

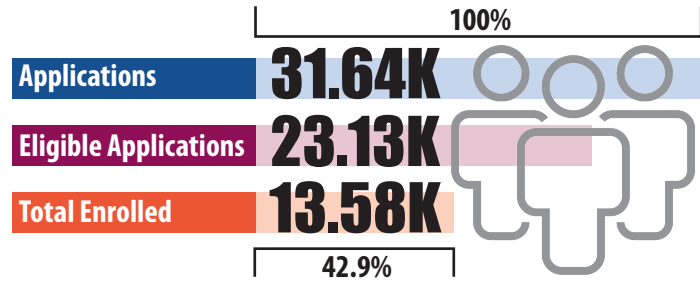
Veteran Rapid Employment Retraining Program (VRRAP)



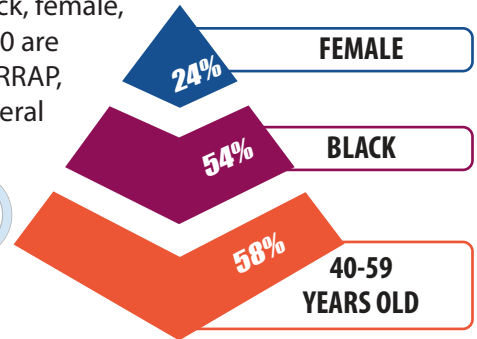
VRRAP was enacted in March 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan to assist individuals and businesses recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. VRRAP provided up to 12 months of tuition and fees and a monthly housing allowance to eligible beneficiaries to receive training for high-demand occupations. The program stopped accepting new students in December 2022.

Participants

VRRAP has enrolled over 13,580 Veterans. Just under half (42.9%) of all applicants enrolled in the program to date.¹



Veterans who are Black, female, and over the age of 40 are overrepresented in VRRAP, compared to the general Veteran population.



VRRAP predominantly provide training to those living in cities.

- 89% of participants live in a core urban area²
- An additional 5% live in a metropolitan area with high commuting to an urban area
- Less than 2% live in a small town or rural area

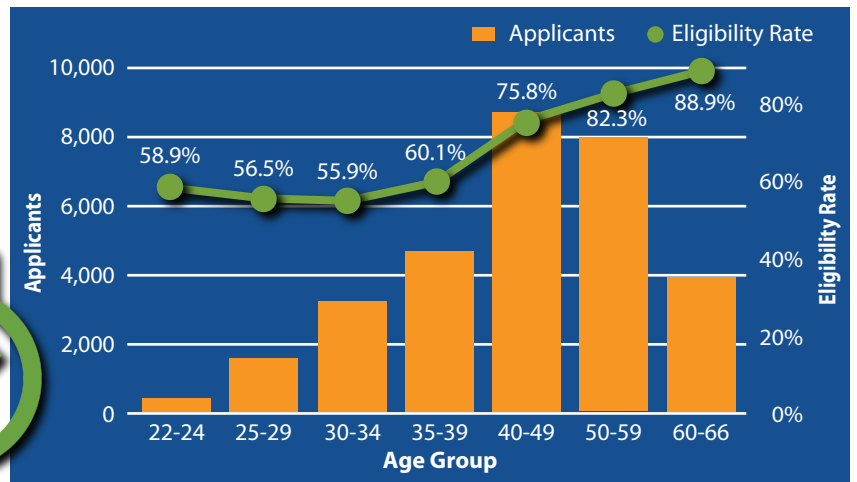
Urban areas were the hardest hit by the pandemic. Big cities such as New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago accounted for outsized job loss at the outset of COVID-19.³



Eligibility

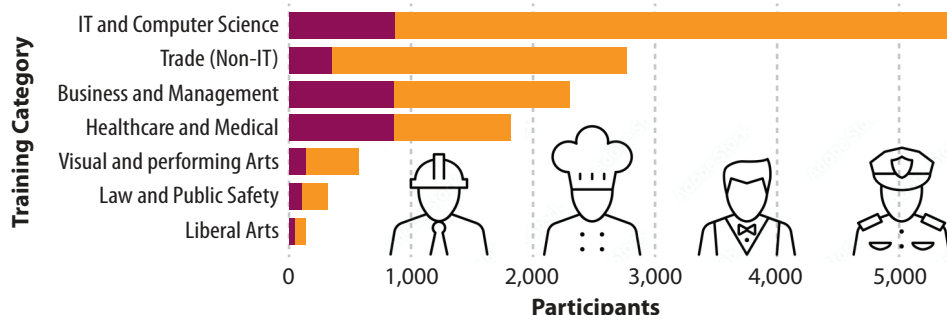
Many young Veterans who applied to VRRAP were ineligible. Most of them were denied because they were eligible for the GI Bill or Veteran Readiness and Employment benefits, while older Veterans were more likely to have exhausted benefits.⁴

The program supported almost 6,000 Veterans in their 60s.



Types of Training

Gender ■ Female ■ Male



Most VRRAP participants enrolled in technology-related training programs. Males greatly outnumbered females in IT and trade programs but not in healthcare or business.

Recent data from NCES⁵ shows that females in the general population earned 85% of all bachelor's degrees in the health professions but only 21% in computer sciences.

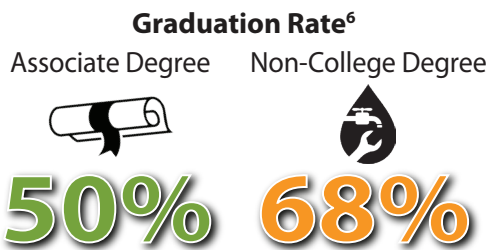
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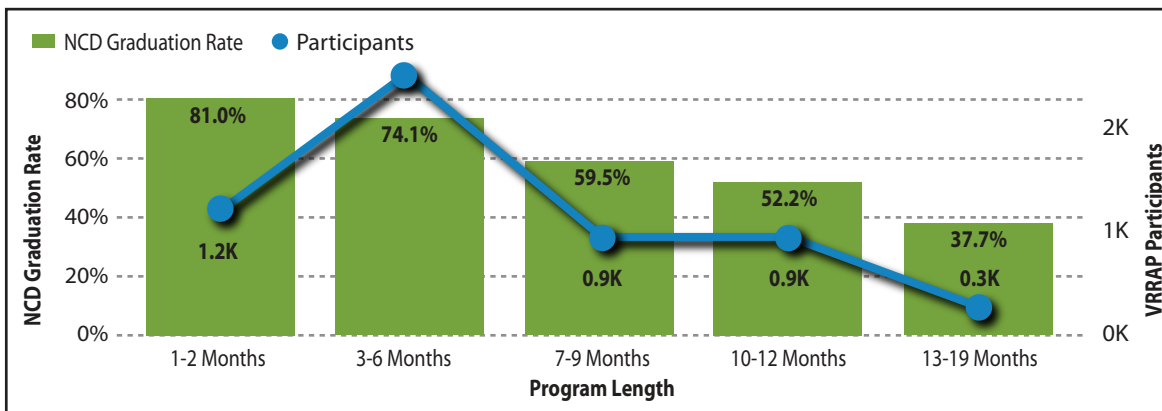
Program Completion

4,500+

VRRAP participants have completed their program



Veterans in non-college degree (NCD) programs graduated at a higher rate compared to those in associate degree programs. This is likely because associate degree programs take longer to complete than NCDs.



Even among NCD programs, there is a notable correlation between program length and graduation rate. Despite comparable employment outcomes, shorter NCD programs tend to have higher graduation rates.



Spotlight on Institutions: From Service to Success

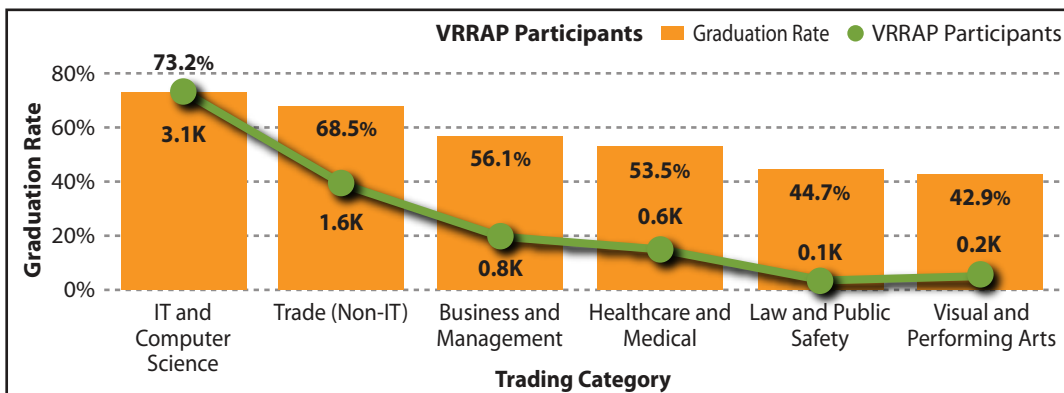
These institutions, all of which offer training in IT and trade technologies, had the highest graduation rates among those serving over 40 VRRAP participants.

At the other end of the spectrum, zero out of nearly 100 VRRAP students completed their programs at:

- Future Tech Career Institute
- Bottega University

Institution	Graduation Rate	Program Type(s)	VRRAP Enrollment
Computerminds.com	96.9%	Business and Management, IT and Computer Science	128
Heavy Construction Academy	91.7%	Trade (Non-IT)	48
ABC Technology	90.4%	IT and Computer Science	83
Airstreams Renewables Inc.	88.4%	Trade (Non-IT)	43
ACI Learning	86.2%	IT and Computer Science	651
My Computer Career	85.1%	IT and Computer Science	94
The Commercial Driver's License (CDL) School	83.6%	Trades (Non-IT)	201
Astute Artistry, LLC	83.1%	Business and Management, IT and Computer Science	59
Fullstack Academy	82.4%	IT and Computer Science	51
Heavy Equipment College of America	80.6%	Trades (Non-IT)	67

Graduation by Training Category



IT and trade-related training programs enrolled the most students and had the highest graduation rates. Females in IT programs graduated at a slightly higher rate than males, but females graduated

13 percentage points lower

than males in non-IT trade programs.

Program Comparison

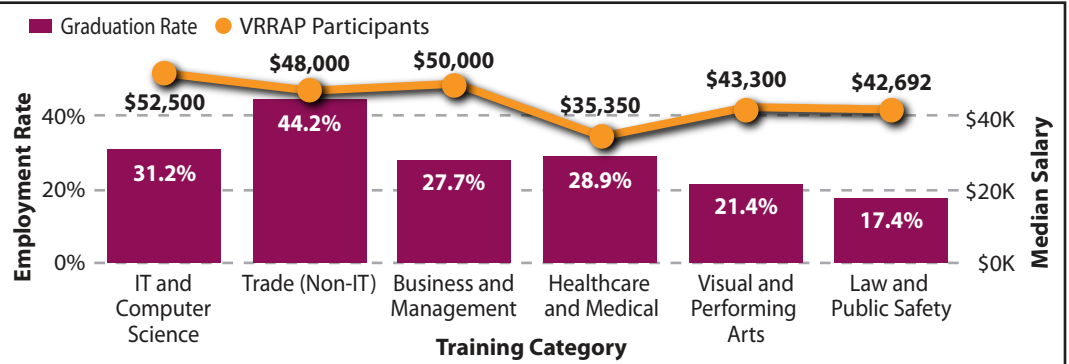
We compared the outcomes of participants in VRRAP and the VET TEC by analyzing students (1) who were enrolled at the same institution, (2) who took the same training program at that institution, and (3) whose programs ended in the same timeframe.

		VRRAP	VET TEC ⁶
ACI Learning: Computer User Support Program 	Graduation Rate	75%	89%
	Employment Rate	30%	44%
	Total Enrolled	259	846
Intellectual Point: DevOps Pathway 	Graduation Rate	70%	79%
	Employment Rate	20%	38%
	Total Enrolled	158	939

VET TEC and VRRAP participants had distinct characteristics that likely influenced their varying outcomes. VRRAP enrollees joined the program due to COVID-19-induced unemployment, limiting their ability to proactively pursue career changes or additional training for professional growth, which was likely true for VET TEC participants. The VRRAP cohort was also much older (38% were > 50 yrs. old) compared to the VET TEC group (7% were > 50 years), and we've found that younger students in the VET TEC program are employed at higher rates than older participants.

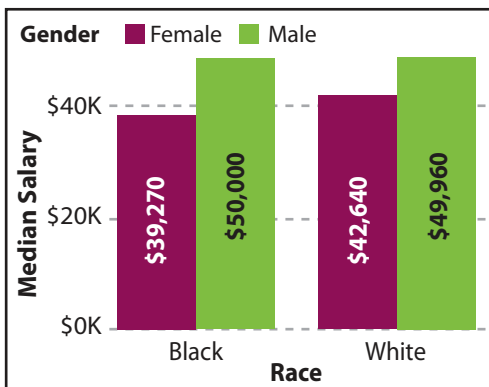
Employment⁷ and Salary

While graduates of IT programs had the highest median salary, those from trade programs were not far behind, trailing by less than \$5,000. Graduates of trade programs were set apart because of their significantly higher employment rate, which was over 12 percentage points greater than that of all other training areas.



There was little variation in salary across race, but males earned more than females because they pursued trainings leading to higher paying jobs in IT and trades to a greater extent than females.

Despite lower earnings, females overall had a slightly higher rate of employment (36%) compared to males (33%).



Employment Spotlight

- Many VRRAP participants lived in Georgia, and while their employment rate was not as high as in several other states, nearly half of all VRRAP graduates of trade schools living in Georgia secured meaningful employment.⁸
- The American Trucking Association estimates a shortage of 64k drivers in 2023.⁹ VRRAP has helped 166 truck drivers secure employment with a median salary of \$52,000.
- In addition to truck drivers, VRRAP has contributed to a skilled labor force of high-demand jobs, including:
 - HVAC technicians
 - Electricians
 - Heavy equipment operators
 - Wind turbine technicians
- Over 1,000 employers have hired VRRAP participants.

Data Specifications and Sources

1. VRRAP began accepting applicants in May 2021. The program stopped admitting new students in December 2022 because of the [expenditure of allocated funds](#). The number of students enrolled reflects those enrolled in May 2021 through when this data was obtained in February 2023.
2. The [Rural-Urban Commuting Area \(RUCA\) codes](#) were used to classify a beneficiaries' zip code into core areas. Those with a zip code in RUCA code 1 were identified as living in a core urban area. Those living in RUCA code 2 live in a metropolitan area with high commuting to an urban area. RUCA codes 7-9 were used to identify those living in small towns or rural areas.
3. Brookings (2020): [Which city economies did COVID-19 damage first?](#); Brookings (2021): [Big cities saw historic population losses while suburban growth declined during the pandemic](#).
4. To be [eligible for VRRAP](#), a Veteran must not be eligible for the Post-9/11, the Montgomery GI Bill or other VA education and training benefits. Other eligibility requirements to apply include:
 - a. Applicants must be Veterans at least 22 years old but not older than 66 years of age
 - b. Veterans must have received a discharge from military service that was not dishonorable
 - c. Applicants must be unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic
5. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES): [Bachelor's master's and doctor's degrees conferred by postsecondary institutions, by sex of student and field of study: 2019-20](#).
6. The data analyzed for this infographic contained graduation data that was fully captured as of January 31, 2022. Graduation rates were obtained only for VRRAP participants whose programs ended prior to this date.
7. Employment was determined for those whose programs had ended prior to August 1, 2022, to ensure that the participants program had ended, and to allow time for employment to be [certified](#). The employment outcomes reflect employments that were certified by the authorized official of the training provider. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 required the Commissioner of Labor Statistics to compile a [list of high-demand occupations](#) for certification in VRRAP.
8. Eligibility for the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) differs from that of VRRAP. [VET TEC applicants](#) must:
 - a. Be eligible for VA education assistance under the GI Bill
 - b. Have at least one day of unexpired GI Bill entitlement
 - c. Not be on active duty or are within 180 days of separating from active duty
9. Georgia Budget and Policy Institute (2021): [State of working Georgia: Pandemic job numbers are improving, but inequitably](#).
10. American Trucking Association (2022): [Driver Shortage Update](#)

