



Over 5 million post-9/11 service members are expected to transition out of the military by 2020. Since the enactment of the Post-9/11 GI Bill in 2008, Americans have invested over \$42 billion on educating many of these transitioning service members. However, little is known about student veterans and their enrollment characteristics at a time when higher education and policymakers need to better understand the needs of this growing, posttraditional undergraduate population.



### Student Veterans Pursue Nontraditional Pathways to Higher Education

Veterans in college make up a small percentage of undergraduates  
**4%** of undergraduates are veterans

**5 years =**



the average time veterans delay entering college after graduating from high school

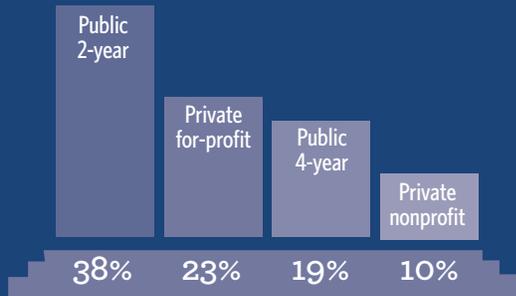
**44%**

are in bachelor's degree programs

**54%**

are in associate degree or certificate programs

A Majority of Veterans are Enrolled in Community Colleges and For-Profit Colleges



**23%** of veterans attend a college located more than 100 miles from their home



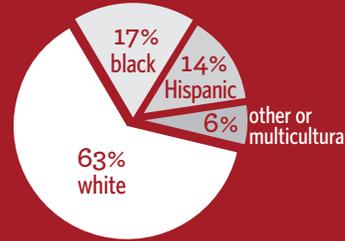
**61%** took classes online, at night, or on weekends (alternative coursework)



**90%** of those who took alternative courses did so online



### Student Veterans Come from Diverse Backgrounds



**6%** are foreign born citizens



On average, at the start of their postsecondary education veterans are

**25 years old**



**21%** are female



**44%** are married



**52%** have dependents



### 1 in 5 Veterans in College Major in STEM Fields

**20%** are in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields



### A Large Share of Veterans Work While in College



**42%** work full-time while in college (excluding work study)

### Most Veterans Apply for and Receive Financial Aid

**89%** applied for financial aid

**85%** of those who applied received aid

**\$9,900\*** is the average amount of total financial aid received

\*Includes all aid sources, such as federal, state, and institutional grants, loans, work-study, as well as Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense benefits.

### Not All Veterans Receive Veterans' Education Benefits

**59%** received veterans' benefits

