) new business timely entrepreneurial training.
- **Troops to Teachers Program** --- helps Wisconsin veterans obtain alternative teaching certification so they can obtain employment as teachers and teachers' aides. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) operates a placement office for the program, which is funded by the Department of Defense.
- **Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX)** --- Application for Unemployment Insurance, including UCX, is made by telephone:
- **Veterans Business Training Center** --- A program of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation helping disabled veterans find employment. A 15 week 600 hour training program pays while learning, is accredited and allows graduates to work in their home.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation** --- This benefit may be available through either the VA or the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Your County Veterans Service Officer or Veterans Representative will advise you concerning eligibility for the VA benefit.

- **Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative** --- Learn about an economic development corporation that provides quality business education, technical assistance and access to capital for small businesses throughout Wisconsin.

Homeless Veterans Program

WDVA provides outreach services for homeless veterans in Puget Sound. These services are designed to assist homeless veterans to become employable and reintegrated back into the labor market. Services include needs assessments, enrollments in appropriate programs, shelter and transitional housing placements, employment and training support services.

Eligible homeless veterans are provided with case management services and financial support to meet the needs of housing, transportation, food and clothing. The primary strategy for WDVA homeless veterans services is to promote job readiness development to improve homeless veterans competitiveness in the employment market.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP)

The HVRP offers a structured, individually designed case management plan to make veterans employable and secure by providing, housing, food, transportation, living stability and employment support services.

Visit Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://dva.state.wi.us> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Wisconsin Veteran Education and Training

Wisconsin G.I. Bill for Dependents

A 100% remission is provided to the qualifying dependents of an eligible veteran:

- Spouse; or
- Unremarried Surviving Spouse; or
- Child between the ages of 18 and 25,

Wisconsin G.I. Bill for Veterans

Qualifying veterans receive a 50% remission (Effective Fall Semester 2005). In accordance with 2005 Wisconsin Act 468, effective Fall Semester 2007, the remission will increase to a full 100%.

Veterans Education (VetEd) Reimbursement Grant

The Veterans Education (VetEd) grant program provides a reimbursement grant based on a credit-bank system that is based on length of active duty military service to eligible veterans who have not yet been awarded a bachelor's degree for the reimbursement of tuition and fees following successful course completion at an eligible UW, technical college, or approved private institution of higher learning. Veterans may concurrently receive Chapter 30 Montgomery G.I. Bill (VA) benefits and VetEd for the same semester. However, individuals eligible for Wisconsin G.I. Bill benefits must apply for, and use those benefits in order to be eligible for VetEd reimbursement. VetEd reimbursement will be reduced to the extent that tuition and fees have already been paid by other grants, scholarships, and remissions provided for the payment of tuition and fees.

Entrepreneurial Training

WDVA, in cooperation with The Veterans Corporation, has offered *FastTrac Planning* and *FastTrac NewVenture* entrepreneurial training courses. The Veterans Corporation is no longer continuing this program. WDVA is currently working with additional partners to provide entrepreneurial training to Wisconsin veterans.

If you are a veteran interested in entrepreneurial training or services to assist you in starting, managing or improving your business, please consider contacting one or more of these organizations.

Tuition Residency for Wisconsin Veterans

Under state law, veterans who entered active duty as a Wisconsin resident retain permanent eligibility for in-state tuition at University of Wisconsin System institutions. To be eligible, a person who was a resident of Wisconsin at the time of entry into federal active duty military service, who is a resident of and living in this state at the time of registering at a UW institution, and who meets the criteria for determination of veteran status under s. 45.01(12) of the Wisconsin Statutes are eligible for in-state tuition rates at UW institutions. There are no restrictions regarding residency after entry onto active duty but before registering at the UW institution under the program.

Academic Credit for Military Experience (ACME)

The ACME program is designed for active military personnel and veterans to create and maintain a transcript of their military experience. Use the transcript and the ACME system to determine possible equivalency credit at Wisconsin Colleges, Technical Colleges, and Universities.

Job Retraining Grants

Recently unemployed or underemployed veterans may receive up to \$3,000 per year, for a maximum of two years, if they have a financial need while being retrained for employment..

Troops to Teachers (TTT)

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a joint program of the U.S. Departments of Defense and Education that assists departing active duty military personnel, veterans and certain members/retirees who are associated with the reserve components, to transition to new careers as public school teachers.

Visit Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://dva.state.wi.us> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Other Wisconsin State Veteran Benefits

Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Wisconsin Veterans

Wisconsin disabled veterans with a combined service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of 70% or greater are eligible for a disabled veteran reduced-fee fishing license. The fishing license must be renewed annually, and does not exempt the holder from the need to purchase required fishing stamps. When purchasing the license at a DNR or County Clerk's office, the applicant must provide a copy of a letter from the VA that indicates receipt of VA disability benefits and specifies the percentage of disability.

Military Funeral Honors Program

The Military Funeral Honors Program (MFHP) in Wisconsin provides a final tribute to the men and women who served our state and nation honorably as members of the U.S. armed forces.

Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemeteries

Upon meeting eligibility standards, veterans are provided a burial at no cost, spouses and dependent children will incur a burial fee. For a Brochure covering all the Wisconsin veteran cemeteries go to http://dva.state.wi.us/WebForms/WDVA_B0145_Wis_Veterans_Memorial_Cemeteries_forWeb.pdf



Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery
N2665 Highway QQ, King, Waupaca County, Wisconsin 54946
Tel: (715) 256-3513 | Email: cwvmc@dva.wisconsin.gov



Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery
N4063 Veterans Way, Spooner, Washburn County, Wisconsin 54801
Tel: (715) 635-5360 | Email: nwvmc@dva.wisconsin.gov



Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery
21731 Spring St., Union Grove, Racine County, Wisconsin 53182
Tel: (262) 878-5660 | Email: swvmc@dva.wisconsin.gov

Transportation to VA Medical Appointments

Wisconsin veterans may use one of two programs that assist veterans who need help getting to VA medical appointments. The Wisconsin Department of the Disabled American Veterans operates several vans around the state that normally stop at predetermined locations and then transport to the various medical centers. For veterans who live in locations not served by the DAV most counties provide some type of assistance.

Veterans & Military License Plates

Special license plates are available to veterans, retired military service members, medal recipients, and members of the active or reserve military. Some 51 different service and/or medal designations are currently available



The below military seals go on the left side of the license plate. The corresponding words go at bottom of the plate - see example above

New issuance plates



U.S. Air Force
Air Force Veteran



U.S. Army
Army Veteran



Air Force Reserve
Air Force Retired
Air Force Academy

Army Reserve
Army Retired
Military Academy



U.S. Coast Guard
Coast Guard Veteran
Coast Guard Reserve
Coast Guard Retired
Coast Guard Academy



U.S. Marine Corps
Marine Corps Veteran
Marine Corps Reserve
Marine Corps Retired



U.S. Navy
Navy Veteran
Navy Reserve
Navy Retired
Naval Academy



U.S. Merchant
Marine Academy



December 7, 1941
Pearl Harbor
Survivor

War Veterans



World War II Veteran



Korean War Veteran



Vietnam War Veteran



Persian Gulf War Veteran



Iraq War Veteran



Somalia War Veteran



Afghanistan War Veteran



Medals and Honors



Distinguished Service Cross Medal



Navy Cross Medal



Air Force Cross Medal



Air Force Distinguished Service Medal



Distinguished Service Medal



Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal



Navy Distinguished Service Medal



Silver Star Medal



Legion of Merit Medal



Distinguished Flying Cross Medal



Soldier's Medal



Navy and Marine Corps Medal



Airman's Medal



Coast Guard Medal



Bronze Star Medal



Purple Heart

Combat Wounded Veteran

Things you should know

- **No special parking privileges are provided with military plates.** See [Disabled Veteran license plates](#) or [Disabled parking identification cards](#) for information about special parking privileges for persons with disabilities that impair the ability to walk.
- Some 51 different service and/or medal designations are available (see form [MV2653](#) for detailed listing.) [Pictures of decals.](#)
- Plates are transferable to surviving spouse.
- For information about special license plates for [ex-prisoners of war](#), [Medal of Honor](#) or [Wisconsin National Guard](#) members, contact the [Special Plates Unit](#).
- Military license plates can feature regular numbers or a personalized message.
- A \$15 issuance fee is required when **non-personalized** Military plates are issued. WisDOT will transfer funds to the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Trust Fund. This fee may be tax deductible for certain tax filers; consult your tax advisor.
- A \$15 fee is required **EACH** year in addition to the regular annual registration fee for **personalized** plates.
- Plates may transfer from an auto to a truck or vice versa upon payment of the full registration fee unless vehicle is converted from an auto to a truck or vice versa. The real registration must be changed to reflect the current plate type.
- If the vehicle receiving military license plates is already titled/registered in your name, complete the vehicle section on form [MV2653](#).
- If the vehicle is not titled in your name, complete the title application - form [MV1](#) and form [MV2653](#), then send them with all the required fees to the address on form MV2653.

How to apply:

Military license plates are not available at local DMV service centers.

If the vehicle is titled in your name, send:

1. Completed the Military License Plates Application form, [MV2653](#) with signed Proof of Eligibility or photocopy of eligibility documentation (see page 1 of the form);
2. Issuance fee, if requesting non-personalized plates;
3. Personalized plate fee, if requesting personalized plates;
4. Annual registration fee if you do not have plates or if your current plates expire within the next three months;
5. Check or money order made payable to: Registration Fee Trust;
6. Mail with payment to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Special Plates Unit, P.O. Box 7911, Madison WI 53707-7911

If the vehicle has not been titled in Wisconsin or if you are purchasing the vehicle send:

- Wisconsin title OR out-of-state title.

- A completed form [MV1](#) with signed proof of eligibility signed.
- Completed form [MV2653](#).
- Regular registration fee (See [DMV fees](#))
- [Title fee](#).
- \$15 original issuance fee or \$15 if ordering personalized license plates.
- Appropriate sales tax or claim valid exemption.
- A check or money order payable to: Registration Fee Trust. Mail to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Special Plates Unit, P.O. Box 7911, Madison, WI 53707-7911

Personalized license plates

- Personalizing your military license plates is optional.
- A \$15 personalized plate fee is required each year in addition to the regular annual registration fee.
- Visit Personalized Plate Lookup at <https://trust.dot.state.wi.us/ppup/searchPlate.do> to find out if your choice for a personalized license plate is available.
- No refund or adjustment will be made for a change of choice or spacing after the plates are ordered, or if the application is unclear or incorrectly completed.
- WisDOT may refuse to issue, or may recall after issuance, a request that may be offensive to good taste or decency, misleading or conflicts with any other license plate.
- After you receive the Certificate of Registration, allow 4-6 weeks for the manufacturing and mailing process before the plates arrive.

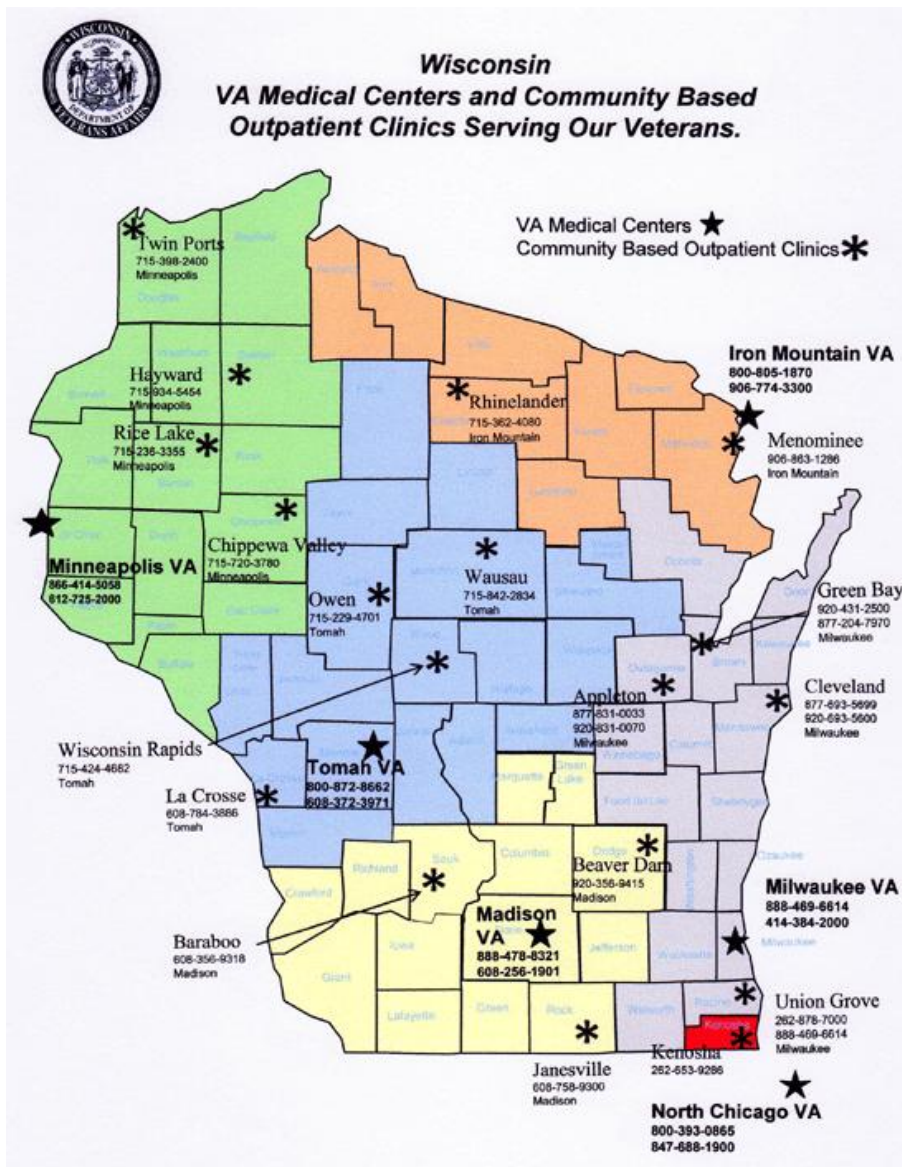
Driver Licensing, & Vehicle Registration

When the U.S. is involved in a military conflict, anyone who is a member of the military and stationed outside of Wisconsin is considered to be on "active duty" for the purposes of eligibility for modified procedures for the following driver licensing and registration measures: Driver license renewal; duplicate driver license; insurance information; suspended or revoked license reinstatement; medical report; vehicle registration renewal; dealer and salesperson licenses; motor carrier fees and reports; and special license plates.

Visit Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://dva.state.wi.us> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/wisconsin-state-veterans-benefits.html>
May 2014 ++]





Military Discounts in Wisconsin

1. Wisconsin has the highest ratio of civilian stores with military discounts per thousand military personnel and veterans in the country. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Wisconsin also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zipcode and category in the search box above

<http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/wisconsin.html>

2. Veterans Designation on drivers license: Yes

3. Discounted Fees and Taxes -

- Reduced fishing license fee for 70% or more disabled veterans.
- Free hunting and fishing license for certain eligible armed forces residents

4. Property tax and Financial Benefits -

- Individual income tax exemption for pay received from federal government while on active duty.
- State tax exemption for military retired pay (with certain restrictions).
- Property tax exemption for totally disabled veterans and certain un-remarried surviving spouses.
- Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) for veterans, and certain National Guard and Reservists

5. Education Discounts -

- 100% of tuition and fees at any UW or Wisconsin Tech College for eligible veterans (including qualified National Guard members) and of spouses and children of service members who die in the line of duty or have an eligible partial disability.
- 100% Tuition reimbursement for eligible National Guard members attending in-state public institution.
- Lifetime in-state tuition for eligible veterans.
- Veterans Education Reimbursement Grant.

6. State Ranking for military discounts: No. 2

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/wisconsin.html> May 2014 ++]