



DRIVER REHABILITATION

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides Driver Rehabilitation for disabled Veterans and Active Duty Service members. Services provided may include evaluation, driver simulation, behind-the-wheel training, equipment recommendation/prescription, assessment and inspection, caregiver training, and assistance with the various state motor vehicle licensing requirements.

FACILITIES

- The VA has 50 facilities that offer this formal driver rehabilitation services. These programs are supported by over 100 trained Driver Rehabilitation Instructors with nearly 100 specially adapted vehicles (cars, minivans and full-sized vans).
- This training is available to train instruct Veterans and Active Duty military Service members with various disabilities including, Spinal Cord Injury, Amputation, Brain Injury, Stroke, Orthopedic conditions, to name a few.

SERVICES

The Drivers Training professionals work closely with the patient to provide input on driving skills and tasks needed to compensate for their disability and the needed adaptive equipment that is necessary for their particular disability.

Additionally, a prescription is developed for eligible Veterans so Prosthetic Service can work with the vendor to provide the needed adaptations for the Veteran or the Veteran can obtain the needed devices on their own.

INSTRUCTION

- The specially trained instructors include Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Kinesiotherapists. Training consists of a 2-week intensive course designed to enable clinicians to become proficient in evaluation and assessment techniques, and safe driving techniques. Entrance into the course is based on needs of the various facilities that send applications. There are typically, 6 to 10 new instructors are trained each year.
- Veterans and Service members referred to the program receive evaluation, behind-the-wheel training with instructors, equipment recommendation and if necessary, assistance at the State Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a valid license.
- In fiscal year 2019, there were over 10,000 referrals to the VA Drivers Training Program, which resulted in over 15,000 visits.