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### Initial Screening by WCD

- Automatically screen claims with greater than 13 weeks of Temporary Total Disability (TTD) paid
- Voluntary employment status questionnaire is sent out to determine potential need for vocational rehabilitation
  - Has end of healing (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 Compensation Claims

<p>Permanent work restrictions signed by doctor are provided to the employer, who responds within 60 days.</p>	<p>If suitable employment within restrictions and paying at least 90% of AWW is not available, claimant and DVR voc counselor develop Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).</p>	<p>Worker's 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 participants 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 meals are paid at state employee rate:

- Travel for school \$0.51 per mile
- Breakfast: \$10
- Lunch: \$12
- Dinner: \$23

[https://dpm.wi.gov/Documents/BCER/Compensation/PocketTravel%20Guide\\_11\\_2023.pdf](https://dpm.wi.gov/Documents/BCER/Compensation/PocketTravel%20Guide_11_2023.pdf)



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### Benefits of Retraining for WC Claims

Maintenance = TTD rate

- Not to exceed 80 weeks, unless WCD determines that additional school is necessary to replace average weekly wage (AWW)
- Permanent Partial Disability (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 can 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 Permanent Total Disability (PTD).
- 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 WCD to be certified for Wisconsin worker's compensation claims.



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### Questions?

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 [https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc/voc\\_rehab](https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc/voc_rehab)



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