NOTES FOR ACADEMIC ADVISING FOR VETERANS*

- Choose a major with the veteran carefully.
  1.) Be aware that VA educational benefits have many stipulations especially in the time frame for using benefits. The availability of benefits does not always last until the degree is complete.
  2.) Many student veterans are accepted under Performance Based Admission (PBA) if they do not meet admission requirements as a freshman or a transfer.

- Registered classes must apply towards the degree program otherwise the VA will not pay for courses.
  1.) Exception: In the first year using benefits, non-degree (not transfer) students can take any courses according to the VA, but should attend to college writing, math, and Gen Ed requirements.

- Considerations for withdrawal or failure in a course:
  1.) Generally a Course Withdrawal (“W”) will create a debt with the VA (the money for that class will need to be repaid).
  2.) There is a limit on the number of W’s that can be accrued:
      - At the 6th W grade, an advisory notice will be sent to the student.
      - At the 10th W grade, a hold will be placed on future registration, which will be released upon approval of student’s Academic Progress Plan by their academic advisor.
      - Details of the construction and submission of the Academic Progress Plan may be found through OASIS and the Records Office.
  3.) If a course is failed, no debt is created and VA benefits will be applied towards retaking the class. Beware of this option because the “clock” for using benefits continues.
  4.) Under the State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP), if a veteran fails a course, they will owe RIC the cost of the course. [The STAP Waiver is for RI National Guard members only.]
  5.) If a veteran experiences challenges in a course and must leave the course, explore options that balance these factors.

- Amount of time to complete degree:
  1.) All veterans receive an individual Certificate of Eligibility (COE) which tells them their respective “expiration date” for using their educational benefit.
  2.) Post 9/11 GI Bill veterans have 15 years to use the benefit from date of last discharge.

- Amount of time to use benefits:
  1.) A veteran is awarded 36 months of educational benefits in Post 9/11 GI Bill.
  2.) This does not have to be 36 consecutive months of schooling; the benefit is only being used when the veteran is enrolled in courses.
  3.) If he/she takes a semester off, the benefit is not being used for that time period.

- After meeting with your academic advisor you must meet with:
  - VA Certifying Official: Certification of enrollment process to facilitate VA education payments, Cindy Salzillo, Building 4, East Campus, csalzillo@ric.edu; 401-456-9771.

- After meeting with your academic advisor you may also find it helpful to meet with:
  - VetSuccess on Campus Coordinator: Questions or difficulties regarding VA benefits, Micaela Black Estrella, Building 5, East Campus, micaela.black@va.gov; 401-648-1597.
  - Veterans Resource Center: Resource for military students and families, Building 5, East Campus, vrc@ric.edu; 401-456-8449.

*This document does not encompass all details pertaining to veteran enrollment, please see Micaela Black (above) for further information.