



VA Math

The VA uses the Whole-Body Concept when combining VA ratings. Every person starts off at 100% and each following service-connected condition takes a percentage of the overall total. You can never be more than 100% service connected. The VA doesn't add percentages together they combine them.

VA Math: 30 % + 20% + 10% = Combined Rating of 50% (NOT 60%)

How is this possible? *Think of a percent of a percent of a percent.*

Start with the largest rating, 30%. This rating is subtracted from the total body rating of 100%. Of the total body, now 70% is left. Only subtract 20% of the **70 that is left**, which is 14 ($0.2 \times 70 = 14$). 70 minus 14 is 56. Since 14 was subtracted from the total body, 14 is added to the total combined rating.

Veteran's Condition Ratings	Veteran's Total Body (Starts at 100)	Total Combined Rating (starts at 0%)
Knee: 30%	$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ - 30 \\ \hline 70 \end{array}$	30%
Shoulder: 20%	$\begin{array}{r} 70 \\ - 14 \text{ (20\% of 70)} \\ \hline 56 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 30 \\ + 14 \\ \hline 44\% \end{array}$
Back: 10%	$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ - 30 \text{ (10\% of 56)} \\ \hline 50.4 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 44 \\ + 5.6 \\ \hline 49.6\% \text{ rounds up to } 50\% \end{array}$

Final Total Combined Rating: 50%

VA always rounds on the last step.

44% is rounded down to 40%

46% is rounded up to 50%



VA Math with Bilateral Factors

If you have both arms, both legs or all four limbs are affected by rated conditions, an additional 10% is added. This is a bilateral rating.

If a bilateral factor is added, calculate the bilateral factor conditions first, then rank the remaining conditions (the combined bilateral conditions now count as a single condition) from highest rating to lowest and continue with normal VA Math.

Condition Rating	Total Body (Starts at 100)	Total Combined Rating (starts at 0%)
Right Shoulder 20%	$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ -20 \text{ (Highest Bilateral \%)} \\ \hline 80 \end{array}$	20%
Left shoulder 10%	$\begin{array}{r} 80 \\ -8 \text{ (10\% of 80)} \\ \hline 72 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 20 \\ +8 \\ \hline 28\% \end{array}$
Bilateral Factor 10%	$\begin{array}{r} \text{Take Total Combined Ratings} \\ 2.8 \text{ (10\% of 28)} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 28 \\ +2.8 \\ \hline 30.8\% \\ \text{Round to the nearest whole} \\ \text{number 31\%} \end{array}$
Back 40%	$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ -40 \\ \hline 60 \end{array}$	40%
Bilateral Conditions 31%	$\begin{array}{r} 60 \\ -18.6 \text{ (31\% of 60)} \\ \hline 41.4 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 40 \\ +18.6 \\ \hline 58.6\% \text{ rounds to 60\%} \end{array}$

Total Combined Rating with Bilateral Factors: 60%

The Bilateral Factor will always be applied unless it results in a lower Total Combined Rating than would result if it were not added (very rare)



DODGE COUNTY

Veterans Services

Veterans Services

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VA Math Explained

<https://militarydisabilitymadeeasy.com/va-math.html>

VA Math Calculators

<https://www.hillandponton.com/va-disability-calculator/>

<https://www.va.gov/disability/about-disability-ratings/>

<https://www.dav.org/disability-calculator/>