

Preparing for a New Occupation

How Michigan Rehabilitation Services Assists with College and Other Training

Interested in exploring a new career? Vocational certifications and college training are two avenues to employment that MRS can assist in. There are many great opportunities waiting for you at MRS!

What Kind of Training Assistance is Available?

Vocational training offers several different pathways to a new career. **Vocational certifications** in fields like automotive technology, construction, culinary or the health fields are just a few examples of shorter-term training programs that lead to quality careers.

Apprenticeships are another great pathway to employment. Get real life work experience and expert training from experts on the job while also taking courses to learn your new trade. Apprenticeships offer many opportunities in skilled trades.

Interested in a college degree? If your employment goals require a **college education**, MRS can assist you in accomplishing that goal. From an associate degree to graduate school, MRS can help you along in your career pathway.

Financial Aid

Your MRS counselor can work with you on how to apply for financial aid to help pay for training costs. MRS works cooperatively with college financial aid officers throughout the state to assure the best possible financial aid package for each MRS customer.

In addition to financial aid, MRS can help with financial assistance if you:

- Attend full-time or more than half-time, and
- if financial aid grants and your expected family contribution will not fully meet your needs.

MRS maximum financial training aid is \$5,000 for the academic year and \$1,700 for the summer term, as determined by unmet financial need identified by the school. MRS may waive need-based loans or the \$5,000 maximum under special individual circumstances. You may discuss these with your counselor. Individuals receiving benefits under Title II (SSDI) or Title XVI (SSI) of the Social Security Act whose training program is supported by MRS are exempt from these maximums.

For MRS to assist, you will need to apply for financial aid. Your counselor will partner with you to determine how MRS can assist you and finding the right training program that meets your needs.

How Do I Get Started in a Training Program?

Your counselor can help you figure out what career pathway is right for you. Once you have decided on an employment goal, the next step is finding the right training that meets your needs. Your counselor will work alongside you every step of the way. In partnering with your counselor, the two of you will work together to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment that outlines the steps you will take to complete training, identify any accommodations or assistive technology that you may need and begin your new career, and find a job consistent with your employment goal.



What Assistance Is Available for Training-Related Costs?

In addition to the basic costs of training, such as tuition, fees and books, you may have other training-related costs because of your disability. Examples include personal assistance services, hearing aids, and prostheses. MRS can often assist with these expenses if you do not have insurance and there are no other available resources. MRS can also help you coordinate accommodation services available through the school or college, such as note takers

What Training Follow-up Services are Available from MRS?

Your MRS counselor will continue to meet with you while you are in training to ensure you have the needed supports and problem solve with you on any unforeseen needs that could come up. For example, you may find that you need tutoring or maybe get connected with disability support services. MRS is there to support you every step of the way. Toward the end of your training, your counselor will work with you to help you identify resources and begin working with you to prepare for your job search and applying for your new position.

If you have further questions regarding job training assistance from MRS, please contact your local MRS office. Your local MRS office can be found using the MRS Office Locator tool on the MRS website at <https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mrs/orientation-intro/mrs-office-locator>.

If you continue to have questions, you may also contact MRS as follows:

Michigan Rehabilitation Services
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
PO Box 30010
Lansing, MI 48909
LEO-MRS-CustomerAssistance@michigan.gov
1-800-605-6722* (toll-free, voice)

*TTY users may contact MRS by dialing 711 and providing the relay operator with the MRS toll-free number.

Michigan.gov/MRS