DEFINITION OF STUDENTS WITH VETERAN STATUS

Students at Purdue-West Lafayette are reported via two different indicators:

1. Students who receive federal veteran benefits at the University. This includes both students on active duty as well as spouses and children receiving federal veteran benefits.

2. Students who answered yes to the question "Are you a veteran?" on the admissions application.

STUDENT VETERAN OVERALL ENROLLMENT

Since 2008 there has been a relatively steady increase of veterans and individuals receiving veteran benefits on campus. As seen in chart 1, there has been a 57.1% increase in enrollment since 2008. Fall 2012 was the first year in five years there was a decrease in enrollment.

STUDENT VETERAN GPA

Our students with veteran status typically earn a slightly lower cumulative GPA than the overall undergraduate student population. In Fall 2011, the undergraduate student veterans’ GPA was 0.09 points lower than the overall undergraduate student body.
Some of the Purdue students receiving veteran benefits are still on active duty. However, the majority of our students (94%) receiving benefits are not currently on active duty or 24 of the 393 students receiving benefits are on active duty status (see chart 3). The categories under which our students receive veteran benefits are Post 9/11 GI Bill for children, spouses, and veterans (209 students), Yellow Ribbon Campaign for children, spouses, and veterans (46 students), Montgomery Reserves and Active Duty (100 students), Department of Education Assistance (27 students), and Vocational Rehabilitation (11 students).

Chart 3. Percentage of student veterans by active or non active status
AID DISBURSED TO STUDENT VETERANS

Various federal and state veterans’ benefits are accessible to students who have served in the armed forces. Each branch of the military offers different types of aid and requires different commitments. Receipt of veterans’ educational entitlements does not disqualify eligible students from receiving federal student aid.

In 2012-13, students who identified themselves as receiving military and/or veterans’ benefits borrowed about $2.2 million student loans, which include all types of federal, institutional and self-reported private loans borrowed by students and parents.

STUDENT VETERAN BORROWING

Student veterans may be eligible for federal financial aid, such as low-interest student loans, in addition to military/veterans’ benefits. Students can apply by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on an annual basis.

In October 2012, Student Success at Purdue welcomed Jamie Richards, Coordinator of Military Veteran and Nontraditional Student Programs. Jamie serves as a champion for the student veterans and is helping create awareness regarding the veteran populations at Purdue.

For questions, comments and suggestions please contact: enrollmentmanagement@purdue.edu

VETERAN SERVICES AT PURDUE

One of the key challenges for student veterans on college campuses is navigating the GI Bill’s financial and housing support benefits. In 2009, the Bill expanded to include the these benefits which led to a national surge of veterans to colleges and universities across the United States. Administering the GI Bill benefits is crucial; if a student veteran does not complete all paperwork correctly, the student could end up owing the money back.

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