

The Secret Behind VA Math and the Combined Ratings Table

“VA Math” is the way that the VA computes combined impairment ratings for multiple conditions in a [Veteran’s compensation claim](#) – and it requires that you unlearn real math. When a Veteran has multiple medical conditions that are service connected, and the VA rates each at a different percentage, it would seem that they should just add up your percentages to get to a [total body impairment rating](#). Things are not as they seem.

If a Veteran has a 30% rating for condition A, and a 40% rating for Condition B, the total rating is NOT 70%. The VA does not add multiple ratings to get a total rating; instead, they use a formula to get a combined rating. The VA computes the combined rating by considering each disability in order of severity, beginning with the highest evaluation.

In the above example, the VA Combined Rating for the 2 conditions is 60%, not 70%. Here’s the secret to understanding the VA Combined Ratings Table. Your ratings are combined based on the concept of “Whole Person Remaining”. The idea is that if you have NO disabilities, you are a 100% whole person. If you have a 30% disability, you are 30% disabled and 70% whole. Each subsequent rating is a REDUCTION of the whole person remaining.

The VA publishes a [combined rating table](#) to assist in these calculations. The VA Combined Ratings Table is a table that shows your [total impairment percentage](#) when you have more than one disabling service-connected condition. List your disabilities, highest to lowest, with the percentage of impairment next to it. Start with the highest, and then one-by-one, use the above linked combined ratings table to combine your remaining rating.