

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DWD
 Department of Workforce Development
Worker's Compensation
Vocational Rehabilitation
 CHELSEA NEWBY
 DISPUTE RESOLUTION SPECIALIST
 DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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Initial Screening by DWC

- Automatically screen claims with greater than 13 weeks of TTD paid
- Voluntary Employment Status
Questionnaire is sent out to determine potential need for vocational rehabilitation
 - Has EOH been reached?
 - Is there a wage loss?
 - Are there permanent restrictions or permanent disability?
- Refer injured workers who potentially qualify for voc rehab to DVR

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Voc Rehab Steps For Worker's Comp Claims

<p>Permanent work restrictions signed by doctor are provided to the employer. Employer responds within 60 days.</p>	<p>If suitable employment within restrictions and paying at least 90% of AWW is not available, claimant works with DVR voc counselor to develop Individualized Plan for Employment.</p>	<p>Work Comp insurance adjuster reviews IPE.</p>	<p>Benefits paid consistent with accepted plan.</p>
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Benefits of Retraining for WC Claims

Tuition, school fees, books

- Laptop or other equipment required for program may be covered if determined necessary by IPE

DVR requires their consumers that participate in retraining to apply for federal student aid (FAFSA)

- Grants reduce cost of tuition paid by insurance carrier
- Scholarships are awarded to injured worker



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Benefits of Retraining for WC Claims

Mileage and meal expense paid at state employee rate

- Travel for school \$0.51 per mile
- Breakfast: \$8
- Lunch: \$10
- Dinner: \$20

<https://dpm.wi.gov/Documents/BCER/Compensation/PocketTravelGuide.pdf>



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Benefits of Retraining for WC Claims

Maintenance = TTD rate

- Not to exceed 80 weeks, unless additional school is determined necessary by Department in order to replace AWW
- PPD continues to accrue during breaks from school

• Case law: Massachusetts Bonding Insurance Co. v. Industrial Commission. 275 Wis. 505 (1957)




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Additional Info

- Injured worker is able to work up to 24 hours per week while participating in retraining without reducing the maintenance benefit.
- Employee can still be eligible for voc rehab benefit, even if declared perm total.
- If injured worker is residing outside of Wisconsin, they can still participate in vocational retraining by working with a private vocational counselor. Private vocational counselors should contact DWC to be certified for Wisconsin worker's comp claims.


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Questions?

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