

# **Welcome to Renton Technical College**

Military and Veteran Community,

Welcome to Renton Technical College!

As a veteran supportive campus, we offer guidance and many programs to better your education and opportunities for growth as you transition from the military.

This guidebook is an example of the guidance we offer. Veterans from across our community offer their advice and perspective to make sure you're successful here at RTC.

As a veteran myself, I hope that this book is able to help you navigate our campus. I'm sure there are many reasons why you chose RTC, this guide is designed to give you more reasons that were previously undiscovered to you.

Please feel free to come check out The Learning Resource and Career Center (LRCC) located BLDG C-102—the on-campus resource center for all students which helps with career placement, tutoring, and many other services. While you are there, stop by the library, not only for books, magazines, and digital media, but for a safe space for study and access to computers. It is in the same building as the LRCC just one floor up.

I have had the pleasure of being a member of this community, and I've seen how it has helped veterans transition into the world of higher education and beyond.

I wish you nothing but the best while here at Renton Technical College and afterwards!

Your friend.

Levi J. Christianson AAS Welding Class of 2022

**PUBLICATION DISCLAIMER:** This guidebook is published for information purposes only.

Last Updated: 8/18/2021

Although every effort is made to ensure accuracy at the time of publication, this student handbook shall not be construed to be an irrevocable contract between the student and Renton Technical College. The College reserves the right to make any changes in the content and provisions of this guidebook without notice.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** Renton Technical College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color national origin, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veterans or military status, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and ADA Amendment Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and Washington State Law Against Discrimination, Chapter 49.60 RCW and their implementing regulations. The following college official has been designated to handle inquiries regarding this policy: Lesley Hogan, Title IX / EEO Coordinator, Vice President of Human Resources 3000 NE 4th Street Renton, WA 98056

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Renton Technical College seeks to create a healthy, positive, respectful environment where the many voices of our students, faculty, and staff are heard and valued. The RTC community will accomplish this through awareness and the ongoing development of the knowledge and skills necessary to learn, work, and thrive in a diverse community.

<u>ACCREDITATION:</u> Renton Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and governed by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Renton Technical College extends its gratitude to Seattle University and to the following veterans who made this guidebook a resource that we can offer to future veterans.

Developed by:

Levi Christianson

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All times, dates, and office locations given in this book are subject to change. Please	<u>!</u>
double check the RTC Website to verify times/dates and office locations (RTC.edu).	
Times/dates and office locations posted in this guidebook reflect restrictions set in	
place because of Covid 10	

# **RTC's Veterans Community**

The Renton Technical College Veteran's Community's mission is to serve and of support all student-veterans and members of military families.

RTCVC's vision is to develop and implement student programming, both social and educational, and recognize that student-veterans have unique needs and interests that differ from those of traditional students.

### RTCVC hopes to:

- · be the single source for all information related to student-veteran life · Be an advocate for the student-veteran community at large · Provide personalized assistance for student needs (veteran related or not) · Maintain direct connections with those managing student-veteran lives on campus
- · Bringing awareness of student-veteran issues to the faculty, staff and the general student community

Interested in holding a paying position with vet corps at RTC? Email veterans@rtc.edu.

# The Learning Resource and Career Center(LRCC)

## The LRCC is currently open from 10AM – 2 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Learning Resource and Career Center (LRCC) is a community and resource space for students at Renton Technical college. LRCC offers Technology loans such as laptops, calculators, webcams, and more. LRCC has academic tutoring and eTutoring. They print Student ID Cards, as well as offer free computer help and repair. You can print for free at the LRCC.

We're located in Building (C-102) on the South end of Campus. We hope you'll come by to study, hang out, and be in community with us.

We acknowledge and affirm our community's multiple intersecting identities, including low-income, international, undocumented and DACA, and graduate students.

#### **Student Veterans**

The Learning Resource and Career Center warmly welcomes all who have served or are currently serving our country. We also welcome the spouses and dependents of service members. Renton Technical College recognizes military members and dependents have special needs and concerns.

# **LRCC Food Pantry**

The RTC Food Pantry provides NON-PERISHABLE foods for students in need. Student can call the LRCC @ 425-235-2352x5721 and a Peer Tutor will meet you outside bldg. C and show you which items are available, package those items for you, and bring them to you. (Check RTC Website for Updates)

# CHIPS (Computer Help & Information Protection Support)

CHIPS does not provide or purchase parts.

#### **Remote services CHIPS offers:**

- Hardware and software troubleshooting
- Software upgrades
- Computer performance boost

You can contact CHIPS at Chips@student.rtc.edu.

# CHIPS has in-person services on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 AM - 2 PM

### United Way of King County Benefits Hub

Renton Technical College, through the LRCC, and the United Way of King County are partnering to provide our students with additional assistance: financial coaching, paying for college, housing support, benefits access, food access, emergency funds, and more! Visit the Benefits Hub Page on the RTC website to get started found here: <a href="https://www.rtc.edu/lrcc-united-way-benefits-hub">https://www.rtc.edu/lrcc-united-way-benefits-hub</a>

#### **Career Services**

The <u>LRCC Career Services</u> is committed to helping students make connections between academic experiences and career paths.

Please email <u>CareerServices@rtc.edu</u> for current job opportunities, career fair events, resume guides, career exploration and more!

## **Tutoring Services**

The LRCC provides a free tutoring service via **ZOOM** to help students succeed in their classes. There are tutors available for Math, English, Science (biology, chemistry, anatomy & physiology), Accounting, Basic Studies/HS21+, Computer Apps/Science/CNT/BAS, Early Childhood, Engineering Design, Industrial & Structural Engineering, Mechatronics, Medical Assistant, and Nursing. If you have any questions or want more information, call (425) 235-2352 ext. 5721 You can book a tutor online at RTC.edu/Ircc

# eTutoring: Free Online Tutoring

Access our <u>FREE 24/7 online eTutoring service</u> to get the help you need from anywhere! **E-Tutoring is available during fall/winter/spring quarters only.** Have questions? Contact the LRCC about eTutoring.

# **Checklist for Success**

<ul> <li>Renton Technical College runs on email. Make it a habit of checking your email every day and respond to emails that require a response ASAP</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Check CANVAS for announcements or assignments that your professors may not have mentioned during class</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Look for websites that offer the cheapest price for your textbooks and save money (I Recommend EBay).</li> </ul>
Have a reserve fund for emergencies. There may be times where the VA is late on sending you BAH. Since BAH is prorated, one month may be lower than what you are typically used to receiving. Create a budget for a set period of time and stick to it.
o Need help budgeting? Meet with someone in the LRCC, Student Success Center, or Library for resources and assistance.
<ul> <li>If you have a documented disability, access Disability Services. This service will be helpful in accessing accommodations while you are here. Located building (1- 205B).</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Always go to class and figure out how much study time you need for classes. Then, arrange your schedule around it.</li> </ul>
Visit the LRCC, Library, Student Success Center, and Cafeteria often to utilize the benefits that are there offered to you for free.
□ Make an appointment with Career Services to talk about your future.
<ul> <li>Get access to all your benefits. If you have questions or need support, talk to one of our Veterans staff members.</li> </ul>
□ Develop a support network, both on and off campus. You will need it!

# **Transitioning to Civilian Life**

Civilians may not be aware of the unique challenges that separating from military service and returning to civilian life can present. Here, we highlight myths vs reality. Veterans may find they identify with one or all of the following:

### Myth: You have no responsibilities once you get out of the military.

**Reality:** Complete opposite. You will have more responsibilities outside of the military than you may have had while in.

# Myth: Going back to school is easy.

**Reality:** Results may vary! You get out of your education experience, what you put into it. The more you procrastinate, don't ask for help, or not engage, the more difficult this experience will be.

### Myth: Renton Technical College is very religious.

**Reality:** RTC is an organization that prides itself on welcoming diversity. You will not be required to attend mass or convert to any religion.

## Myth: The VA is user-friendly.

**Reality:** The VA is just as complicated as complicated gets. If you are planning to or are currently navigating the VA healthcare or benefits system, reach out to a veteran service organization, such as the DAV, VFW, American Legion, whose sole job is now how to navigate these systems.

#### Myth: You are the only veteran on campus.

**Reality:** It may seem like it at times, but you are definitely not alone.

#### Myth: All veterans are white, heterosexual men.

**Reality:** This myth is completely wrong! Veterans at RTC are comprised of any and all identities. Veterans are women, LGBTQ identified, of varying abilities, races, and ethnicities.

## Myth: You are the oldest person in the room.

**Reality:** This may or may not be true. Usually, there is at least one other adult learner or non-traditional student in the room with you! Seek them out, they may be having similar experiences.

# Myth: Our veterans are only here to finish their Associate's degree.

**Reality:** We have veterans who are attending for their BAS. The sky is the limit.

#### Myth: All veterans have a beard and wear camouflage.

**Reality:** True for some... But many of our veterans are hard to identify, because they blend in with everyone else on campus! Looking to connect with other veterans? Swing by the LRCC!

## Myth: Being a veteran is your only identity.

**Reality:** Being a veteran is a tiny fraction of what makes you who you are! Be proud of any and all of your identities. If you don't want to identify as a veteran, for whatever reason, that's ok! You have the freedom to be who you are! Great thing is, after the military, you have the opportunity to do a redefine and reimagine who you are.

# Life at Renton Technical College

### **LIBRARY**

The Library is committed to a culture of inclusivity, equity and advocacy by providing quality resources, spaces, staff and instruction in the pursuit of intellectual discovery, lifelong learning and student success.

To find out what's new at RTC Library, check out our Library blog.

The <u>Renton Technical College Library</u> offers research help, online and print resources, and technology help to support students with their academic goals at RTC. The Library is located on the second floor of the C building. Students have access to a variety of different resources including, but not limited to:

- Checkout services: Students have access to thousands of books, eBooks, magazines, articles, and videos to supplement what they are learning in class, to prepare for a test, or to borrow just for fun.
- Research help: Students can book one-on-one sessions with librarians to help them with research and APA/MLA citations for their papers.
- Computer lab access with printing and scanning
- Group study rooms
- Reflection Space: Students have access to this space for prayer, reflection, and meditation.

If you have questions, please contact the Library at <u>librarian@rtc.edu</u> or text us at (425) 336-2764.

# **BOOKSTORE**

You can find and purchase textbooks at our online bookstore: <a href="https://www.bkstr.com/rtcstore/home">https://www.bkstr.com/rtcstore/home</a>. Our bookstore website has a textbook search tool, and you may also find required textbook information directly from your instructor or listed on the course syllabus. For additional help, connect with an adviser or view this short 3-minute Finding My RTC Textbook video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07ZFUOixhDQ&feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07ZFUOixhDQ&feature=youtu.be</a>.

Textbooks, supplies, gifts, and snacks can be found in the Bookstore which is located on the second floor of the Roberts Campus Center, Building I. Purchases can be made by cash, check with a valid picture ID, and by VISA or MasterCard. Bookstore hours are available at RTC Bookstore Refund policy and deadlines are posted at the bookstore. Please save your receipt, it is needed for returns, exchange of defective merchandise, class cancellations, etc. At the end of each quarter, the bookstore hosts a buyback. A buyback is when the bookstore and a used-books wholesaler repurchase textbooks from students as they are needed by the Bookstore and the wholesaler for the following quarter. Buyback dates are posted at the bookstore.

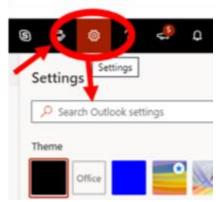
#### RTC STUDENT EMAIL

As an enrolled student, you have been assigned a college email address. Please <u>activate your student email</u>. You must use your RTC student email as it will be the main channel for communications from your instructors and the college. Here are some helpful pages when familiarizing yourself with your RTC email:

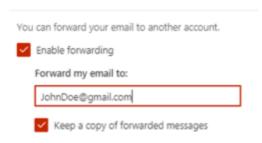
- Activate Your Email
- Access Your Email Account
- Student Email on Mobile Devices
- Frequently Asked Questions About Student Email

It's also a good practice to link your RTC student email with your personal email account so that you don't miss out on important information. To set up email forwarding:

1. Click the Settings (gear) icon (located at the top of the page)



- 2. In the search bar, search "Forwarding."
- Enter your personal email in "Forward my email to:"



4. Check "Keep a copy of forwarded messages" and "Save." If you have questions, contact the Student Help Desk at <a href="mailto:support@rtc.edu">support@rtc.edu</a> or call (425) 235-2500.

### **CANVAS: YOUR ONLINE CLASSROOM**

Online classrooms will be held in Canvas (rtc.edu/canvas), and this helpful guide can assist you with how to log on. Take the free Getting Started at RTC course to learn about computer access, Canvas, and RTC resources to be a successful student. Remember, elearning@rtc.edu is available to help with any canvas-related questions you may have.

#### **STUDENT LEADERSHIP:**

Student Leadership supports diverse activities and programs which create an atmosphere of opportunity for students to develop and practice leadership skills in a nurturing learning environment. Students can join the Associated Student Government (ASG). The ASG is the representative voice of the RTC Student Body. ASG members are responsible for representing student interests to the college administration and for facilitating the organization of a broad range of student committees that work to address issues and concerns and promote services that enhance students' experience at RTC. The Director of Student Programs & Engagement serves as advisor to the ASG. The ASG has two bodies: the nine-member paid Executive Board and the 40+ member volunteer Student Senate. Students can also start and join clubs and student organizations and can be program related, identity related or interest related. Visit the Student Leadership office in J-216 for support and information.

#### **TESTING CENTER:**

The Testing Center is located in the DeMoss Building (J-218). The Testing Center publishes a monthly calendar which is available both on campus and online. Children are not permitted in the Testing Center. All tests administered in the Testing Center require approved picture identification and a copy of the receipt showing payment for the test. For questions, please call and leave a detailed message at 425-235-2352, ext. 5704 or visit Testing Services.

#### **Services Offered:**

## You must bring an unexpired government-issued photo ID with you to each test session

- Accuplacer
- Admissions Testing
- Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)
- CLFP
- GED Testing
- Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)
- National Testing Network (NTN)
- Pearson VUE
- Proctor for non-RTC students
- ProV
- TEAS-VI

#### **Testing Center Remote Services**

- <u>Directed Self-Placement (DSP) Only for RTC students</u>
- Certiport/pearson.com Exams From Home (offered through June 30, 2021)
- Remote Next Generation Accuplacer Placement (Reading, Writing, Math, or Write Placer)
- Remote College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- GED Exam
- Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)
- Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO)
  - o Contact Rick Geist, Welding Faculty: (425) 235-2341 or rgeist@rtc.edu

#### Resources

PrepSTEP® - a database with many test prep materials.

For more information regarding RTC Testing Services, please visit: rtc.edu/testing-center

#### **STUDENT ONLINE SERVICES:**

You can view and/or print your schedule, your financial aid status, and an unofficial copy of your transcript online. You may enter the site directly through www.RTC.edu Once you are at the main menu and make your selection, you will need to know the following information: the quarter and year of attendance; the student ID number and a pin number (the date of birth in MM/DD/YY format). If you don't know your Student ID number, there is a feature on the web site that will take your Social Security Number and find the Student ID number that was assigned to you. Click on Hints and Help on the main menu for suggestions if you are having trouble in obtaining your requested information. If you continue to have difficulties, contact Registration at 425-235-2352 for assistance.

# **DENTAL CLINIC:**

Students and the general public can receive dental services during the clinical session of the Dental Assistant program. For specific dates and times, call 425-235-2297.

#### **AUTO SERVICE:**

Is your car in need of brakes or do you need your transmission checked? If you need your car serviced, consider having it done by one of the automotive programs in the Greco Building (K). Services are available on a limited basis, depending on students' learning objectives throughout the year. Call 425-235-2430 for more information about service availability and cost.

#### CASHIERING:

Cashiering is located in the Roberts Campus Center (Building I). All manner of student payments may be paid in cashiering, including tuition and fees, testing charges, etc. Payments may also be made online at the Student Online Services. Students wanting to sign up for STEPP (Student Tuition Easy Payment Plan) should visit, or call, cashiering. Financial Aid, and other disbursements, as well as paychecks are handed out at the cashiering window. Cashiering contacts: phone: 425-235-2352 ext. 5910, fax: 425-235-2445,

#### **DINING SERVICES**

At RTC, there are various locations across campus where students can purchase food,

drinks, and snacks throughout the day. Each location will have its own business hours and it's important to know when opening and closing times are.

- Culinaire Room is located on the first floor of the I Building. It is a sit-down restaurant featuring upscale daily meus at reasonable prices. It offers a delicious selection of Northwest, ethnic, and international cuisine. Check, cash, Visa, or MasterCard are accepted. For more information on hours and other important updates visit rtc.edu/dining-services.
- · C.A.F.E. (Culinary Arts Furthering Education) Dining is located on the first floor of the I building across from the Culinaire Room and Bakery. The College C.A.F.E. features daily specials from the arill, breakfast, deli, salad bar, and beverage

- station. Visa or MasterCard are accepted. Cash is currently not accepted. For more information on hours and other important updates visit rtc.edu/dining-services.
- The Bakery is located on the first floor of the I building, at the bottom of the stairs. RTC Bakery has an assortment of freshly baked goods prepared daily by students in the Professional Baking Program and sold in the RTC Bakery. Special order cakes, pies, or other breads and pastries are available by calling (425) 235-2352x5596. Minimum three (3) day notice required for special orders. For more information on hours and other important updates visit rtc.edu/dining-services.
- Catering: Let RTC make your event special, whether it's a wedding, box lunch, or special occasion at home or at work. (Rental Facilities are available for groups of all sizes.) Call the Catering Department to discuss special orders and catering arrangements, (425) 235-5730. For more information on hours and other important updates visit rtc.edu/dining-services.
- · Vending Machines: A wide variety of vending machines are available throughout the campus for your evening and Saturday food needs. A map of the vending machine locations can be found here: rtc.edu/dining-services
- · The RTC Bookstore also sells snacks located on the second floor of the I Building.

#### **EMPLOYMENT/CAREER SERVICES**

Career Services is for all RTC students no matter your program or career path. They'll help you with general career guidance, your cover letter & resume, job & internship search, and so much more.

The Career Center (C-104) is the hub for all things jobs! You can come in and use a computer, get help with a resume or cover letter, or schedule a mock interview.

#### Online Job Board:

Many employers will send us hiring event announcements and job posts to include in our job boards. The most updated postings can be found in the C Building across from the LRCC, where you can find an announcement board and a binder full of current job openings. Sometimes, there will be special bright-colored folders with specific job postings in them.

Due to COVID-19, we have moved our job boards online. Visit the <u>Jobs for Students</u> canvas page for more information.

#### Scheduling an Appointment:

You can schedule an appointment to get help with your Resume, Cover Letter, or Interview help. One of our staff will meet with you one-on-one or as a group to work with you on your application materials. The best option is to schedule a few appointments before you start job hunting. That way, you can get your materials really shining so you're ready when you start looking!

Contact <u>CareerServices@rtc.edu</u> to schedule your appointment! Students, you also have access to a Career Services CANVAS site, which has many resources for you to use.

We have a job on-campus position called the Vet-Corps-Navigator, it is a volunteer position that comes with monthly stipend on top of your VA Benefits. If you are interested in learning more, please contact <a href="mailto:veterans@rtc.edu">veterans@rtc.edu</a> and ask about a position with Vet-Corps.

Need a part-time job off-campus? We have a couple organizations that are always looking to hire.

- Starbucks
- Fred Meyer
- Home Depot
- Subway
- Walmart
- Safeway
- VET CORPS

#### **PARKING**

Free student parking is available in designated parking lots P2, P3, P4, P9, P10, spaces not designated for Public Health patients, and at the Annex. Parking lots P1, P5, P6, P8, and P13 are designated for Faculty and staff. Additional parking available in parking lots P14 and P15. Students, Faculty, and Staff may park in any ADA space on campus as long as the appropriate ADA placard or License designation is displayed. Student parking permits are available at no cost at the Cashiering Office in Building I-230 in the Student Services area.

## **BUS PROGRAM**

Good news! Save money on your commute! ORCA LIFT is a low-income bus program. Qualified individuals can ride King County Metro buses for \$1.50 and get 50% off of other services (such as a bus pass). The pass can be used for the Link Light Rail, Metro and Sound Transit Buses (although Sound Transit will cost an extra \$1). <a href="https://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/fares-orca/orca-cards/lift.aspx">https://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/fares-orca/orca-cards/lift.aspx</a>

# Life in Renton

#### TRANSITIONING TO RENTON

**Renton's attractions:** Renton affords a lot of great food, activities and resources. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park is among the most popular of Renton's parks. It boasts 57 acres of land and water at the southeast corner of Lake Washington, and activities and amenities abound: eight boat-launch lanes, four picnic shelters, playground equipment, two tennis courts, two sand volleyball courts, fishing pier, swimming area, over 1.5 miles of paved walking trails, food concessions, and more. There are 28 other public parks in Renton, a 190-acre public golf course, 13 miles of trails, and 813 acres of public open space.

#### Renton exclusives:

- Henry Moses Aquatic Center Water slides; 9,000 square foot leisure pool with wave machine, lazy river, island lagoon, and a water play structure; and a 3,300 square foot, six-lane lap pool
- Jimi Hendrix Memorial A memorial project at Greenwood Cemetery that honors the late Jimi Hendrix, one of the most creative and influential musicians of the 20th century
- <u>Renton Downtown</u> has boutique shops, restaurants, cultural and historical points of interest, antiques dealers, parks, special events, and festivals. The Landing 614,000 square feet of retail stores adjacent to Boeing's 737 manufacturing site is downtown Renton's unique shopping and dining destination. The Landing includes local and national retail shops, lively cafes, and urban residential living (880 residential units).

**Renton is liberal:** Your experience may vary but most veterans will attest that the military is a very conservative atmosphere. This means you might find yourself outside of your comfort zone or at the very least outside your norm if you live conservatively. One approach to this is to keep an open mind and keep discourse civil. If you identify as a conservative, you may feel that your values or ideas are being challenged. This should be the case for all students in a healthy academic discourse (not just conservatives). You may be able to offer up perspectives in the classroom that students attending are unfamiliar with; so, don't shy away from participation in fear of being marginalized. My experience has been that people are more open to different ideas when approached in a respectable and humble fashion.

**Traffic in Renton:** I-405 has a lot of traffic all the time, especially in the Renton area. Plan for extra time on your commute to compensate for traffic if you live outside the city. Traffic congestion can be a nightmare to traverse. Consider investing in an Orca Card that allows you to travel via bus, train or even ferry. Some students attending RTC qualify for ORCA LIFT (see page 11) making public transportation an affordable and reliable option.

**Renton is a great place to live:** Amazon, Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks, etc. These are just a few of the major global corporations residing in the Seattle area. Competition for labor is fierce resulting in higher wages and affording future employees the opportunity

for economic liberty. The higher-education schools in the area funnel students through a vast network of opportunity and this is one of the highlights of attending Renton Technical College.

**Summer in Renton:** Renton is known for its mild climate. It rarely dips below freezing and it rarely gets above 90 degrees. Because of this, Air Conditioning is non-existent in most housing units and buildings. I feel compelled to warn you, however, that in late July and August we usually do have a couple days above 90 (and I remember the dreaded summers in which we top 100 degrees). If you don't live in a basement unit your apartment can easily be above 80 or 85 degrees inside over-night. Sleeping in this environment can be rough so invest in some fans or maybe a small window AC unit to break out in the peak of summer (if your landlord allows).

### **GROCERY STORES**

If you live in the area or just need to grab a quick meal or snack, check out this list for nearby stores!

- · RTC Campus Store is located on the RTC campus in the I Building in room 201. It is on your right just as you enter the building. Not only can you purchase textbooks, apparel, school supplies, and electronics, there's also an area to shop for snacks on the go.
  - · Safeway is on Union Ave NE and NE 4<sup>th</sup> St., and is one of the closest grocery stores to campus. It's not necessary to take public transportation, it is a 15-minute walk from RTC. Go East along NE 4<sup>th</sup> St until you see the Safeway on the left. Like any grocery store, Safeway has a wide variety of food, snacks, beverages, and items for your home.
  - ·QFC is on the corner of Duvall Ave NE & NE 4<sup>th</sup> St., this QFC also has its own gas station across the street. This is a good store to buy organic produce, food, and snacks
  - · Bartell Drugs is adjacent to the QFC and carries personal care items, medicine, and grab-and-go snacks.
  - $\cdot$  Saar's Super Saver Foods is on Sunset Blvd NE within the sunset Plaza just past NE 12<sup>th</sup> St. and is another great option for grocery shopping.
  - Target is the furthest store from RTC, but it is the closest Target to campus.

    Target is located at the Landing in Renton off of Garden Ave N
  - · Big Lots closer to RTC than Target and offers similar home goods related items. Big Lots is located off of Sunset Blvd and Duvall Ave NE.

# **Accessing your Benefits**

# **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS AND TUITION ASSISTANCE (TA)**

If you want to receive educational benefits through the VA, you must apply through the Renton Technical College Veterans Services office. We recommend that you apply as early as possible. Please review the step-by-step instructions on the **Educational Benefits** and **Tuition Assistance** or **Quick Start Guide** page.

Renton Technical College is proud to offer a twenty-five percent tuition discount to all Veterans that have received an Honorable discharge from the military. To receive this discount, the Veteran must provide a copy of their DD214 reflecting the Honorable discharge upon registration. RTC also offers eligible Veterans, National Guard members, and their spouses who are using Veteran's benefits early registration for our classes/programs. A definition of "eligible Veterans and national guard members" can be found at the following by clicking here: <a href="RCW 28B.15.621">RCW 28B.15.621</a>- Tuition waivers and textbook stipends—Veterans and national guard members—Dependents—Private institutions.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official <u>U.S.</u> government - Veterans Affairs GI Bill website.

#### **HEALTHCARE**

If you have not got connected with healthcare, we are here to help. To begin your registration process, do the following steps:

- · Apply online: va.gov (Typically takes 30 days to be contacted) · Apply for HEALTHCARE
  - -OR-
- Report to the VA Hospital Registration Office with your DD-214 and a completed 1010EZ Form found here: <a href="https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10EZ-fillable.pdf">https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10EZ-fillable.pdf</a>
- · VA Hospital address: 1660 S Columbian Way, Seattle, WA 98108

#### **DISABILITY RESOURCE SERVICES AT RTC**

Disability Resource Services provides accommodations to students with disabilities and health conditions at Renton Technical College. DRS can also provide resources on and off-campus for students with disabilities.

Common Accommodations:

- Extended time on tests and guizzes
- Testing in a private or quiet location
- ASL Interpretation or Real-time captioning
- Braille, audiobooks, other alternative formats
- Note-taking during lectures
- Audio recording of lectures
- Ergonomic chairs, sit/stand tables
- Accessible Technology

If you are a student at RTC with a disability or health condition and you would like to find

out if you can receive accommodations in your classes, please schedule an Access

Last Updated: 8/18/2021

Meeting with the Student Success Services Front Desk.

If you have information about your disability/ health condition such as paperwork from your doctor, L&I paperwork, an IEP or 504 plan from high school, or other paperwork, please bring that to your appointment. If you do not have information about your disability, you will fill out a Self-Report form during your appointment.

To schedule an appointment please contact **Jake Swanke**, Director, Disability Resource Services, by email at <a href="mailto:iswanke@rtc.edu">iswanke@rtc.edu</a>, or by phone at 425-235-2352 x5540.

#### **SERVICE CONNECTION**

If you had anything physically or mentally happen to you, while you were in the military, you may be eligible for a service connection (aka Disability Rating Percentage).

Do not attempt to apply for a service connection, without the support of an organization that specializes in this process. Below are organizations that are free and do amazing work:

- ·DAV
- o to get an appointment with the DAV:
- o Go to: www.dav.org/veterans/find-your-local-office/
- o for your appointment, you will NEED your dd-214 and your complete military medical record
- · Need your medical record?
  - o Go to: <u>www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service</u> records/medical-records.html
- o NOTE: Go through your regional office and not a local chapter office
- Your local VFW: <a href="https://www.vfw.org/find-a-post">www.vfw.org/find-a-post</a>

#### **VA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

Once you've receive a service connection, you may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab).

Voc Rehab acts similarly to the GI BILL, but it's goal is to get you back to work. Eligibility is based off of a case-by-case basis.

If you have questions about Voc Rehab, talk with someone in the Veterans Services Department at RTC. *Do not* attempt to access this benefit without talking to an RTC staff member.

Website: www.benefits.va.gov/VOCREHAB/edu voc counseling.asp

# **Advising**

Advisors have a sole purpose of helping students succeed during their time at RTC by outlining a plan for each student.

 NOTE: If you are unaware who your advisor is, find out by using the following link: <a href="https://www.rtc.edu/advising/">https://www.rtc.edu/advising/</a>

Roles of Students and Academic Advisers

Advising is a partnership between students and their advisers. With that in mind, here are the expectations of both parties.

Advisers are available to help students meet their educational goals and navigate their college experience. It is because of this broad responsibility that the adviser/student relationship plays an important role in student success. Students are welcomed and encouraged to meet with their advisers to share stories, gain advice, and map their journey to meeting their educational goals.

Here's a list of practical expectations for both students and their advisers.

# Student's Responsibilities:

- Read all e-mails, the official means of communication at RTC, on your RTC student email account.
- Be aware of important dates and deadlines, published in the <u>academic</u> calendar.
- Follow through on actions identified during each advising session.
- Learn how to register for classes online and use Student Online Services
- Know who your adviser is. If you are not sure, check the <u>Student Success</u> <u>Center</u> link.
- Clarify your personal values, interests, and goals.
- Schedule your advising appointment in advance to ensure you can visit with your adviser when you need to.
- Come prepared for your appointment. Review the <u>quarterly class schedule</u> <u>and college catalog</u>, and bring appropriate resources or materials
   (i.e. transcripts, previous advising notes, etc.) when meeting with your adviser.
- Ask clarifying questions to get the information needed to accomplish goals
- Become knowledgeable of, and adhere to, institutional policies, procedures, and requirements.
- Accept final responsibility for all decisions.

# Academic Adviser's Responsibilities:

- Assist you to define and develop an individualized educational plan and support in the selection of appropriate coursework.
- Guide you in determining your progress toward your educational goals.

- Help you explore your interests and goals, and relate them to the areas of study and program offerings available.
- Maintain confidentiality and understand the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (<u>FERPA</u>).
- Refer you to services and supports available on campus to promote your academic success. (<u>Behavioral Health</u>, <u>Career Services</u>, <u>Tutoring</u>, etc.)
- Understand RTC policies, processes, and program requirements, and communicate them to you.
- Respond in a timely manner during regular business hours.

# As a result of academic advising, students will be able to:

- Apply information regarding RTC program requirements, policies, regulations, and procedures to make informed educational decisions.
- Identify a program of study that aligns with their interests, values, strengths, career and educational goals.
- Identify degree and/or certificate requirements and develop an educational plan to meet the requirements.
- Recognize the value of developing a career pathway and having an action plan for both short-term and long-term goals.
- Seek out and use campus resources to support their success.
- Understand that participating in co-curricular and educational opportunities will help advance their educational goals.

## Andee Jorgensen Student Success Center

Each counselor has expertise in a special area or population and is assigned to a division of the college to provide communication between faculty/curriculum areas. Counselors work with and serve as a liaison with community agencies. Counselors are involved with recruiting at career fairs and high school visits, representing all program areas to provide general information about RTC.

#### General advising questions:

Email: <u>advising@RTC.edu</u>

• Call: (425) 235-5840

• Text: (425) 448-3416

• Zoom: visit the RTC Zoom Lobby

For a full list of who's in Advising visit here: <a href="https://www.rtc.edu/advising/">https://www.rtc.edu/advising/</a>

RTC departmental directory: <a href="https://www.rtc.edu/contact-info">https://www.rtc.edu/contact-info</a>

### **RTC Areas of Study**



#### More information found here:

https://www.rtc.edu/career-training-programs

## **CONNECTING WITH FACULTY/INSTRUCTORS**

Why reach out to a faculty member? A few reasons might be: Get additional help with coursework

- · Get to know another adult on campus
- · Learn about their career path and research interests

Here are some ways for reaching out to faculty members:

- · Send an email
- · Talk to them before or after class
- · Make an appointment for a one-on-one conversation
- · Look on Canvas under the specific course to find their office hours

You may end up asking a faculty member for a recommendation for work. So, getting to know them now will benefit you in the long run.

# **Academics**

#### **REGISTERING FOR COURSES**

# You can register:

- Online
- Mail
- Fax 425-235-7826

# **Continuing Education students**

- Mail your <u>Registration Form</u> to Renton Technical College, 3000 NE 4th Street, Renton, WA. 98056
  - » Please print, complete front and back, and mail to the above address
- 2. By fax at 425-235-7826
- 3. Online
  - If you are new to the college and wishes to register with the web option, you are required to apply for admission through <u>Online Student Services</u>. When the admissions application is processed, you will be provided with a student identification number and PIN.
  - o The web registration option requires that students have a student identification number and PIN number to access web registration.
- 4. Purchase required books, tools and/or supplies.

### What to Keep in Mind for Registration

- · Programs have a set of courses that you must take in order to earn that degree. If you wait too long to take these classes, this may impact your graduation date.
- · Know the prerequisites of the courses you want to take, and make sure you have fulfilled them. These could include other courses, a minimum GPA, a minimum number of credits, a minimum grade in another course or a minimum score on a placement exam. Some courses may even have co-requisites.
- · Do not want to waste your time trying to register for a class that you cannot even take.
- · Classes fill quickly and students with more credits will register first. You may not be able to register for the classes you want, so it is a good idea to have a list of backup classes when you register.
- · Know when your registration time is and do not procrastinate! · If your registration time is during your class, you can ask your professor if it is okay for you to register during that class period. Many professors will say yes!

#### STUDYING AND ACADEMIC HELP

RTC offers a variety of resources that students may use to aid them in their academics.

### Learning Resource and Career Center (LRCC) Building C Room 102:

· The LRCC provides a free tutoring service via **ZOOM** to help students succeed in their classes. There are tutors available for Math, English, Science (biology, chemistry, anatomy & physiology), Accounting, Basic Studies/HS21+, Computer Apps/Science/CNT/BAS, Early Childhood, Engineering Design, Industrial & Structural Engineering, Mechatronics, Medical Assistant, and Nursing.

If you have any questions or want more information, call (425) 235-2352 ext. 5721 You can book a tutor online at RTC.edu/Ircc

### Library Building C 2<sup>nd</sup> floor:

• The <u>Renton Technical College Library</u> offers research help, online and print resources, and technology help to support students with their academic goals at RTC. The Library is located on the second floor of the C building. Students have access to a variety of different resources including, but not limited to:

- Checkout services: Students have access to thousands of books, eBooks, magazines, articles, and videos to supplement what they are learning in class, to prepare for a test, or to borrow just for fun.
- Research help: Students can book one-on-one sessions with librarians to help them with research and APA/MLA citations for their papers.
- Computer lab access with printing and scanning
- Group study rooms
- Reflection Space: Students have access to this space for prayer, reflection, and meditation.

If you have questions, please contact the Library at <u>librarian@rtc.edu</u> or text us at (425) 336-2764.

#### **Student Success Center Building I:**

 Student Success Center helps with academic advising and school related commitments.

# Drop-in Independent Study Lab open for Students in Cafeteria:

- An independent study lab is available for students who need internet access or a quiet place to study.
- This lab is intended for those who have a computer or other device but need internet connectivity or a quiet place to study and complete their assignments. The lab is for academic use only. Please wear headphones if your volume is up on your device.
- The lab is located in the cafeteria in Building I and can be accessed through the doors leading from the courtyard area.
- Internet Access: RTC will provide guest wireless internet access, but you must bring your computer or device to utilize the Wi-Fi. Instructions will be provided at every table.

#### Disabilities Services Building I Room 205B:

 Disabilities Services advises students with disabilities and works with them to determine eligibility for any services and accommodations that may benefit them.

# **Stress Management**

**Performance related stress is different:** Veterans are no stranger to stress, I'd argue we thrive in it and most would probably agree. You are uniquely endowed at this point with more resilience than the average civilian. However, during your time in school everything you do is being evaluated by grading as opposed to effort or pass/fail systems. You will also be flooded with constant due dates, group projects and lots of homework. In light of this, a great deal of perspective often helps me when I feel I am falling behind or getting grades I am not pleased with. For example, when finals week hits I remind myself: "This is one test...for one class...in one quarter...in one year...during my entire life." Slowing things down is a necessity and reminds me to take things on one step at a time.

It's a marathon not a sprint: Remember that first time you had to run long distance? If your experience was like mine, you probably started at a pace too fast to keep up and got burnt out along the way. School is a lot like running. There will be temptation to post 4.0s in all your class and while aiming high is healthy, remember you are doing this for about 2 years. The last thing you want to do, is use up all your gas in the first year and hit empty when you're towards the end. Pace yourself so you can post consistently good grades.

A relieving reminder you already have work experience: When you graduate, employers will be mostly interested in your college degree and that you were in the military. While grades are important and some employers may ask for a transcript, that is usually a metric they balance against students who have no work experience. I'm not saying you should underachieve but you shouldn't beat yourself up for every disappointing grade you receive. When recruiters are filtering through their various resumes they will mostly see the following: college degree, volunteered as treasurer of the film club and maybe a part time job waiting tables. At the end of the day, most employers will be excited to see a veteran that earned their college degree. This serves to your advantage, act accordingly.

Appropriate school/life balance: You're out of the military, going to school and that feeling of freedom can be fleeting once the school quarter gets underway. Make sure you allow yourself proper time for self-care. Keep up with your friends/family, step away from homework when you need to and get plenty of sleep. Another thing to note is that school is a unique chapter in a person's life. On top of this, you may actually be working part time while attending too. Your friends/family will have to make note of this. I have found that sometimes social

life and school can conflict. This conflict can be stressful if people don't understand what you have going on. A friendly reminder to your social circles can help alleviate any unnecessary tensions in your life and ultimately reduce your stress.

# **Time Management**

Everyone manages their time differently and has systems that work for them. But, here are three things you absolutely need to know:

- 1. Use a Calendar instead of a "To-do" list: Perhaps my most essential tool in keeping organized has been my digital calendar (google calendar). I put everything in my calendar: grocery shopping, study time, work schedule, social events, class times, etc. I find that this method not only allows me to keep track of what I need to do but it also forces me to appropriately budget my time. Consider ditching a "to-do list" and start to put everything in a calendar so you know how long all your tasks will take.
- Backwards planning: You most likely know what this means as a veteran but it's
  different with school related tasks. In academia, you have to use your critical
  thinking to accomplish your tasks, professors aren't going to walk you through
  everything.

An example of this is when you write papers. It is assumed that you will realize all that goes into writing a paper: research, outline, rough draft, edit, rough draft again, edit again, paper completed. This means you need to appropriate the proper time and plan backwards from the due date. If your paper is due in 7 days aim for completing your final rough draft on day 6 so you have an extra 24 hours to look over it. That means you need to have your outline done by day 3 so you have plenty of time to write your rough drafts. Since your outline is due on the 3rd day, your research should be done by day 2. That means you should probably start doing the research immediately. Consider using backwards planning on all your tasks.

3. **Be "On time":** Showing up on time for class/work is different in the civilian world. I'm not advocating that veterans don't show up 15 minutes early to class and work. However, I have found myself showing up an hour early to class because I got a little too paranoid in my backwards planning. Aim for 15 minutes early but you are not in the military anymore and people aren't going to freak out if you show up merely 5 minutes early

# Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society



In keeping with the Renton Technical College philosophy of encouraging excellence in all of our programs, we are constantly looking for ways that individual students and teams of students can be recognized for their skills and academic excellence.

Recognition for academic excellence is bestowed in two ways: by the school and by an international honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. The

RTC chapter, Beta Phi Delta, was founded in 2014. It is rated as one of the fastest-growing regional and national chapters of Phi Theta Kappa.

## **Program Description**

Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, recognizes student academic excellence and leadership potential and gives members the opportunity for involvement in leadership, travel, and campus and community service activities.

### How do I join Phi Theta Kappa at RTC?

After you have completed at least 12 credits successfully at RTC, **IF** your cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) is equal to or greater than 3.0 on a 4 point scale, you will be sent an invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa.

## Does it cost money to join?

There is a fee to join the National PTK organization. It is a one-time fee. We do NOT charge anything extra for membership in the RTC Chapter. What's my incentive to join?

**Opportunities for Service and Leadership:** We encourage PTK members to organize or participate in college and community service events. There are opportunities to demonstrate leadership at the event level, and at the PTK chapter level.

**Recognition:** If you keep your grades high, and graduate with a 3.0 GPA, you will be allowed to wear a special stole on your gown at graduation. Your membership in PTK will be noted on your official transcript, and you will be given a gold seal that you can place on your Certificate or Degree when you receive it.

**Scholarships**: You may also apply for PTK transfer scholarships, to go on towards a four-year degree, which are only offered to PTK members!

# **Important Contacts**

**NOTE:** visit rtc.edu/contact-info for most recent updates

**Student Services** 

Department	Email	Phone Number
Advising (Career Counseling, Prospective Students, Outreach, etc.)	advising@rtc.edu	425-235-5840 425-448-3416 (text only)
Behavioral Health Services (Short-term Counseling)	<u>behavioralhealth@rtc.edu</u>	(425) 235-5759
<u>Bookstore</u>	bookstore@rtc.edu	425-235-2323
Cashiering	<u>cashiering@rtc.edu</u>	425-235-2352 x5910 425-215-0877 (text only)
College Technology Services Technical Support (Student email support, Canvas access, tech issues etc.)	servicedesk@rtc.edu	425-235-2500
<u>Disability Resource Services</u>	<u>drs@rtc.edu</u>	425-235-2352 x5540
Enrollment Services (Registration, Admissions, Transcripts, etc.)	registration@rtc.edu	425-235-2352 x5978 425-448-3493 (text only)
Financial Aid	financialaid@rtc.edu	425-235-5841
Learning Resources and Career Center (LRCC) (Food Pantry, Tutoring, Computer Access)	<u>Ircc@rtc.edu</u>	425-235-2352 x5721
<u>Library</u>	<u>librarian@rtc.edu</u>	(425) 336-2764 (text only)
RTC Foundation (Emergency grants, books/equipment grants, other scholarships, etc.)	foundation@rtc.edu	425-235-7867
Testing Services	testingcenter@rtc.edu	425-235-2352 x5704
<u>Veterans Services</u>	veterans@rtc.edu	425-235- 2352x5805

# **Administrative**

Department	Email	Phone Number
<b>Business Office</b>	businessoffice@rtc.edu	425-235-2352 x5508
President's Office	dbeers@rtc.edu president@rtc.edu	425-235-2426

#### **GI Bill Hotline**

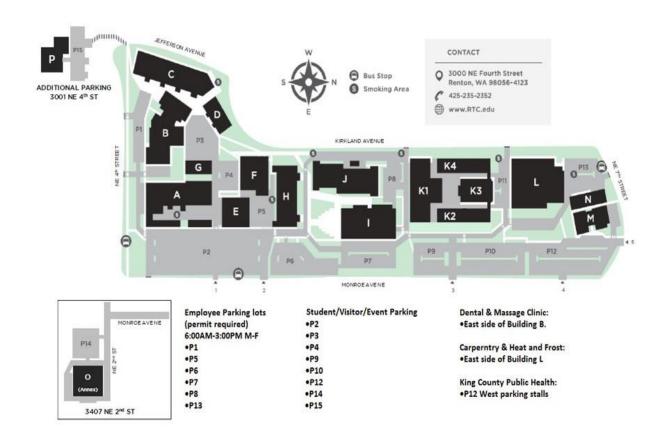
(888-442-4551). Call between 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Central Time, Monday-Friday.

# Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Seattle location: (206) 341-8267

dav.org

## **Campus Map:**



# **Frequently Asked Questions**

What do I do if I am also eligible to receive Tuition Assistance? A veteran cannot utilize federal Tuition Assistance benefits and certain VA Educational Benefits at the same time so first, find out if the Tuition Assistance you have is funded federally or by the state. If your Tuition Assistance is funded by the state, submit your paperwork to the VA School Certifying Official (SCO) for processing.

### What do I do if I am called to Active Duty?

You will need to fill out a Military Service Leave of Absence Request. Please also contact the certifying official if you are leaving for active duty.

When you return from active duty, contact the veteran's services to notify them of when you plan to return to RTC.

Is there a Common Access Card reader for veterans to use on campus? Yes. A CAC reader is located in The Outreach Center (Student Center 110). Inquire at the front desk for assistance.

If I am using the Post 9-11 GI Bill®, will I need to pay my bill out of pocket if the school has yet to receive my tuition and fee payment from the VA by the tuition due date? No, the Office of Student Financial Services will incorporate the anticipated amount of your VA Educational Benefits into your quarterly bill. You are only responsible for paying the portion of your bill not covered by your benefits or other types of financial aid by the tuition due date. If you are receiving Post 9-11 GI Bill® benefits you will not be assessed any financial penalties while the school waits to receive your anticipated tuition and fee payment from the VA.

# How many credits do I need to take each quarter to be eligible for the Basic Housing Allowance (BAH) under the Post 9-11 GI Bill®?

For the Fall, Winter and Spring quarters undergraduates need to enroll in at least 7 credits to be eligible to receive the BAH. To receive the maximum amount of BAH you will need to be at full-time status (12 credits). For courses taken during the Summer Quarter please contact a VA Certifying Official for clarification. Also, the Department of VA no longer issues break pay for students using VA Educational benefits.

How will my financial aid be affected by my VA educational benefits? Most VA benefits are not considered when determining a student's eligibility for Federal and State funding. However, institutional funding may be affected. To receive the most accurate information, please contact Student Financial Services to be put in touch with a VA School Certifying Official (SCO).

# Do I have to fill out any additional paperwork to receive my VA Educational Benefits each quarter?

No. Once you have submitted all your paperwork to the Office of Student Financial

Services and have registered for a quarter, a VA School Certifying Official (SCO) will automatically review your courses for degree applicability. You will be contacted if any of courses are found to not apply to your degree. A SCO will then automatically submit your quarterly certification (Form 22-1999) to the Department of VA for processing. Except for Summer Terms where the SCO will notify students of actions that need to be taken for certification.

Last Updated: 8/18/2021

# We're So Glad You're Here

In closing, I hope this book has helped you discover of our little piece of Renton, and has made you feel more a part of this community.

If at any time you're feeling overwhelmed from classes or work or just need to take a break, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the many people on campus here to support you. While The Learning Resource and Career Center staff is here, there are also many other staff, faculty, and students who want to make sure you're successful here.

I hope that your time here at RTC brings you the joy and helps you reach your goals.

In the wise words of Malcom X, "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

Sincerely,

Levi Christianson AAS Welding Class of 2022