



Using Ch. 31 VR&E Benefits at SANS.edu

Prospective students approved for VR&E benefits are encouraged to provide this document to their VR&E counselor early in the application period, to ensure a smooth admission process.

Overview

The SANS Technology Institute (www.SANS.edu; tax ID 205132706) is the accredited higher educational subsidiary of the larger SANS Institute: The ESCAL Institute of Advanced Technologies, Inc. (www.SANS.org; tax ID 521935637).

- SANS.edu is approved to accept VR&E benefits for graduate and undergraduate-level degree and certificate programs.
- SANS.edu cannot accept VR&E authorizations for courses or certification exams purchased directly through SANS.org or GIAC.org, outside of an accredited degree or certificate program.

Once admitted to your intended program

All VR&E Authorizations must be submitted in the Invoice Payment Processing System (IPPS) by your VR&E Counselor and accepted in the Tungsten Network by veterans@sans.edu **before** you can begin New Student Orientation (NSO).

When your counselor is looking for the SANS Technology Institute (SANS.edu) in the IPPS, this is the information they will need:

- Facility code: 21000620
- Tax ID: 205132706
- Seller contact: veterans@sans.edu

The enrollment period start date on your Ch31 VR&E Authorization should reflect the first day of your first course, which is often 15 days after your New Student Orientation (NSO) start date. The SANS.edu Admissions Team can assist with your target NSO start date. We find administrative delays can be reduced when authorizations span the entire calendar year.

Considerations for all programs

- We operate on rolling enrollment terms; more information about our enrollment terms can be reviewed in the **Veterans** section of the [Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#) Course Catalogs.
- Please note that the Applied Cyber Security (ACS) undergraduate certificate program is not full time; our accelerated terms provide greater than halftime enrollment.
- Students typically take courses one at a time, and we find administrative delays can be reduced when authorizations span the entire calendar year.
- Tuition for all courses includes books; no other fees are assessed.
- Students should coordinate with the VR&E Counselor at least 30 days prior to their authorization expiration date in order to receive an update authorization for future courses.
- While the Veterans Office can provide course grade reports and updated academic plans, students can obtain them faster by asking their Student Advisor.
- Exam/course failures involve purchasing exam retakes directly through GIAC; more information to follow as needed for necessary authorizations to cover retake costs.
- While we do require that students have a desktop or laptop, we do not specify any product. Please see below for suggested desktop/laptop requirements.

A properly configured system is required to fully participate in your courses at SANS Technology Institute (SANS.edu). Although SANS.edu does not have standardized computer requirements applicable to all courses, below is a suggestion of requirements based on one of our more requirement-demanding courses:

Computer Requirements

- **CPU:** 64-bit Intel i5/i7 (4th generation+) - x64 bit 2.0+ GHz processor or more recent processor is mandatory for this class (Important - Please Read: a 64-bit system processor is mandatory)
- **CRITICAL NOTE:** Apple systems using the Apple M Series ARM architecture CPU cannot perform the necessary virtualization functionality and therefore cannot be used for many courses.
- It is critical that your CPU and operating system support 64-bit so that our 64-bit guest virtual machine will run on your computer. VMware provides a [free tool](#) for Windows that will detect whether or not your host supports 64-bit guest virtual machines. For further troubleshooting, [this article](#) also provides good instructions for Windows users to determine more about the CPU and OS capabilities. For Macs, please use this [support page](#) from Apple to determine 64-bit capability.
- **BIOS** settings must be set to enable virtualization technology, such as "Intel-VT".
 - **Be absolutely certain you can access your BIOS if it is password protected**, in case changes are necessary.
- 16 GB (Gigabytes) of RAM or higher is mandatory for many classes
- 350 Gigabytes of Free Space - Note that about 150 GB is required for downloaded lab files. This data can be stored on an external drive.
- Local Administrator Access is required. This is absolutely required. Don't let your IT team tell you otherwise. If your company will not permit this access for the duration of the course, then you should make arrangements to use a different computer. You need to be able to disable VPN or other network restrictions to be able to download additional software and install it.
- Wireless 802.11 Capability

Operating System Requirements

- Latest version of Windows 10 or macOS 10.15.x.
- It is necessary to fully update your host operating system prior to classes to ensure you have the right drivers and patches installed.