



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

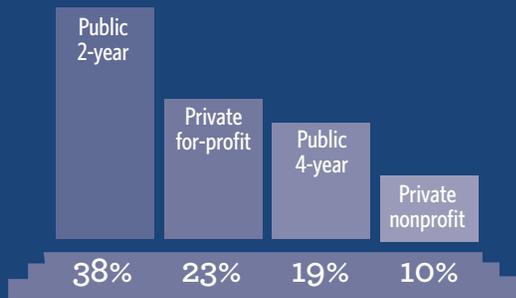
44%

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

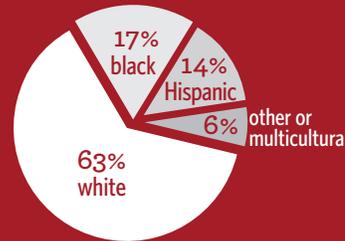


61% took classes online, at night, or on weekends (alternative coursework)



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