



NDC
National Deaf Center
on Postsecondary Outcomes

Supporting Deaf Veterans

Of the 1.6 million American veterans with combat-related disabilities, 4.2% report severe hearing difficulties. Deaf veterans may use different identifying terms such as late deafened, hearing impaired, hard of hearing, and more.¹ Veterans who become deaf later in life and enroll in college will need to learn how to navigate postsecondary settings. These veterans often do not know about accommodations, resources, and tools available to them.

Colleges can support deaf veterans by:

- **Collaborating** with dedicated veteran liaisons on campus
- **Reaching out** to veteran advocacy and support groups
- **Sharing information** about available accommodations

All deaf students may need assistance exploring accommodation options, especially students who become deaf later in life. The disability services office can work closely with the campus veteran liaison to educate deaf veterans on the variety of accommodations available to them as well as the process for requesting auxiliary aids and services. The resources listed on the right may be helpful for professionals and deaf veterans.

Recommended Resources for Professionals

Late-Deafened Individuals: Implications for Postsecondary Outcomes

nationaldeafcenter.org/late-deafened-postsec

Mental Health Care for Deaf Individuals: Needs, Risk Factors, and Access to Treatment

nationaldeafcenter.org/mental-health-research

Disability Services Liaison Toolkit

studentveterans.org/images/pdf/dsl/DSL-Toolkit-180208.pdf

Student Veterans of America's Disability Services Liaison Program

studentveterans.org/aboutus/disability-in-education

Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) Veterans Special Interest Group

ahead.org/about-ahead/about-overview/special-interest-groups/veterans

Recommended Resources for Veterans

Accommodations 101

nationaldeafcenter.org/accommodations101

Heroes with Hearing Loss

heroeswithhearingloss.org/

Hearing Center of Excellence

hearing.health.mil/

Hearing Loss Association of America Veterans Chapter

hearingloss.org/hearing-help/communities/veterans/

Association of Late-Deafened Adults

alda.org/

National Association of the Deaf

nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/learning-american-sign-language/

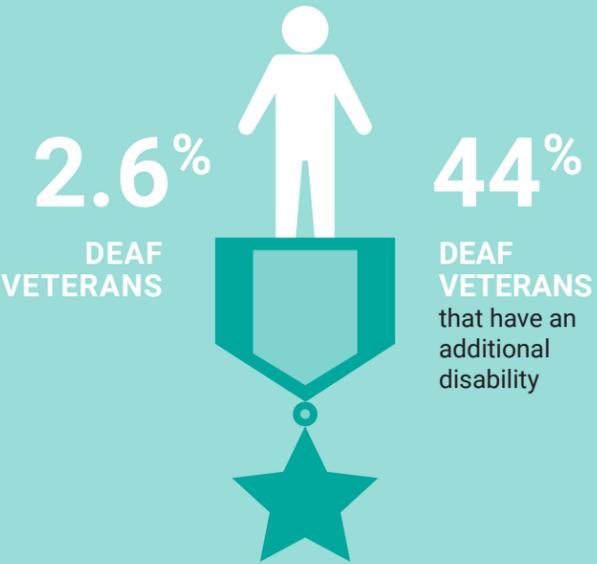
Deaf Veterans

Undergraduate Enrollment and Degree Completion

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of veterans returning home with combat-related hearing loss and tinnitus.² Deaf veterans may need accommodations and support to be successful in college and the work environment. Here are some key statistics about deaf veterans:



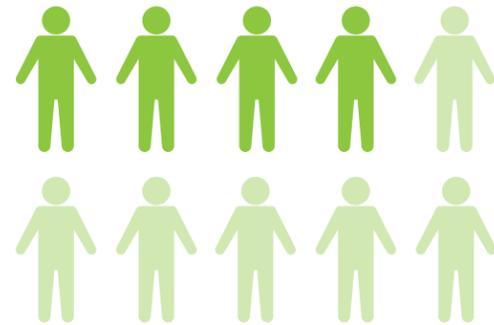
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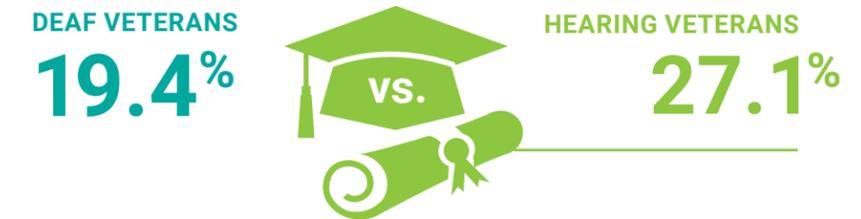
Most deaf veterans are enrolled in associate and bachelor degree programs:

DEAF VETERANS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE

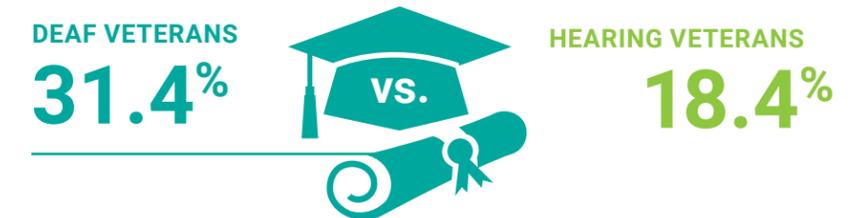
37,000+



Fewer deaf veterans complete a bachelor's degree:



Among deaf veterans, women are more likely to have a bachelor's degree:



AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS between high school and enrolling in college

9.7
YEARS

AGE **38.8**

AVERAGE AGE OF DEAF VETERANS enrolled in college

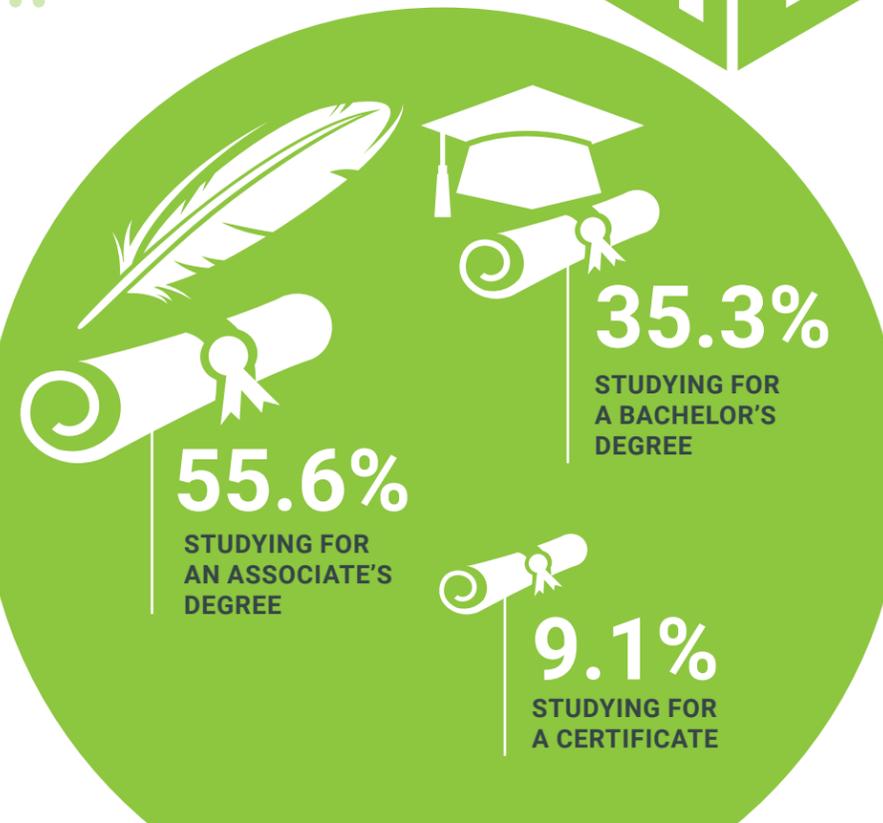
46.1%

ENROLLED DEAF VETERANS have taken developmental courses, a higher percentage than hearing college students

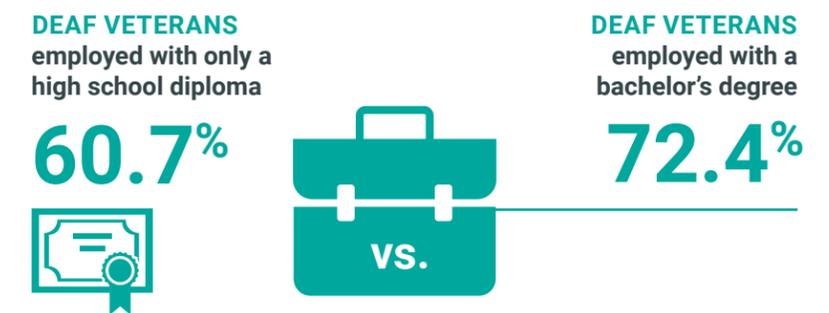


24.0%

DEAF VETERANS ENROLLED IN ONLINE ONLY PROGRAMS compared to 19.6% of hearing veterans



Employment rates among deaf veterans are higher with a bachelor's degree:



Notes and References

¹NDC uses the term deaf in an all-inclusive manner, to include people who may identify as deaf, deafblind, deafdisabled, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and hearing impaired. NDC recognizes that for many people, identity is fluid and can change over time or with setting. NDC has chosen to use one term, deaf, with the goal of recognizing experiences that are shared by people from diverse deaf communities while also honoring their differences.

²Theodoroff, S. M., Lewis, M. S., Folmer, R. L., Henry, J. A., & Carlson, K. F. (2015). Hearing impairment and tinnitus: Prevalence, risk factors, and outcomes in U.S. service members and veterans deployed to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. *Epidemiologic Reviews*, 37(1), 71–85.

Veterans Benefits Administration. (2019). *VBA Annual Benefits Report Fiscal Year 2018*. Retrieved from: benefits.va.gov

Data for individuals ages 24-54 from the U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Data for currently enrolled undergraduate students from the U.S. Department of Education; National Center for Education Statistics, 2015–2016 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS).



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Deaf People and Educational Attainment in the United States: 2019
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