

# STATS IN BRIEF

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AUGUST 2016

NCES 2016-435

## After the Post-9/11 GI Bill

### A Profile of Military Service Members and Veterans Enrolled in Undergraduate and Graduate Education

#### AUTHORS

Alexandria Walton Radford

Alexander Bentz

Remmert Dekker

Jonathan Paslov

RTI International

#### PROJECT OFFICER

Sean A. Simone

National Center for Education Statistics

Statistics in Brief publications present descriptive data in tabular formats to provide useful information to a broad audience, including members of the general public. They address simple and topical issues and questions. They do not investigate more complex hypotheses, account for inter-relationships among variables, or support causal inferences. We encourage readers who are interested in more complex questions and in-depth analysis to explore other NCES resources, including publications, online data tools, and public- and restricted-use datasets. See [nces.ed.gov](https://nces.ed.gov) and references noted in the body of this document for more information.

## The Post-9/11 GI Bill

took effect on August 1, 2009

(U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 2009), increasing the education benefits available to military service members who served after September 10, 2001.<sup>1</sup> Focusing on the academic years examined in this report, during the 2007–08 academic year (before the new law took effect), its predecessor, the Montgomery GI Bill, provided veterans enrolled full time in postsecondary education up to \$1,101 per month for both living and education expenses (for a maximum annual amount of \$9,909, assuming a 9-month full-time academic year, regardless of tuition and fee charges (exhibit 1) (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 2007). In contrast, by the 2011–12 academic year, the Post-9/11 GI Bill was available, and it covered eligible service members and veterans' complete tuition and fee costs at any public college or university in their state of residence or up to \$17,500 towards a private or foreign institution, with the opportunity to secure additional money at participating institutions through the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 2007, 2011–2012, 2015).

---

<sup>1</sup> This bill was subsequently updated in the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, which was signed into law January 4, 2011 (P.L. 111-377)

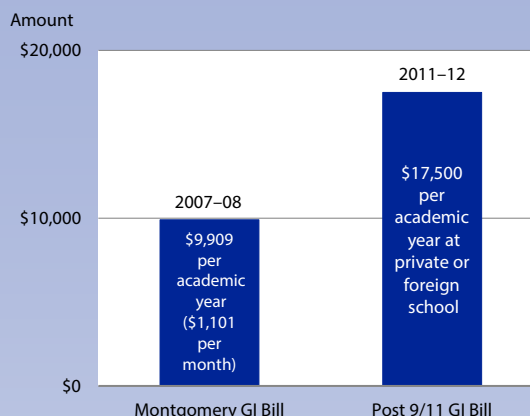
This Statistics in Brief was prepared for the National Center for Education Statistics under Contract No. ED-ED-IES-12-C-0095 with RTI International. Mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Those participating under the new bill could also qualify for funds for books and supplies and for an additional, separate housing allowance determined by local housing costs. As Veterans' education benefits have expanded, so too has the amount spent on these benefits. Between 2007–08 and 2011–12, Veterans' education benefits and military education aid increased from \$4.6 billion to \$11.7 billion in 2013 dollars (Baum, Elliott, and Ma 2014).

A previous NCES study used national data collected in 2007–08 to profile military undergraduate and graduate students who received benefits prior to the Post-9/11 GI Bill's implementation (Radford 2011). The current study adds analogous data from 2011–12 to profile students receiving Veterans' education benefits after the Post-9/11 GI Bill's implementation. This Statistics in Brief compares key statistics on military students' demographic characteristics, enrollment experiences, and benefit participation in both 2007–08 and 2011–12. Note that veterans who left service before 9/11 are not eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and that those who served after 9/11 (September 11, 2001) can choose whether to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits or other Veterans' education benefits. During the 2013 fiscal year, 69 percent of all beneficiaries of Veterans' education

## EXHIBIT 1. VETERANS' BENEFITS AND ELIGIBILITY

### Montgomery vs. Post-9/11 GI Bill—Maximum Benefits for Tuition and Fees



NOTE: Maximum benefit eligibility depends on level of service. Post 9/11 GI Bill recipients can also receive additional funds if their institution participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 2015).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2007, October 1). *Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (Chapter 30) Increased Educational Benefit*. Retrieved February 24, 2015, from [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits\\_resources/rates/ch30/ch30rates100107.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch30/ch30rates100107.asp). U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2011–2012). *Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) Payment Rates for 2011 Academic Year (August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012)*. Retrieved February 24, 2015, from [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits\\_resources/rates/ch33/Ch33rates080111.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch33/Ch33rates080111.asp).

### Who Is Eligible?

#### Montgomery GI Bill

- 3 years of active duty service (or less if original commitment was under 3 years) or 2 years of active duty and 4 years of reserves;
- Honorably discharged and have a high school diploma or GED; and
- Benefits provided for up to 36 months and are available for 10 years following separation or discharge.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2011, February). *The Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty*. VA Pamphlet 22-90-2. Retrieved February 18, 2015, from [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch30\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch30_pamphlet.pdf).

#### Post-9/11 GI Bill

- 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001;
- Honorably discharged or discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days; and
- Benefits provided for up to 36 months and are available for up to 15 years following separation or discharge.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2012, May). *Post-9/11 GI Bill: It's Your Future*. Retrieved February 18, 2015, from [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch33\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch33_pamphlet.pdf).

programs received their benefits through the Post-9/11 GI Bill, while the remainder received their benefits through other Veterans Affairs education programs such as the Montgomery GI Bill, Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance (DEA), or the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP) (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 2013). Thus, in this report, not all 2011–12 students awarded Veterans' benefits will have received them through the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12), on which this analysis is based, did not collect information on the specific type of Veterans' education benefits recipients used.

Following the comparisons between 2007–08 and 2011–12, this report also presents findings on 2011–12 military students' reported disabilities and participation in online education courses and programs.

## DATA

The data analyzed in this Statistics in Brief are drawn from the 2007–08 and 2011–12 administrations of the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12). NPSAS is a representative sample survey of undergraduate and graduate

students enrolled in institutions eligible to receive federal financial aid. All five of the U.S. Service academies are excluded from NPSAS because of their unique funding/tuition base: U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and U.S. Air Force Academy. In NPSAS:08, students were enrolled any time between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008. In NPSAS:12, students were enrolled any time between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012. The primary purpose of the NPSAS studies is to collect information on how students and their families pay for postsecondary education, with particular emphasis on federal student aid provided through Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and later amendments. More information on data collected in the NPSAS studies is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas/>.

All comparisons of estimates were tested for statistical significance using the Student's *t* statistic, and all differences cited are statistically significant at the  $p < .05$  level.<sup>2</sup>

### *Defining Military Students*

In both NPSAS administrations, information on military status was based on reports from students' interview, federal financial aid application, and

record from their postsecondary institution. Students were considered military students in 2011–12 if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard.

Like the previous NCES report on military students (Radford 2011), this Statistics in Brief compares military students with the most comparable nonmilitary students—those considered financially independent from their parents for financial aid purposes. By definition all military students are independent. For contextual purposes, this Brief also includes information on nonmilitary dependent students,<sup>3</sup> as was done in another NCES publication on military students (Radford and Wun 2009).

<sup>2</sup> No adjustments for multiple comparisons were made.

<sup>3</sup> Nonmilitary dependent students include those who are under 24 and unmarried; have no dependents; are not orphans, wards of the court, or determined to be independent by an institution's financial aid officer; and are not veterans, in active military service, reserves, or the National Guard.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

**1** How did the number of military students and the percentage of military students among all undergraduate and graduate students change between 2007–08 (under the Montgomery GI Bill only) and 2011–12 (after implementation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill); how did military students' enrollment characteristics change between the two time periods?

**2** What percentage of military undergraduate and graduate students received Veterans' education benefits, and what was the average amount received; how did participation and benefit amounts change between 2007–08 and 2011–12?

**3** In 2011–12, how did military undergraduate and graduate students differ from their nonmilitary peers in terms of demographics, disability status, and participation in online education?

## KEY FINDINGS

- In 2011–12 there were about 1.1 million military students enrolled in undergraduate education, up from 914,000 in 2007–08 (table 1). The growth in military students' enrollment exceeded overall enrollment growth, as military students represented 4.9 percent of all 23.1 million undergraduates in 2011–12 compared with 4.5 percent of all 20.5 million undergraduates in 2007–08. This rise was concentrated among veterans.
- Between 2007–08 and 2011–12, the percentage of military undergraduates attending for-profit 2-year or higher institutions increased from 14 percent to 24 percent, while the percentage attending public 2-year colleges declined from 42 percent to 37 percent (figure 1A).
- Between 2007–08 and 2011–12, use of Veterans' education benefits by military students increased among both undergraduates (36 percent to 55 percent) and graduate students (22 percent to 46 percent). The average amounts awarded to these recipients also increased. In constant 2012 dollars they rose from \$5,800 to \$7,900 for undergraduates and from \$5,600 to \$8,200 for graduate students (figures 4A and 4B).
- In 2011–12, some 18 percent of military undergraduates reported a disability, compared with 13 percent of their nonmilitary independent peers (figure 5A). Disability rates of military and nonmilitary graduate students were not significantly different (figure 5B).
- In 2011–12, both undergraduate and graduate military students participated in online education at higher rates than their nonmilitary peers. Some 18 percent of military undergraduates took all their classes online, compared with 12 percent among nonmilitary independent students. The same figures for military and nonmilitary graduate students were 41 percent and 19 percent, respectively (figure 6).

## 1

## How did the number of military students and the percentage of military students among all undergraduate and graduate students change between 2007–08 (under the Montgomery GI Bill only) and 2011–12 (after implementation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill); how did military students' enrollment characteristics change between the two time periods?

As shown in table 1, between 2007–08 and 2011–12, both the number and percentage of military students among all undergraduates rose. The number of all military students increased from 914,000 to 1.1 million. By military subgroup, the number of veterans enrolled as undergraduates increased from 688,000 to 856,000. There was not a statistically significant increase in the

total number of all military students enrolled in graduate education between the two time periods. There were changes by military subgroup, however. The number of reservists enrolled in graduate education increased from 8,400 to 18,200. The apparent decline in the number of active duty military students among graduate students (from 31,400 in 2007–08 to

26,300 in 2011–12) was not statistically significant. Viewed in proportion to all students, military students constituted about 4.9 percent of all 23.1 million undergraduates in 2011–12, up from 4.5 percent of all 20.5 million undergraduates in 2007–08; military graduate students constituted 4.2 percent and 4.3 percent of all graduate students in 2007–08 and 2011–12, respectively.

### TABLE 1.

#### MILITARY STUDENTS IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Percentage distribution and number of undergraduates and graduate students by military status: 2007–08 and 2011–12

	Undergraduates				Graduate students			
	2007–08		2011–12		2007–08		2011–12	
Military status	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,510,700</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23,055,400</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,476,100</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,682,200</b>
Military students	4.5	913,800	4.9	1,132,900	4.2	146,500	4.3	159,700
Veterans	3.4	688,000	3.7	855,900	3.1	106,700	3.0	109,700
Military service members								
Active duty	0.7	150,400	0.7	170,800	0.9	31,400	0.7	26,300
Reserves	0.4	75,400	0.3	74,300	0.2	8,400	0.5	18,200
National Guard <sup>†</sup>	†	†	0.1	31,900	†	†	0.1	5,500
Nonmilitary students	95.5	19,596,800	95.1	21,922,600	95.8	3,329,500	95.7	3,522,400

† Not applicable.

<sup>†</sup> Students in NPSAS:08 were not asked to report National Guard status.

NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).



The undergraduate enrollment patterns across types of institutions also changed between 2007–08 and 2011–12. The percentage of students enrolled in for-profit 2-year or higher institutions increased between 2007–08 and 2011–12 among both military (from 14 percent to 24 percent) and nonmilitary independent

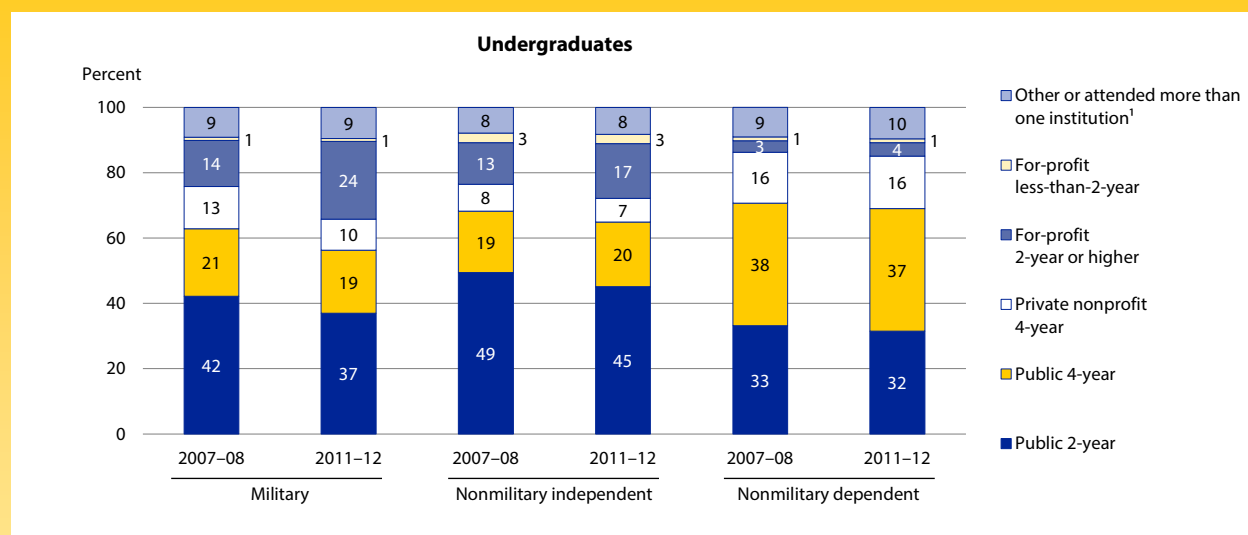
undergraduates (from 13 percent to 17 percent) (figure 1A); though in 2011–12, the percentage of military undergraduates enrolled in these institutions was higher than that of their nonmilitary independent peers (24 percent vs. 17 percent). Conversely, the percentages enrolled in public 2-year colleges declined, from

42 percent to 37 percent among military undergraduates and from 49 percent to 45 percent among nonmilitary independent undergraduates. Among military undergraduates, the percentage enrolled in private non-profit 4-year institutions also declined, from 13 percent to 10 percent.

**FIGURE 1A.**

**UNDERGRADUATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE**

**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary undergraduates by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**



<sup>1</sup> Other includes public less-than-2-year and private nonprofit less-than-4-year institutions, which in these administrations of NPSAS comprised no more than approximately 1 percent of the student populations presented. In these administrations of NPSAS, in both 2007–08 and 2011–12, about 8 percent of all undergraduates and 9 percent of military undergraduates had attended more than one institution.

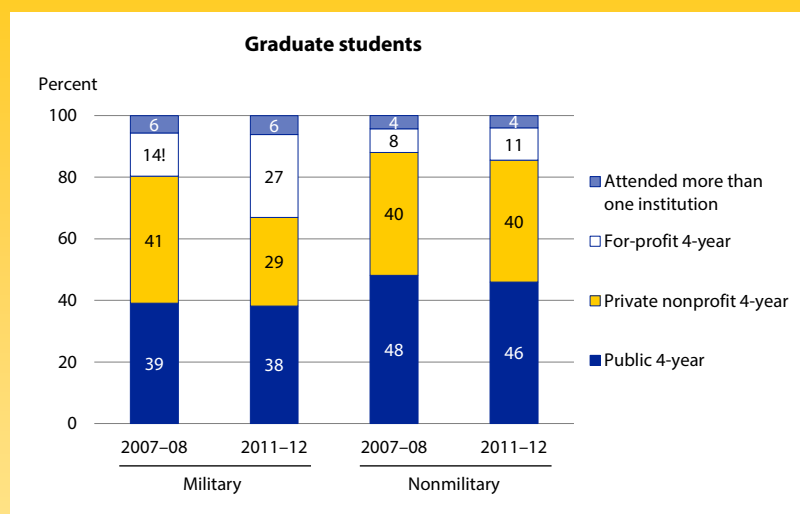
NOTE: In 2011–12, students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

Among graduate students, the percentage enrolled in various types of institutions also changed between 2007–08 and 2011–12, although in different ways among military and nonmilitary students. Among military students, the percentage enrolled in private nonprofit 4-year institutions declined from 41 percent to 29 percent. Although the 14 percent estimate for 2007–08 is unstable, by 2011–12, some 27 percent of military graduate students were enrolled in for-profit 4-year institutions (figure 1B). Among nonmilitary students, enrollment declined in public 4-year institutions (48 percent in 2007–08 to 46 percent in 2011–12), while over the same period enrollment increased in for-profit 4-year institutions (8 percent to 11 percent).

**FIGURE 1B.**

**GRADUATE STUDENTS BY INSTITUTION TYPE**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary graduate students by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**



! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include graduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

Patterns in attendance status also shifted between 2007–08 and 2011–12. The proportions of military undergraduates and nonmilitary independent undergraduates who attended full time, full year, as well as full time,

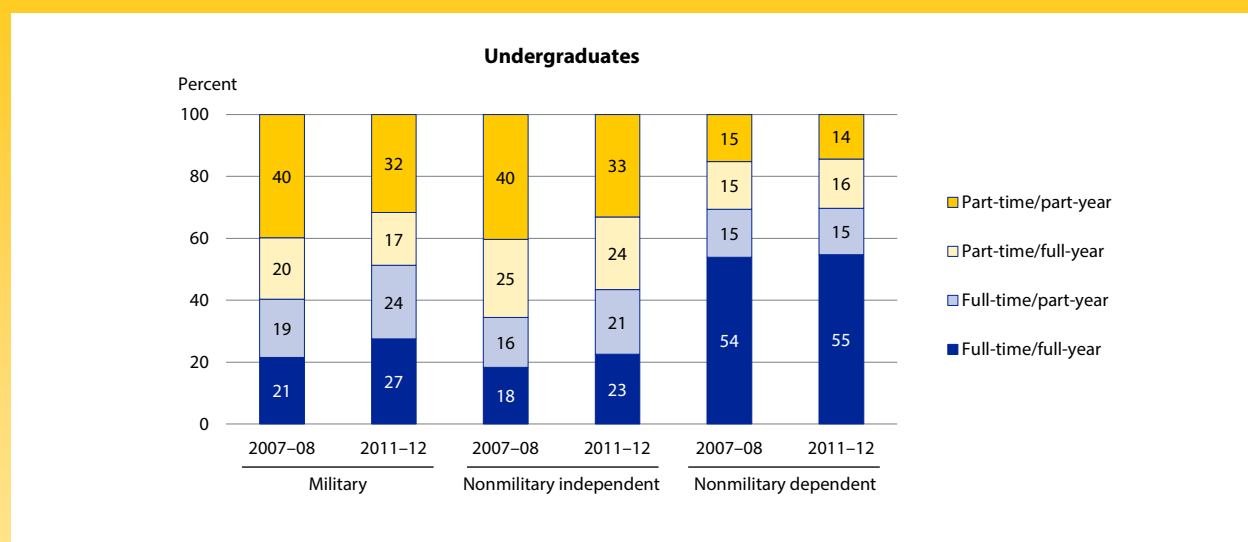
part year, rose by between 4 and 6 percentage points, and the proportion attending part time, part year, decreased by about 8 percentage points (figure 2). These changes in attendance intensity are consistent with the

changes in the type of institution attended, in that relatively more students in for-profit 2-year or higher institutions attend full time than do students in public 2-year institutions (Staklis 2010).

**FIGURE 2.**

**UNDERGRADUATES BY ATTENDANCE STATUS**

**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary undergraduates by attendance status: 2007–08 and 2011–12**



NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Students were considered to have attended for a full year if they were enrolled 9 or more months during the academic year. Months did not have to be contiguous, and students did not have to be enrolled for a full month in order to be considered enrolled for that month. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).



A smaller percentage of military undergraduates were not enrolled in a degree or certificate program in 2011–12 than in 2007–08 (2 percent vs. 6 percent) (figure 3A). In addition, both dependent and independent nonmilitary undergraduate populations had smaller percentages of students enrolled in nondegree programs in 2011–12 than in 2007–08.

These changes are also consistent with the lower enrollment in public 2-year institutions, where proportionally more students than in other types of institutions are not enrolled in a degree program (Staklis 2010).

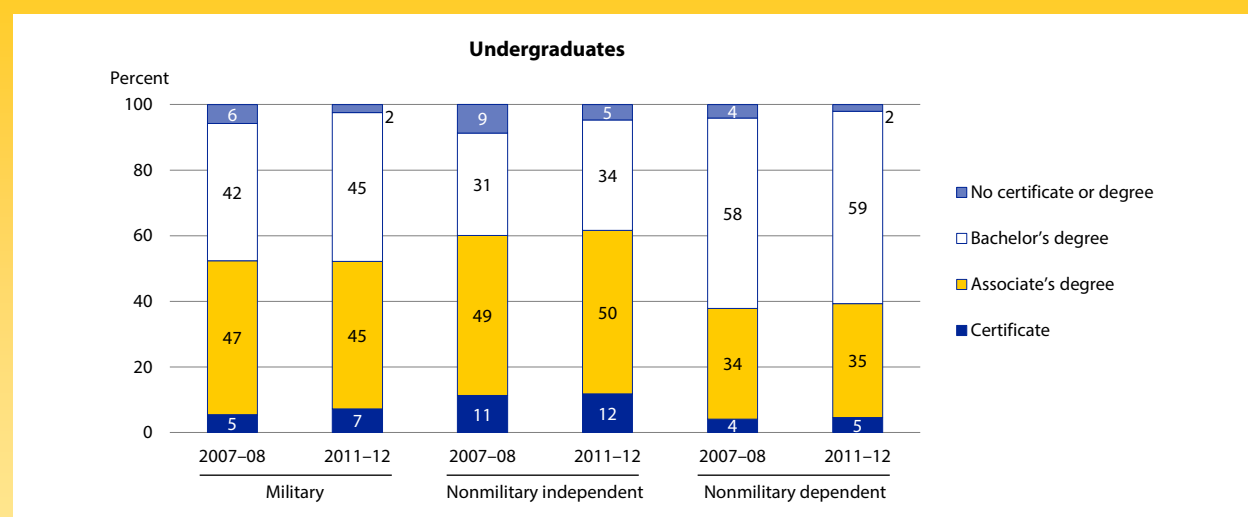
In 2011–12, a higher percentage of military undergraduates than of nonmilitary independent undergraduates

were enrolled in bachelor's degree programs (45 percent vs. 34 percent). But both military and nonmilitary independent students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs at lower rates than did their nonmilitary dependent counterparts (45 percent and 34 percent vs. 59 percent).

## FIGURE 3A.

### UNDERGRADUATES BY DEGREE PROGRAM

Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary undergraduates by degree program: 2007–08 and 2011–12



NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico). SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

Again focusing on 2011–12, military and nonmilitary graduate students enrolled in specific graduate programs at different rates. Lower percentages of military graduate students than non-

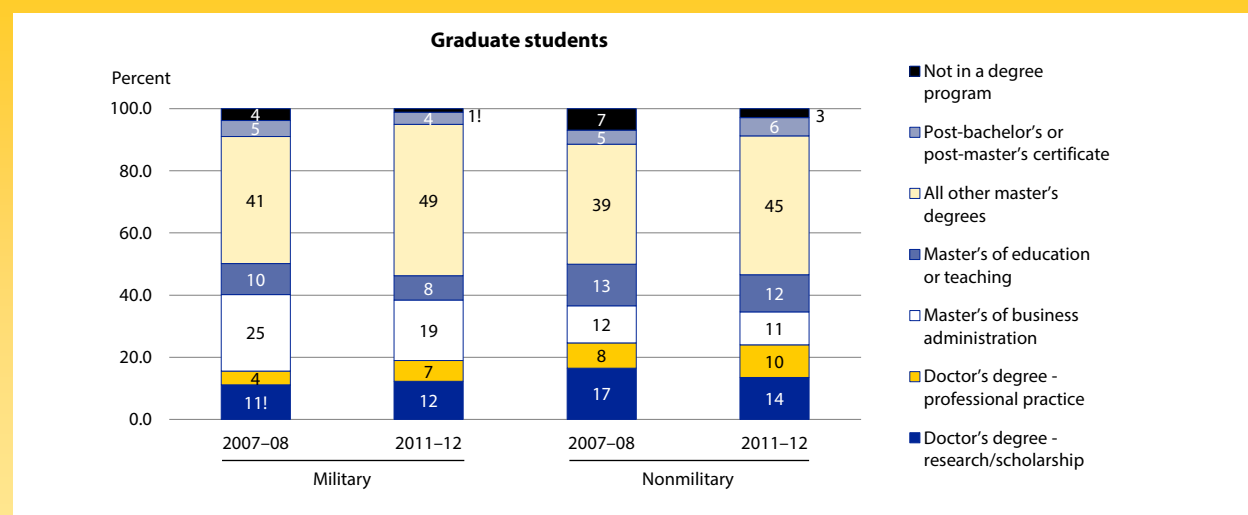
military graduate students enrolled in doctor's degree - professional practice (7 percent vs. 10 percent) and master's programs in education or teaching (8 percent vs. 12 percent) (figure 3B). On the other hand, about one-fifth (19 percent) of military

graduate students were in MBA programs, compared with about one-tenth (11 percent) of nonmilitary graduate students.

**FIGURE 3B.**

**GRADUATE STUDENTS BY DEGREE PROGRAM**

**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary graduate students by degree program: 2007–08 and 2011–12**



! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include graduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico). SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

## 2 What percentage of military undergraduate and graduate students received Veterans' education benefits, and what was the average amount received; how did participation and benefit amounts change between 2007–08 and 2011–12?

Among the approximately 5 percent of undergraduates who were military students, the percentage who received Veterans' education benefits and the average amounts received increased

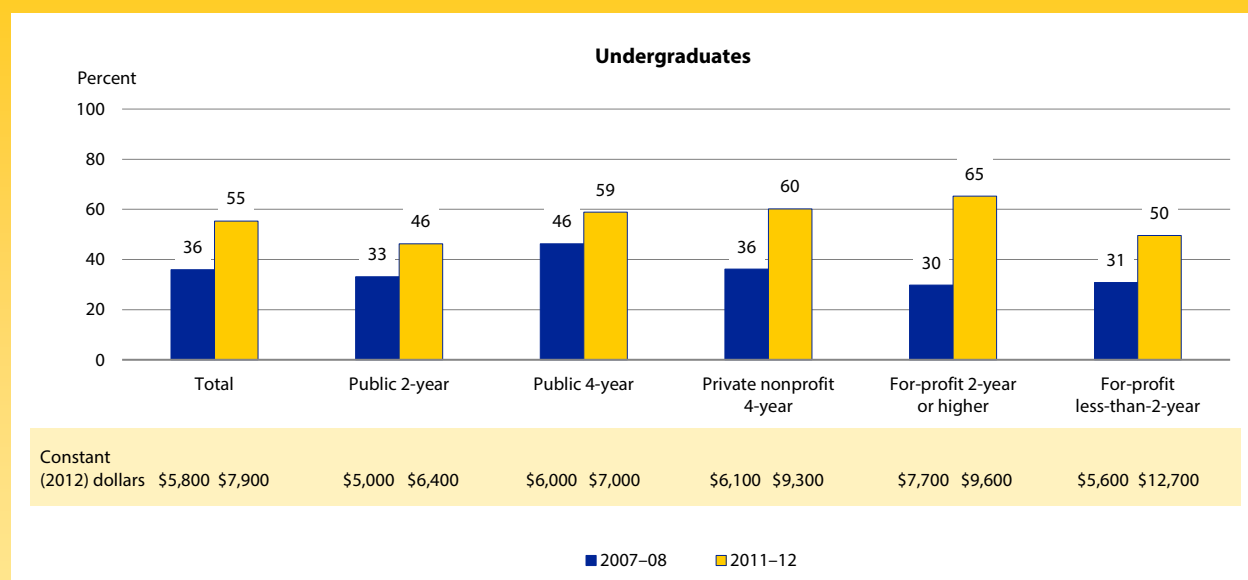
between 2007–08 and 2011–12, both overall and within all institution types (figure 4A).<sup>4</sup> In 2011–12, some 55 percent of all military undergraduates received Veterans' education benefits

averaging \$7,900, compared with 36 percent of military undergraduates in 2007–08 who received Veterans' benefits averaging \$5,800 in constant 2012 dollars.<sup>5</sup>

**FIGURE 4A.**

### UNDERGRADUATES' VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS BY INSTITUTION TYPE

Among military undergraduates who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage who received Veterans' benefits and average amount recipients received, by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12



NOTE: Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, students who were in the National Guard but not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves made up approximately 0.1 percent of all students. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS does not have complete financial aid information for these students. In these administrations of NPSAS, approximately 9 percent of military undergraduates attended more than one institution. Students attending public less-than-2-year and private nonprofit less-than-4-year institutions are included in the total but are not shown separately. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico). Inflation adjustment is based on an academic year (July–June) average.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

<sup>4</sup> NPSAS does not have complete financial aid information for students who attended more than one institution. Because study question 2 focuses on financial aid, analyses under study question 2 exclude those who attended more than one institution.

<sup>5</sup> Among nonmilitary students, 1 percent or less receive Veterans' education benefits because they are spouses or children of current or former military personnel (table A-1).

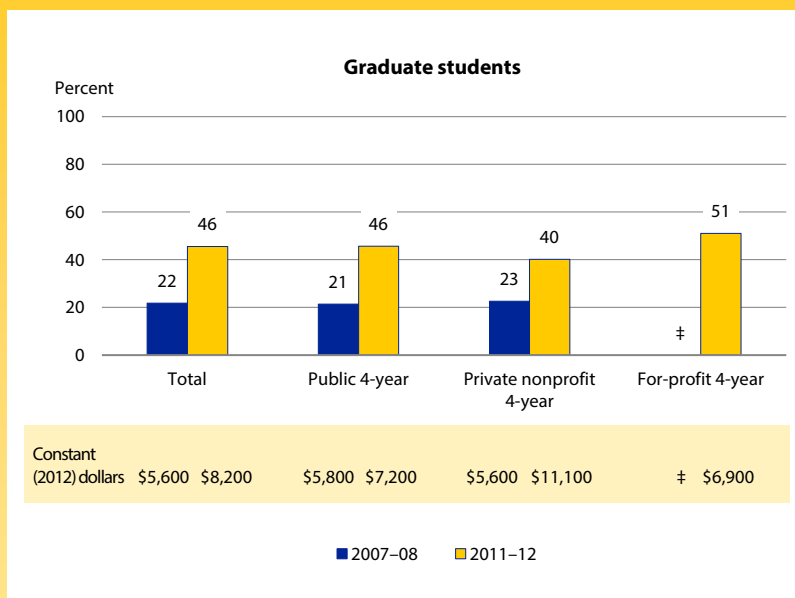
Among military undergraduates, use of Veterans' benefits programs ranged from 46 percent among military undergraduates in public 2-year colleges to 65 percent among their peers in for-profit 2-year or higher institutions in 2011–12. That same academic year, the average amounts received by military undergraduates who received Veterans' education benefits ranged from \$6,400 in public 2-year colleges to \$12,700 in for-profit less-than-2-year institutions.

Like undergraduates, military graduate students' use of Veterans' education benefits increased between 2007–08 and 2011–12 (figure 4B). Overall, the percentage receiving benefits increased from 22 percent to 46 percent, and average benefit amounts received by recipients increased from \$5,600 in constant 2012 dollars in 2007–08 to \$8,200 in 2011–12. For those attending public 4-year colleges and universities, use increased from 21 percent to 46 percent, and for those attending private nonprofit 4-year institutions, it increased from 23 percent to 40 percent. Among recipients, benefit amounts in 2011–12 were \$6,900 in for-profit 4-year institutions, \$7,200 in public 4-year institutions, and \$11,100 in private nonprofit 4-year colleges and universities.

## FIGURE 4B.

### GRADUATE STUDENTS' VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS BY INSTITUTION TYPE

**Among military graduate students who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage who received Veterans' benefits and average amount recipients received, by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**



‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS does not have complete financial aid information for these students. In these administrations of NPSAS, approximately 6 percent of military graduate students attended more than one institution. Estimates include graduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico). Inflation adjustment is based on an academic year (July–June) average.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

Military students are also eligible to receive other types of student financial aid in the form of grants and loans. About one-half of military undergraduates who received Veterans' benefits, 46 percent in 2007–08 and 49 percent in 2011–12, received nonmilitary grant aid as well (table 2). Borrowing among military undergraduates who received Veterans' benefits declined from 31 percent in 2007–08 to 24 percent in 2011–12, and borrowing by those in for-profit 2-year or higher institutions declined from 74 percent to 29 percent. Comparing 2007–08 and 2011–12, no statistically significant difference could be detected using constant 2012 dollars in the average grant amount or in the average loan amount given to military undergraduates who received Veterans' benefits and this particular type of aid. That said, loan amount differences did occur by sector. In constant 2012 dollars, average borrowing increased at public 4-year institutions (from \$6,300 to \$7,600) and decreased at for-profit 2-year or higher institutions (from \$9,400 to \$7,200).

## TABLE 2.

### OTHER TYPES OF AID

**Among military undergraduates who attended only one institution during the academic year and received Veterans' benefits, percentage who received other types of aid and average amount recipients received in these other forms of aid, by institution type and year: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Institution type	2007–08		2011–12	
	Percent	Average (constant 2012 dollars)	Percent	Average
<b>Nonmilitary grant aid</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
Public 2-year	38.3	2,400	47.4	2,700
Public 4-year	52.0	4,900	50.3	5,200
Private nonprofit 4-year	47.0	6,200	43.3	5,900
For-profit less-than-2-year	56.5	‡	49.7	‡
For-profit 2-year or higher	57.9	4,000	51.9	3,700
2-year for-profit	†	†	55.2	3,500
4-year for-profit	†	†	51.0	3,800
<b>Nonmilitary loans</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>\$7,300</b>
Public 2-year	12.0	4,400	11.9	5,400
Public 4-year	35.5	6,300	33.1	7,600
Private nonprofit 4-year	38.8	9,000	25.2	9,700
For-profit less-than-2-year	81.0	9,200	24.1 !	‡
For-profit 2-year or higher	73.6	9,400	28.9	7,200
2-year for-profit	†	†	30.3	6,900
4-year for-profit	†	†	28.6	7,200

† Not applicable.

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Nationally representative estimates were not available separately for 2-year and 4-year for-profit institutions in NPSAS:08. Students were considered to be military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Students who attended public less-than-2-year and private nonprofit less-than-4-year institutions are included in the total but are not shown separately. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS does not have complete financial aid information for these students. In these administrations of NPSAS, approximately 9 percent of military undergraduates attended more than one institution. Estimates include students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico). Inflation adjustment is based on an academic year (July–June) average.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

### 3 In 2011–12, how did military undergraduate and graduate students differ from their nonmilitary peers in terms of demographics, disability status, and participation in online education?

Among both undergraduate and graduate students in 2011–12, those who served in the military were older and more often male, compared with their nonmilitary counterparts. Military undergraduates' average age was 34, and 78 percent were male, compared with an average age of 32 and 35 percent who were male among nonmilitary independent students (table 3). In contrast to both military and nonmilitary independent students, dependent students' average age was 20, and 47 percent were male. Similar patterns were observed among graduate students.

In addition to being older than their nonmilitary independent counterparts, military undergraduates were more often married with dependents: 34 percent of military undergraduates were married with dependents, compared with 23 percent of nonmilitary independent undergraduates. On the other hand, military undergraduates were unmarried with dependents less often than were their nonmilitary independent counterparts (18 percent vs. 31 percent). Among graduate students, a higher percentage of military than nonmilitary students were married with dependents.

**TABLE 3.**

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**  
Undergraduates' and graduate students' average age and percentage distribution of their sex, dependency status, and family responsibilities, by military status: 2011–12

Characteristic	Undergraduates			Graduate students	
	Military	Nonmilitary independent	Nonmilitary dependent	Military	Nonmilitary
Average age	34	32	20	39	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Sex					
Male	77.7	34.8	47.4	72.4	38.3
Female	22.3	65.2	52.6	27.6	61.7
Dependency status/ family responsibilities					
Dependent	1.4	†	100.0	†	†
Independent <sup>1</sup>					
Unmarried with no dependents	34.8	35.8	†	23.7	51.4
Married with no dependents	12.2	10.4	†	17.1	14.9
Unmarried with dependents	17.8	30.8	†	13.1	9.6
Married with dependents	33.7	22.9	†	46.1	24.1

† Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Independent students were age 24 or over and students under 24 who were married, had dependents, were veterans or on active duty, were orphans or wards of the courts, were homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 were considered to be dependent. Unmarried includes students who were separated, widowed, or divorced.

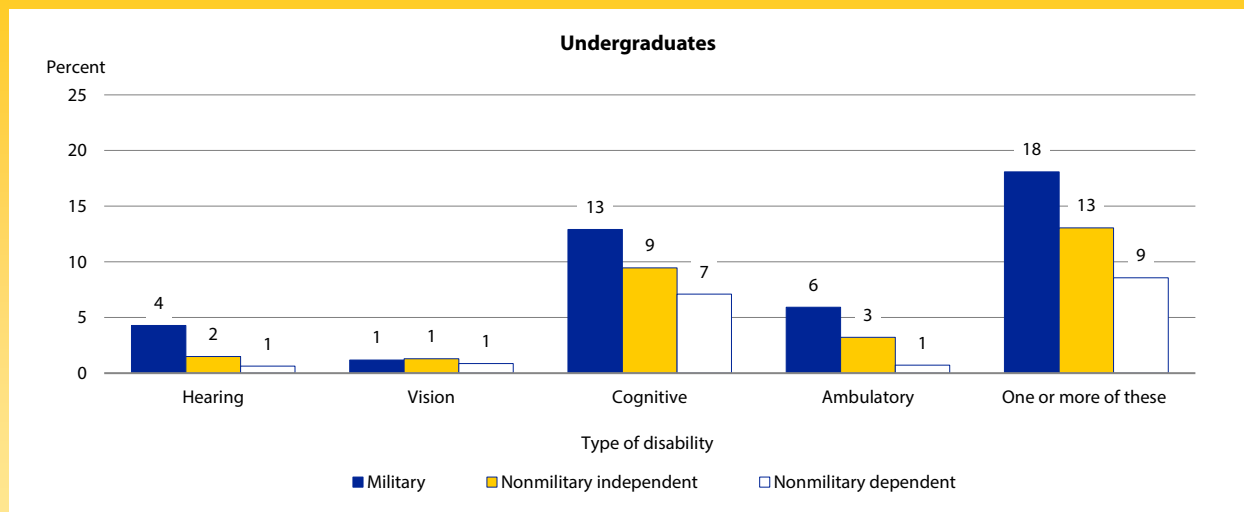
NOTE: Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico). SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).



# FIGURE 5A.

## UNDERGRADUATES BY DISABILITY STATUS

Percentage of undergraduates with specific types of disabilities, by military status: 2011–12



NOTE: Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico).

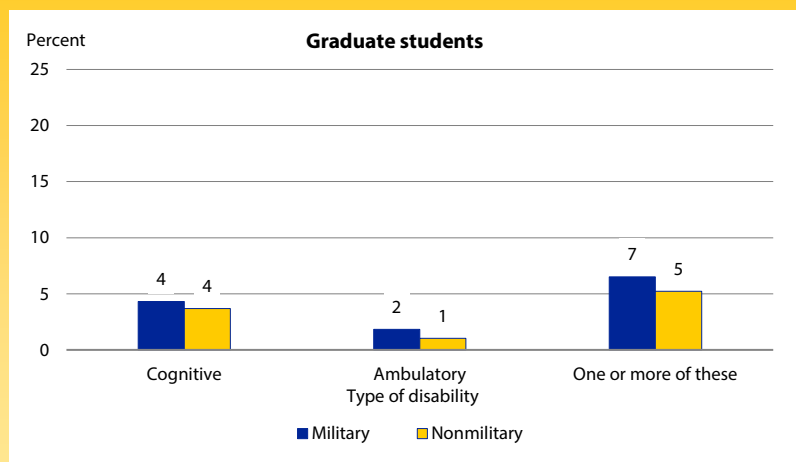
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

A higher percentage of military than nonmilitary undergraduates reported disabilities: 18 percent of military undergraduates reported at least one disability, compared with 13 percent of nonmilitary independent undergraduates and 9 percent of nonmilitary dependent undergraduates (figure 5A). With the exception of disabilities related to vision, military undergraduates reported specific types of disabilities at higher rates than did nonmilitary independent and dependent undergraduates. Disability rates between military and nonmilitary graduate students were not statistically significant (figure 5B).

# FIGURE 5B.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS BY DISABILITY STATUS

Percentage of graduate students with specific types of disabilities, by military status: 2011–12



NOTE: Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico).

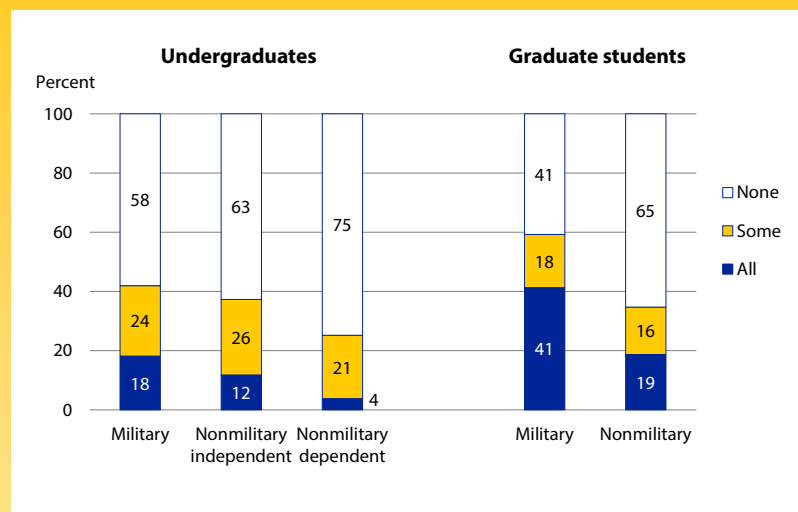
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

In 2011–12, both undergraduate and graduate military students took all their classes online at higher rates than did their nonmilitary counterparts.<sup>6</sup> Some 18 percent of military undergraduates took all their classes online, compared with 12 percent among nonmilitary independent students and 4 percent among nonmilitary dependent students (figure 6). Among graduate students, 41 percent of military students took all their classes online, compared with 19 percent of nonmilitary students.

**FIGURE 6.**

**ONLINE COURSEWORK**

**Among undergraduates and graduate students who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage distribution of courses taken completely online, by military status: 2011–12**



NOTE: Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Dependent categories were not separated for graduate students because all graduate students were considered to be independent. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS:12 does not have complete online coursetaking information for these students. In NPSAS:12, students who attended more than one institution included 8 percent of all undergraduates, 9 percent of military undergraduates, 4 percent of all graduate students, and 6 percent of military graduate students. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

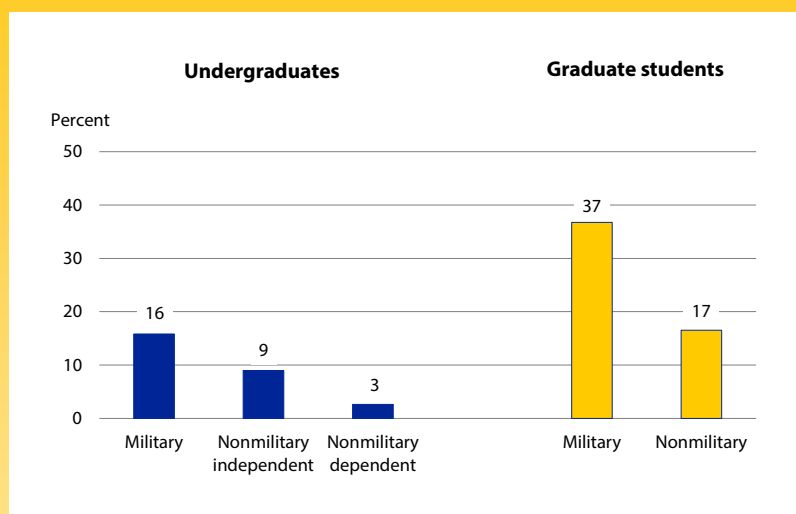
<sup>6</sup> NPSAS:12 does not have complete online coursetaking information for students who attended more than one institution, and thus this analysis excludes those who attended more than one institution.

Differences between military and nonmilitary students also emerged for enrollment in online degree programs.<sup>7</sup> Among undergraduates, 16 percent of military students were enrolled in an online degree program, compared with 9 percent of nonmilitary independent students and 3 percent of nonmilitary dependent students (figure 7). At 37 percent, military graduate student enrollment in online degree programs was higher than both nonmilitary graduate students (17 percent) and military undergraduates (16 percent).

**FIGURE 7.**

**ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS**

**Among undergraduates and graduate students who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage whose entire degree program was taught completely online, by military status: 2011–12**



NOTE: The response rate for online degree programs was low. See technical notes for more information. Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Dependent categories were not separated for graduate students because all graduate students were considered to be independent. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS:12 does not have complete online degree program information for these students. In NPSAS:12, students who attended more than one institution included 8 percent of all undergraduates, 9 percent of military undergraduates, 4 percent of all graduate students, and 6 percent of military graduate students. Estimates include students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico).  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

<sup>7</sup> NPSAS:12 does not have complete online degree program information for students who attended more than one institution, and thus this analysis excludes those who attended more than one institution. Readers should note that the response rate for online degree programs was low. See technical notes for more information.

## FIND OUT MORE

For questions about content or to order additional copies of this Statistics in Brief or view this report online, go to:

**<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2016435>**

More detailed estimates of U.S. undergraduates and graduate students' demographic, enrollment, and employment characteristics can be found in the following Web Tables produced by NCES using the NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12 data. Web Tables documenting how students pay for their postsecondary education are also available.

*Web Tables—Profile of Undergraduate Students in U.S. Postsecondary Institutions: 2007–08* (NCES 2010-205)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010205>.

*Web Tables—Student Financing of Undergraduate Education: 2007–08* (NCES 2010-162)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010162>.

*Web Tables—Profile of Graduate and First Professional Students: Trends from Selected Years, 1995–96 to 2007–08* (NCES 2011-219)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2011219>.

*Web Tables—Profile of Undergraduate Students: 2011–12* (NCES 2015-167)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2015167>.

*Web Tables—Student Financing of Undergraduate Education: 2011–12* (NCES 2015-173)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2015173>.

*Web Tables—Profile and Financial Aid Estimates of Graduate Students: 2011–12* (NCES 2015-168)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2015168>.

*Web Tables—Undergraduate Financial Aid Estimates by Type of Institution in 2011–12* (NCES 2014-169)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014169>.

*2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) Price Estimates for Attending Postsecondary Education Institutions (First Look)* (NCES 2014-166)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014166>.

Readers may also be interested in the following NCES products related to topics covered in this Statistics in Brief:

*Military Service Members and Veterans: A Profile of Those Enrolled in Undergraduate and Graduate Education in 2007–08* (NCES 2011-163)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2011163>.

*Issue Tables: A Profile of Military Servicemembers and Veterans Enrolled in Postsecondary Education in 2007–08* (NCES 2009-182)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009182>.

*Services and Support Programs for Military Service Members and Veterans at Postsecondary Institutions, 2012–13* (NCES 2014-017)  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014017>.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### *Survey Methodology*

The estimates provided in this Statistics in Brief are based on data collected through the 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12). NPSAS covers broad topics on student enrollment in postsecondary education and how students and their families finance their education. In 2008 and 2012, students provided data by completing a self-administered Web or telephone survey. Data were also collected from the institutions that sampled students attended and from other relevant databases, including U.S. Department of Education records on student loan and grant programs and student financial aid applications.

NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12 are the seventh and eighth administrations of the NPSAS study, which began in 1986–87 and is conducted every 3 to 4 years. The target population includes students enrolled in Title IV postsecondary institutions in the United States at any time between July 1 and June 30 of the NPSAS year.<sup>8</sup> In 2008, the population included about 21 million undergraduates and 3 million graduate students, and in 2012, about 23 million undergraduates and 4 million graduate

students were enrolled in postsecondary education.

The institution sampling frame for NPSAS:08 was constructed from the 2004–05 and 2005–06 Institutional Characteristics, Fall Enrollment, and Completions files of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The sampling frame for NPSAS:12 was constructed from files collected in the 2008–09 and 2009–10 IPEDS cycles. The sampling design included first selecting eligible institutions and then selecting students from those institutions. Institutions were selected with probabilities proportional to a composite measure of size based on expected enrollment in each NPSAS year. In NPSAS:08, the weighted institutional unit response rate was 90 percent of approximately 1,700 institutions participating in the study. In NPSAS:12, the response rate was 87 percent of approximately 1,500 participating institutions.

Eligible sampled students were defined as study respondents if a subset of key data elements was available from any data source. Sample members must have had valid data for at least one key variable from at least one data source other than the U.S. Department of Education's Central Processing System.

In NPSAS:08, approximately 114,000 undergraduates and 14,000 graduate students were study respondents, and the weighted student unit response rate for both levels was 96 percent. In NPSAS:12, the weighted unit response rate was 91 percent of approximately 95,000 undergraduates and 16,000 graduate students. Estimates were weighted to adjust for unequal probability of selection for the sample, for nonresponse, and for poststratification to known population totals.

Key variables used in this analysis include military type (MILTYPE), Veterans' benefits (VETBEN), dependency status (DEPEND), institution sector (AIDSECT), and total aid (TOTALID). These composite variables are derived from multiple sources of data including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), institution records and the NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12 student interviews.

Two broad categories of error occur in estimates generated from surveys: sampling and nonsampling errors. Sampling errors occur when observations are based on samples rather than on entire populations. The standard error of a sample statistic is a measure of the variation due to sampling and indicates the

---

<sup>8</sup> NPSAS:08 and earlier years included institutions in Puerto Rico, which have been removed from the estimates in this Brief. The target population of students was limited to those enrolled in an academic program, at least one course for credit that could be applied toward an academic degree, or an occupational or vocational program requiring at least 3 months or 300 clock hours of instruction to receive a degree, certificate, or other formal award. The target population excluded students who were also enrolled in high school or a high school completion (e.g., GED preparation) program.

precision of the statistic. The complex sampling design used in NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12 must be taken into account when calculating variance estimates such as standard errors. The NCES web-based software application, PowerStats, which generated the estimates presented in this report, uses the balanced repeated replication (BRR) method to adjust variance estimation for the complex sample design (Wolter 1985).

Nonsampling errors can be attributed to several sources: incomplete information about all respondents (e.g., some students or institutions refused to participate, or students participated but answered only certain items); differences among respondents in question interpretation; inability or unwillingness to give correct information; mistakes in recording or coding data; and other errors of collecting, processing, and imputing missing data.

For more information on NPSAS methodology, see the following reports:

- *2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08) Full-scale Methodology Report* (NCES 2011-188) (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2011188>).
- *2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) Data File Documentation* (NCES 2014-182) (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014182>).

## VARIABLES USED

The variables used in this Statistics in Brief are listed below. Visit the NCES DataLab website <http://nces.ed.gov/datalab> to view detailed information on question wording for variables coming directly from an interview, how variables were constructed, and their sources. After selecting “Postsecondary Education” in the “Go To” box on the right, click on “Codebooks” and use the drop-down menus to select a codebook organized by subject or by variable name for the dataset and year desired. The program files that generated the statistics presented here can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2016435>.

Label	Name	
	NPSAS:08	NPSAS:12
Age	—	AGE
Attendance status	ATTNSTAT	ATTNSTAT
Degree program (graduate)	GRADGPG	GRADGPG
Degree program (undergraduate)	UGDEG	UGDEG
Dependency status	DEPEND	DEPEND
Dependency status/family responsibilities	—	DEPEND5B
Disability: ambulatory	—	DIS17B
Disability: cognitive	—	DIS17A
Disability: hearing	—	DIS16A
Disability: one or more of these	—	DISABLE
Disability: vision	—	DIS16B
Excludes Puerto Rico from total estimates in 1996–2008	COMPT087	—
Institution type (graduate)	AIDSECTG	AIDSECTG
Institution type (undergraduate)	AIDSECT	AIDSECT
Military status	MILTYPE	MILTYPE
Number of institutions attended	STUDMULT	STUDMULT
Online coursework	—	ALTONLN
Online degree programs	—	ALTONLN2
Sex	—	GENDER
Total aid	TOTAID	TOTAID
Total grants	TOTGRT	TOTGRT
Total loans	TOTLOAN	TOTLOAN
Veterans’ education benefits	VETBEN	VETBEN

— Not used



## Response Rates

NCES Statistical Standard 4-4-1 states that “Any survey stage of data collection with a unit or item response rate less than 85 percent must be evaluated for the potential magnitude of nonresponse bias before the data or any analysis using the data may be released” (U.S. Department of Education 2012). This means that nonresponse bias analysis could be required at any of three levels: institutions, study members, or items. In NPSAS:08, the institutional and student-level respondent response rates were 90 percent and 96 percent, respectively. In NPSAS:12, the institutional and student-level respondent response rates were 87 percent and 91 percent, respectively. Therefore, nonresponse bias analysis was not required at those levels.

The student interview response rate, however, was 71 percent in NPSAS:08 and 73 percent in NPSAS:12. Due to this low interview response rate for

NPSAS:12, an additional nonresponse bias analysis was conducted in which interview respondents and interview nonrespondents were compared. This analysis determined that the nonresponse weighting adjustment eliminated some, but not all, significant bias in the student interview. Because study members, not interview respondents, are the unit of analysis in NPSAS:12, only a study member weight was created. As a result, nonresponse bias analyses after weight adjustments could not be computed. More information about remaining nonresponse bias after the nonresponse weight adjustment and the poststratification adjustment is available in the data file documentation for NPSAS:12 (Wine, Bryan, and Siegel 2013). No such analysis has been conducted for NPSAS:08 to date.

The low NPSAS:12 interview response rate, 73 percent, necessitates nonresponse bias analysis for those variables

based in whole or in part on student interviews. In this Statistics in Brief, seven variables required nonresponse bias analysis: ALTONLN (51 percent), ALTONLN2 (15 percent), DIS16A (66 percent), DIS16B (66 percent), DISABLE (66 percent), DIS17A (66 percent), and DIS17B (66 percent). For each of these variables, nonresponse bias analyses were conducted to determine whether respondents and nonrespondents differed on the following characteristics: institution sector, region, and total enrollment; student type, sampled as a first-time beginner (FTB), and age group; whether the student had FAFSA data, was a federal aid recipient, was a state aid recipient, was an institution aid recipient, was a Pell Grant recipient, or borrowed a Direct Loan; and the amount, if any, of a student’s Pell Grant or Direct Loan (exhibit 2). Differences between respondents and nonrespondents on these variables were tested for statistical significance at the 5 percent level.

**EXHIBIT 2. Summary of item-level nonresponse bias for all students at all types of institutions: 2011–12**

Variable name	Response rate	Pre-imputation		Characteristic with greatest significant bias	Percent difference in means or average percent difference across all categories pre- and post-imputation
		Median percent relative bias across characteristics	Percentage of characteristics with significant bias		
ALTONLN	51.4	8.15	76.47	Low Stafford loan dollar amount and Stafford loan indicator	0.07
ALTONLN2	14.7	47.33	78.00	Private for-profit 4-year institution	#
DIS16A	66.1	5.76	80.39	Whether had FAFSA data	#
DIS16B	66.1	5.63	80.39	Whether had FAFSA data	0.01
DISABLE	65.6	5.61	78.43	Whether had FAFSA data	0.01
DIS17A	66.1	5.62	80.39	Whether had FAFSA data	0.02
DIS17B	66.1	5.53	80.39	Whether had FAFSA data	0.01

# Rounds to zero.

NOTE: FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Relative bias is computed by dividing a variable’s estimated bias for a given characteristic by the variable’s mean. Relative bias is defined as significant if its difference from zero is statistically significant at  $p < .05$ .

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

The particularly low response rate for ALTONLN2 warrants some discussion. While values for many variables were derived from multiple sources, including the student interview, student record data, and administrative data sources, some variables were obtained from only one source. Because the weighted response rate for the student interview was 73 percent, items obtained solely from that source have at least 27 percent nonresponse even when all interview respondents provided an answer. This issue is compounded for nested items following gate questions, especially those applicable to a small subset of the sample members, because follow-up items to unanswered gate items are also treated as nonresponse.

The low response rates for ALTONLN and ALTONLN2 are examples of this latter phenomenon. The student interview included a set of items about alternative coursetaking and was the only source for these data. Students were first asked if they had taken any courses online, at night, or on weekends at the NPSAS institution during the 2011–12 academic year (ALTANY). Those who had were then asked how many courses they had taken online (ALTONLN), and those who had taken at least one course online were then asked whether their entire degree programs were completed online (ALTONLN2). All respondents who were missing on ALTANY were counted among nonrespondents to ALTONLN, and in turn,

all nonrespondents to ALTONLN (including nonrespondents to ALTANY) were counted as nonrespondents to ALTONLN2. Consequently, the low response rate for ALTONLN2 reflects the accumulation of nonresponse that occurs in items that are nested within one or more gate questions.

Nonresponse bias analyses of the variables in this Statistics in Brief with response rates less than 85 percent indicated that respondents differed from nonrespondents on 76 percent to 80 percent of the characteristics analyzed, indicating that there may be bias in these estimates. Any bias due to nonresponse, however, is based upon responses prior to stochastic imputation in which missing data were replaced with valid data from the records of donor cases that matched the recipients on selected demographic, enrollment, institution, and financial aid related variables (Krotki, Black, and Creel 2005). The potential for bias in these estimates may be reduced by imputation.

Because imputation procedures are designed specifically to identify donors with similar characteristics to those with missing data, the imputation is assumed to reduce bias. While the level of item-level bias before imputation is measurable, the same measurement cannot be made after imputation. Although the magnitude of any change in item-level bias cannot be determined, the item estimates before and after imputation

were compared to determine whether the imputation changed the biased estimate as an indication of a possible reduction in bias.

For continuous variables, the difference between the mean before imputation and the mean after imputation was estimated. For categorical variables, the estimated difference was computed for each of the categories as the percentage of students in that category before imputation minus the percentage of students in that category after imputation. These estimated differences were tested for statistical significance at the 5 percent level. A significant difference in the item means after imputation implies a reduction in bias due to imputation. A nonsignificant difference suggests that imputation may not have reduced bias, that the sample size was too small to detect a significant difference, or that there was little bias to be reduced. Statistical tests of the differences between the means before and after imputation for these seven variables were significant, indicating that the nonresponse bias was reduced through imputation.

For more detailed information on nonresponse bias analysis and an overview of the survey methodology, see the *2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) Data File Documentation* (NCES 2014-182) (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014182>).

## Statistical Procedures

Comparisons of means and proportions were tested using Student's  $t$  statistic. Differences between estimates were tested against the probability of a Type I error<sup>9</sup> or significance level. The statistical significance of each comparison was determined by calculating the Student's  $t$  value for the difference between each pair of means or proportions and comparing the  $t$  value with published tables of significance levels for two-tailed hypothesis testing. Student's  $t$  values were computed to test differences between independent estimates using the following formula:

$$t = \frac{E_1 - E_2}{\sqrt{se_1^2 + se_2^2}}$$

where  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are the estimates to be compared and  $se_1$  and  $se_2$  are their corresponding standard errors.

There are hazards in reporting statistical tests for each comparison. First, comparisons based on large  $t$  statistics may appear to merit special attention. This can be misleading because the magnitude of the  $t$  statistic is related not only to the observed differences in means or percentages but also to the number of respondents in the specific categories used for comparison. Hence, a small difference compared across a large number of respondents would produce a large (and thus possibly statistically significant)  $t$  statistic.

A second hazard in reporting statistical tests is the possibility that one can report a "false positive" or Type I error. Statistical tests are designed to limit the risk of this type of error using a value denoted by alpha. The alpha level of .05 was selected for findings in this Brief and ensures that a difference of a certain magnitude or

larger would be produced when there was no actual difference between the quantities in the underlying population no more than 1 time out of 20.<sup>10</sup> When analysts test hypotheses that show alpha values at the .05 level or smaller, they reject the null hypothesis that there is no difference between the two quantities. Failing to reject a null hypothesis (i.e., detect a difference), however, does not imply the values are the same or equivalent.

<sup>9</sup> A Type I error occurs when one concludes that a difference observed in a sample reflects a true difference in the population from which the sample was drawn, when no such difference is present.

<sup>10</sup> No adjustments were made for multiple comparisons.

## REFERENCES

- Baum, S., Elliott, D.C., and Ma, J. (2014). *Trends in Student Aid 2014*. New York: College Board. Retrieved February 24, 2015, from <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/misc/trends/2014-trends-student-aid-report-final.pdf>.
- Krotki, K., Black, S., and Creel, D. (2005). Mass Imputation. In *Proceedings of the American Statistical Association, Section on Survey Research Methods*. Alexandria, VA: American Statistical Association.
- Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, P.L. 111-377, 124 Stat. 4106 (2011).
- Radford, A.W. (2011). *Military Service Members and Veterans: A Profile of Those Enrolled in Undergraduate and Graduate Education in 2007–08* (NCES 2011-163). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.
- Radford, A.W., and Wun, J. (2009). *Issue Tables: A Profile of Military Servicemembers and Veterans Enrolled in Postsecondary Education in 2007–08* (NCES 2009-182). National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.
- Staklis, S. (2010). *Web Tables—Profile of Undergraduate Students 2007–08* (NCES 2010-205). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.
- U.S. Department of Education. (2012). *2012 Revision of NCES Statistical Standards*. National Center for Education Statistics. Washington, DC. Retrieved May 8, 2014, from <https://nces.ed.gov/statprog/2012/>.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2007, October 1). *Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (Chapter 30) Increased Educational Benefit*. Retrieved February 24, 2015, from [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits\\_resources/rates/ch30/ch30rates100107.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch30/ch30rates100107.asp).
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2009, March 31). *Post-9/11 GI Bill; Final Rule*. Federal Register 74:60. Retrieved February 24, 2015, from [http://www.va.gov/orpm/docs/20090331\\_AN10\\_Post911GIBill.pdf](http://www.va.gov/orpm/docs/20090331_AN10_Post911GIBill.pdf).
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2011, February). *The Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty*. VA Pamphlet 22-90-2. Retrieved February 18, 2015, from [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch30\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch30_pamphlet.pdf).
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2011–2012). *Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) Payment Rates for 2011 Academic Year (August 1, 2011 - July 31, 2012)*. Retrieved February 24, 2015, from [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits\\_resources/rates/ch33/Ch33rates080111.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch33/Ch33rates080111.asp).
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2012, May). *Post-9/11 GI Bill: It's Your Future*. Retrieved February 18, 2015, from [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch33\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch33_pamphlet.pdf).
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2013). *Education Program Beneficiaries: FY2000 to FY2013*. Retrieved February 10, 2015, from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/Utilization/EducNation\\_2013.xls](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/Utilization/EducNation_2013.xls).
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2015). *Education and Training: Yellow Ribbon Program*. Retrieved May 5, 2016, from [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow\\_ribbon.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon.asp).
- Wine, J., Bryan, M., and Siegel, P. (2013). *2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) Data File Documentation* (NCES 2014-182). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.
- Wolter, K. M. (1985). *Introduction to Variance Estimation* (ch. 3). New York: Springer-Verlag.

## APPENDIX A. DATA TABLES

**TABLE A-1. NONMILITARY STUDENTS' RECEIPT OF VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS BY INSTITUTION TYPE**  
**Among nonmilitary students who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage who**  
**received Veterans' benefits, by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Sector	Nonmilitary independent undergraduates		Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates		Nonmilitary graduate students	
	2007–08	2011–12	2007–08	2011–12	2007–08	2011–12
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.3 !</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Public 2-year	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.8	†	†
Public 4-year	1.0	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.4 !	0.4 !
Private nonprofit 4-year	0.4	1.0 !	0.3	0.7	0.1 !	0.3 !
For-profit less-than-2-year	0.2 !	0.6 !	‡	0.3 !	†	†
For-profit 2-year or higher	1.1 !	2.4 !	0.4 !	2.0	†	†
2-year for-profit	†	1.0 !	†	1.4 !	†	†
4-year for-profit	†	2.8	†	2.5	#	2.9 !

† Not applicable.

# Rounds to zero.

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Nationally representative estimates were not available separately for undergraduates attending 2-year and 4-year for-profit institutions in NPSAS:08. In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Independent students were age 24 or over and students under 24 who were married, had dependents, were veterans or on active duty, were orphans or wards of the courts, were homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 were considered to be dependent. Students who attended public less-than-2-year and private nonprofit less-than-4-year institutions are included in the total but are not shown separately. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS does not have complete financial aid information for these students. In these administrations of NPSAS, in both 2007–08 and 2011–12, about 7 percent of nonmilitary independent undergraduates, 9 percent of nonmilitary dependent undergraduates, and 4 percent of nonmilitary graduate students attended more than one institution. Estimates include students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table A-2. Estimates for figure 1A: UNDERGRADUATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary undergraduates by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	Other or attended more than one institution <sup>1</sup>	For-profit less-than- 2-year	For-profit 2-year or higher	Private nonprofit 4-year	Public 4-year	Public 2-year
<b>Military</b>						
2007–08	9.1	1.0	14.1	12.9	20.6	42.2
2011–12	9.5	0.9	23.8	9.5	19.3	36.9
<b>Nonmilitary independent</b>						
2007–08	7.9	2.9	12.8	8.1	18.9	49.4
2011–12	8.2	2.9	16.7	7.2	19.8	45.1
<b>Nonmilitary dependent</b>						
2007–08	9.0	1.2	3.5	15.6	37.5	33.2
2011–12	9.6	1.2	4.1	16.1	37.5	31.5

<sup>1</sup> Other includes public less-than-2-year and private nonprofit less-than-4-year institutions, which in these administrations of NPSAS comprised no more than approximately 1 percent of the student populations presented. In these administrations of NPSAS, in both 2007–08 and 2011–12, about 8 percent of all undergraduates and 9 percent of military undergraduates had attended more than one institution.

NOTE: In 2011–12, students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table A-3. Estimates for figure 1B: GRADUATE STUDENTS BY INSTITUTION TYPE**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary graduate students by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	Attended more than one institution	For-profit 4-year	Private nonprofit 4-year	Public 4-year
<b>Military</b>				
2007–08	5.7	14.1 !	41.2	39.0
2011–12	6.1	26.9	28.8	38.2
<b>Nonmilitary</b>				
2007–08	4.3	7.6	39.9	48.2
2011–12	4.0	10.6	39.5	45.9

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include graduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).



**Table A-4. Estimates for figure 2: UNDERGRADUATES BY ATTENDANCE STATUS**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary undergraduates by attendance status: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	Part-time/part-year	Part-time/full-year	Full-time/part-year	Full-time/full-year
<b>Military</b>				
2007–08	39.9	19.8	18.8	21.5
2011–12	31.7	17.1	23.8	27.5
<b>Nonmilitary independent</b>				
2007–08	40.3	25.2	16.2	18.3
2011–12	33.1	23.5	20.8	22.6
<b>Nonmilitary dependent</b>				
2007–08	15.2	15.5	15.4	53.9
2011–12	14.3	16.0	15.0	54.7

NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Students were considered to have attended for a full year if they were enrolled 9 or more months during the academic year. Months did not have to be contiguous, and students did not have to be enrolled for a full month in order to be considered enrolled for that month. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table A-5. Estimates for figure 3A: UNDERGRADUATES BY DEGREE PROGRAM**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary undergraduates by degree program: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	No certificate or degree	Bachelor's degree	Associate's degree	Certificate
<b>Military</b>				
2007–08	5.8	41.9	46.9	5.4
2011–12	2.4	45.4	44.9	7.2
<b>Nonmilitary independent</b>				
2007–08	8.8	31.2	48.8	11.3
2011–12	4.7	33.7	49.8	11.8
<b>Nonmilitary dependent</b>				
2007–08	4.1	58.0	33.8	4.1
2011–12	2.1	58.6	34.8	4.5

NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table A-6. Estimates for figure 3B: GRADUATE STUDENTS BY DEGREE PROGRAM****Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary graduate students by degree program: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	Not in a degree program	Post-bachelor's or post-master's certificate	All other master's degrees	Master's of education or teaching	Master's of business administration	Doctor's degree - professional practice	Doctor's degree - research/scholarship
<b>Military</b>							
2007–08	3.8	5.1	40.9	9.9	24.6	4.4	11.1 !
2011–12	1.2 !	3.9	48.7	7.9	19.5	6.7	12.2
<b>Nonmilitary</b>							
2007–08	6.9	4.6	38.6	13.4	12.0	8.1	16.5
2011–12	2.9	5.9	44.7	11.9	10.6	10.5	13.5

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include graduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico). SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table A-7. Estimates for figure 4A: UNDERGRADUATES' VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS BY INSTITUTION TYPE**  
**Among military undergraduates who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage who received Veterans' benefits and average amount recipients received, by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Receipt of benefits	Total	Public 2-year	Public 4-year	Private nonprofit 4-year	For-profit 2-year or higher	For-profit less-than-2-year
<b>Percent who received Veterans' benefits</b>						
2007–08	35.9	33.1	46.2	36.2	29.7	30.8
2011–12	55.4	46.2	58.8	60.2	65.2	49.6
<b>Amount received: Constant (2012) dollars</b>						
2007–08	\$5,800	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,100	\$7,700	\$5,600
2011–12	7,900	6,400	7,000	9,300	9,600	12,700

NOTE: Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, students who were in the National Guard but not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves made up approximately 0.1 percent of all students. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS does not have complete financial aid information for these students. In these administrations of NPSAS, approximately 9 percent of military undergraduates attended more than one institution. Students attending public less-than-2-year and private nonprofit less-than-4-year institutions are included in the total but are not shown separately. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico). Inflation adjustment is based on an academic year (July–June) average.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table A-8. Estimates for figure 4B: GRADUATE STUDENTS' VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS BY INSTITUTION TYPE**

**Among military graduate students who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage who received Veterans' benefits and average amount recipients received, by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Receipt of benefits	Total	Public 4-year	Private nonprofit 4-year	For-profit 4-year
Percent who received Veterans' benefits				
2007–08	21.8	21.4	22.6	‡
2011–12	45.6	45.7	40.2	51.0
Amount received: Constant (2012) dollars				
2007–08	\$5,600	\$5,800	\$5,600	‡
2011–12	8,200	7,200	11,100	6,900

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: In 2011–12 students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Information on National Guard status was not collected in 2007–08 and so students were considered military students if they were veterans or were military service members on active duty or in the reserves. In NPSAS:12, approximately 0.1 percent of all students indicated that they were not a veteran, on active duty, or in the reserves but were in the National Guard. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS does not have complete financial aid information for these students. In these administrations of NPSAS, approximately 6 percent of military graduate students attended more than one institution. Estimates include graduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico). Inflation adjustment is based on an academic year (July–June) average.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table A-9. Estimates for figure 5A: UNDERGRADUATES BY DISABILITY STATUS**  
**Percentage of undergraduates with specific types of disabilities, by military status: 2011–12**

Status	Hearing	Vision	Cognitive	Ambulatory	One or more of these
Military	4.3	1.2	12.9	5.9	18.1
Nonmilitary independent	1.5	1.3	9.5	3.2	13.1
Nonmilitary dependent	0.6	0.8	7.1	0.7	8.6

NOTE: Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

**Table A-10. Estimates for figure 5B: GRADUATE STUDENTS BY DISABILITY STATUS**  
**Percentage of graduate students with specific types of disabilities, by military status: 2011–12**

Status	Cognitive	Ambulatory	One or more of these
Military	4.3	1.8	6.5
Nonmilitary	3.7	1.0	5.2

NOTE: Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Estimates include undergraduate students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

**Table A-11. Estimates for figure 6: ONLINE COURSEWORK**  
**Among undergraduates and graduate students who attended only one institution during the academic year,**  
**percentage distribution of courses taken completely online, by military status: 2011–12**

Status	None	Some	All
Undergraduates			
Military	58.0	23.8	18.2
Nonmilitary independent	62.6	25.6	11.8
Nonmilitary dependent	74.8	21.5	3.8
Graduate students			
Military	40.7	18.0	41.3
Nonmilitary	65.3	16.0	18.7

NOTE: Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Dependent categories were not separated for graduate students because all graduate students were considered to be independent. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS:12 does not have complete online coursetaking information for these students. In NPSAS:12, students who attended more than one institution included 8 percent of all undergraduates, 9 percent of military undergraduates, 4 percent of all graduate students, and 6 percent of military graduate students. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates include students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

**Table A-12. Estimates for figure 7: ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS**  
**Among undergraduates and graduate students who attended only one institution during the academic year,**  
**percentage whose entire degree program was taught completely online, by military status: 2011–12**

Status	Percent
Undergraduates	
Military	15.9
Nonmilitary independent	9.0
Nonmilitary dependent	2.6
Graduate students	
Military	36.7
Nonmilitary	16.5

NOTE: The response rate for online degree programs was low. See technical notes for more information. Students were considered military students if they were veterans or military service members on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard. Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Dependent categories were not separated for graduate students because all graduate students were considered to be independent. This analysis excludes students who attended more than one institution because NPSAS:12 does not have complete online degree program information for these students. In NPSAS:12, students who attended more than one institution included 8 percent of all undergraduates, 9 percent of military undergraduates, 4 percent of all graduate students, and 6 percent of military graduate students. Estimates include students who were enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (not including Puerto Rico).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

## APPENDIX B. STANDARD ERROR TABLES

**Table B-1. Standard errors for table A-1: NONMILITARY STUDENTS' RECEIPT OF VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS BY INSTITUTION TYPE**

**Among nonmilitary students who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage who received Veterans' benefits, by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Sector	Nonmilitary independent undergraduates		Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates		Nonmilitary graduate students	
	2007–08	2011–12	2007–08	2011–12	2007–08	2011–12
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.15</b>
Public 2-year	0.08	0.11	0.09	0.12	†	†
Public 4-year	0.14	0.16	0.07	0.11	0.16	0.13
Private nonprofit 4-year	0.09	0.32	0.07	0.13	0.06	0.14
For-profit less-than-2-year	0.10	0.22	†	0.13	†	†
For-profit 2-year or higher	0.43	0.25	0.16	0.46	†	†
2-year for-profit	†	0.39	†	0.55	†	†
4-year for-profit	†	0.31	†	0.72	†	1.16

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table B-2. Standard errors for table 1: MILITARY STUDENTS IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**Percentage distribution and number of undergraduates and graduate students by military status: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Military status	Undergraduates				Graduate students			
	2007–08		2011–12		2007–08		2011–12	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
<b>Total</b>	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Military students	0.15	30,020	0.15	34,200	0.51	17,730	0.32	11,600
Veterans	0.12	24,190	0.12	28,440	0.33	11,470	0.25	9,300
Military service members								
Active duty	0.06	13,160	0.09	19,960	0.30	10,420	0.13	4,710
Reserves	0.03	6,310	0.03	7,520	0.05	1,810	0.11	3,920
National Guard	†	†	0.02	4,820	†	†	0.07	2,570
Nonmilitary students	0.15	38,710	0.15	34,200	0.51	18,430	0.32	11,600

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table B-3. Standard errors for table A-2 and figure 1A: UNDERGRADUATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary undergraduates by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	Other or attended more than one institution	For-profit less-than- 2-year	For-profit 2-year or higher	Private nonprofit 4-year	Public 4-year	Public 2-year
<b>Military</b>						
2007–08	0.73	0.17	1.60	0.94	1.17	1.61
2011–12	0.96	0.25	1.51	1.30	1.13	1.28
<b>Nonmilitary independent</b>						
2007–08	0.21	0.08	0.35	0.24	0.26	0.34
2011–12	0.35	0.08	0.18	0.20	0.32	0.35
<b>Nonmilitary dependent</b>						
2007–08	0.17	0.05	0.29	0.24	0.28	0.33
2011–12	0.23	0.07	0.17	0.20	0.29	0.34

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table B-4. Standard errors for table A-3 and figure 1B: GRADUATE STUDENTS BY INSTITUTION TYPE**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary graduate students by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	Attended more than one institution	For-profit 4-year	Private nonprofit 4-year	Public 4-year
<b>Military</b>				
2007–08	1.66	7.00	5.25	4.44
2011–12	0.97	3.29	3.09	3.55
<b>Nonmilitary</b>				
2007–08	0.42	0.49	0.25	0.29
2011–12	0.25	0.20	0.21	0.21

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table B-5. Standard errors for table A-4 and figure 2: UNDERGRADUATES BY ATTENDANCE STATUS**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary undergraduates by attendance status: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	Part-time/part-year	Part-time/full-year	Full-time/part-year	Full-time/full-year
<b>Military</b>				
2007–08	1.66	0.94	1.20	0.90
2011–12	1.80	0.84	1.25	1.12
<b>Nonmilitary independent</b>				
2007–08	0.48	0.36	0.47	0.32
2011–12	0.49	0.36	0.58	0.41
<b>Nonmilitary dependent</b>				
2007–08	0.32	0.22	0.34	0.39
2011–12	0.36	0.30	0.38	0.45

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).



**Table B-6. Standard errors for table A-5 and figure 3A: UNDERGRADUATES BY DEGREE PROGRAM**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary undergraduates by degree program: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	No certificate or degree	Bachelor's degree	Associate's degree	Certificate
<b>Military</b>				
2007–08	0.69	1.50	1.66	0.81
2011–12	0.46	1.65	1.82	0.66
<b>Nonmilitary independent</b>				
2007–08	0.37	0.43	0.56	0.50
2011–12	0.31	0.39	0.57	0.39
<b>Nonmilitary dependent</b>				
2007–08	0.23	0.41	0.42	0.23
2011–12	0.15	0.37	0.44	0.22

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table B-7. Standard errors for table A-6 and figure 3B: GRADUATE STUDENTS BY DEGREE PROGRAM**  
**Percentage distribution of military and nonmilitary graduate students by degree program: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Status and year	Not in a degree program	Post-bachelor's or post-master's certificate	All other master's degrees	Master's of education or teaching	Master's of business administration	Doctor's degree - professional practice	Doctor's degree - research/scholarship
<b>Military</b>							
2007–08	1.05	1.29	4.02	2.55	4.58	0.99	4.82
2011–12	0.58	1.15	4.34	1.89	3.56	1.08	1.48
<b>Nonmilitary</b>							
2007–08	0.55	0.32	0.77	0.58	0.84	0.30	0.65
2011–12	0.31	0.35	0.79	0.53	0.54	0.33	0.31

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table B-8. Standard errors for table A-7 and figure 4A: UNDERGRADUATES' VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS BY INSTITUTION TYPE**  
**Among military undergraduates who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage who received Veterans' benefits and average amount recipients received, by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Receipt of benefits	Total	Public 2-year	Public 4-year	Private nonprofit 4-year	For-profit 2-year or higher	For-profit less-than-2-year
<b>Percent who received Veterans' benefits</b>						
2007–08	1.35	1.99	2.24	3.10	4.56	6.62
2011–12	1.53	2.30	3.12	6.71	3.57	7.55
<b>Amount received: Constant (2012) dollars</b>						
2007–08	\$170	\$270	\$220	\$370	\$790	\$640
2011–12	300	420	470	1,330	620	2,870

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table B-9. Standard errors for table A-8 and figure 4B: GRADUATE STUDENTS' VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS BY INSTITUTION TYPE**

**Among military graduate students who attended only one institution during the academic year, percentage who received Veterans' benefits and average amount recipients received, by institution type: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Receipt of benefits	Total	Public 4-year	Private nonprofit 4-year	For-profit 4-year
Percent who received Veterans' benefits				
2007–08	4.93	3.62	4.33	†
2011–12	3.95	5.48	7.45	7.90
Amount received: Constant (2012) dollars				
2007–08	\$450	\$670	\$600	†
2011–12	690	940	1,420	1,580

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table B-10. Standard errors for table 2: OTHER TYPES OF AID**

**Among military undergraduates who attended only one institution during the academic year and received Veterans' benefits, percentage who received other types of aid and average amount recipients received in these other forms of aid, by institution type and year: 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Institution type	2007–08		2011–12	
	Percent	Average (constant 2012 dollars)	Percent	Average
Nonmilitary grant aid				
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>\$200</b>
Public 2-year	3.33	200	3.76	200
Public 4-year	3.48	300	3.60	400
Private nonprofit 4-year	4.37	1,100	10.95	1,100
For-profit less-than-2-year	12.28	†	12.35	†
For-profit 2-year or higher	10.38	600	3.06	300
2-year for-profit	†	†	7.64	200
4-year for-profit	†	†	3.47	400
Nonmilitary loans				
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>\$300</b>
Public 2-year	1.66	500	2.06	500
Public 4-year	3.06	400	3.13	500
Private nonprofit 4-year	4.72	800	7.20	1,100
For-profit less-than-2-year	10.66	900	11.82	†
For-profit 2-year or higher	7.68	600	2.28	300
2-year for-profit	†	†	5.03	500
4-year for-profit	†	†	2.55	400

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 and 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12).

**Table B-11. Standard errors for table 3: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**  
**Undergraduates' and graduate students' average age and percentage distribution of their sex, dependency status, and family responsibilities, by military status: 2011–12**

Characteristic	Undergraduates			Graduate students	
	Military	Nonmilitary independent	Nonmilitary dependent	Military	Nonmilitary
Average age	0.34	0.12	0.01	0.62	0.16
<b>Total</b>	†	†	†	†	†
Sex					
Male	1.17	0.35	0.31	2.73	0.70
Female	1.17	0.35	0.31	2.73	0.70
Dependency status/family responsibilities					
Dependent	0.32	†	†	†	†
Independent					
Unmarried with no dependents	1.41	0.44	†	3.60	0.79
Married with no dependents	0.83	0.37	†	2.32	0.55
Unmarried with dependents	1.04	0.43	†	2.48	0.43
Married with dependents	1.33	0.40	†	3.53	0.68

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

**Table B-12. Standard errors for table A-9 and figure 5A: UNDERGRADUATES BY DISABILITY STATUS**  
**Percentage of undergraduates with specific types of disabilities, by military status: 2011–12**

Status	Hearing	Vision	Cognitive	Ambulatory	One or more of these
Military	0.54	0.22	1.06	0.71	1.11
Nonmilitary independent	0.11	0.10	0.24	0.14	0.27
Nonmilitary dependent	0.05	0.06	0.19	0.06	0.21

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

**Table B-13. Standard errors for table A-10 and figure 5B: GRADUATE STUDENTS BY DISABILITY STATUS**  
**Percentage of graduate students with specific types of disabilities, by military status: 2011–12**

Status	Cognitive	Ambulatory	One or more of these
Military	0.97	0.52	1.37
Nonmilitary	0.28	0.13	0.36

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

**Table B-14. Standard errors for table A-11 and figure 6: ONLINE COURSEWORK**  
**Among undergraduates and graduate students who attended only one institution during the academic year,**  
**percentage distribution of courses taken completely online, by military status: 2011–12**

Status	None	Some	All
Undergraduates			
Military	1.83	1.31	1.58
Nonmilitary independent	0.47	0.40	0.36
Nonmilitary dependent	0.37	0.35	0.18
Graduate students			
Military	3.45	3.86	5.28
Nonmilitary	0.81	0.56	0.65

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

**Table B-15. Standard errors for table A-12 and figure 7: ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS**  
**Among undergraduates and graduate students who attended only one institution during the academic year,**  
**percentage whose entire degree program was taught completely online, by military status: 2011–12**

Status	Percent
Undergraduates	
Military	1.55
Nonmilitary independent	0.32
Nonmilitary dependent	0.13
Graduate students	
Military	5.25
Nonmilitary	0.61

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

## RUN YOUR OWN ANALYSIS WITH DATALAB

You can replicate or expand upon the figures and tables in this report, or even create your own. DataLab has several different tools that allow you to customize and generate output from a variety of different survey datasets. Visit DataLab at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/datalab/>

The screenshot displays the DataLab website interface. At the top, the 'DATALAB' logo is followed by the tagline 'Fast, flexible, powerful.' and a contact link 'Questions? Contact NCES nces.info@rti.org'. Below the header, three navigation tabs are visible: 'QuickStats', 'PowerStats' (which is highlighted with an orange bar), and 'TrendStats'. The 'PowerStats' section is titled 'KEY FEATURES OF POWERSTATS' and includes three feature cards: 1. 'PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION' with a bar chart icon and a description: 'General percentage of a population in each category of a variable, displayed in columns.' 2. 'AVERAGES, MEDIAN, & PERCENTS' with a bar chart icon and a description: 'Computes any of three statistics (averages, medians, or percentages) for your selected variables, displayed in columns.' 3. 'CENTILES' with a bar chart icon and a description: 'Produces values of a continuous variables at centiles, displayed in columns.' To the right of these features is a 'GO TO:' sidebar with a list of survey datasets: 'PRE-ELEMENTARY EDUCATION', 'SCHOOLS AND STAFFING SURVEY', 'SCHOOL SURVEY ON CRIME AND SAFETY', 'HIGH SCHOOL LONGITUDINAL STUDY', 'EDUCATION LONGITUDINAL STUDY', and 'POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION'.