

## MISSION STATEMENT

Purdue's Veterans Success Center provides programming and services for Purdue University students who are veterans, currently serving members of the military, or benefit using family members—known collectively as VMF.

## VISION STATEMENT

Improve access, retention, and graduation rates as well as employment opportunities for VMF students. Increase Purdue's national recognition as a leader for supporting VMF students.

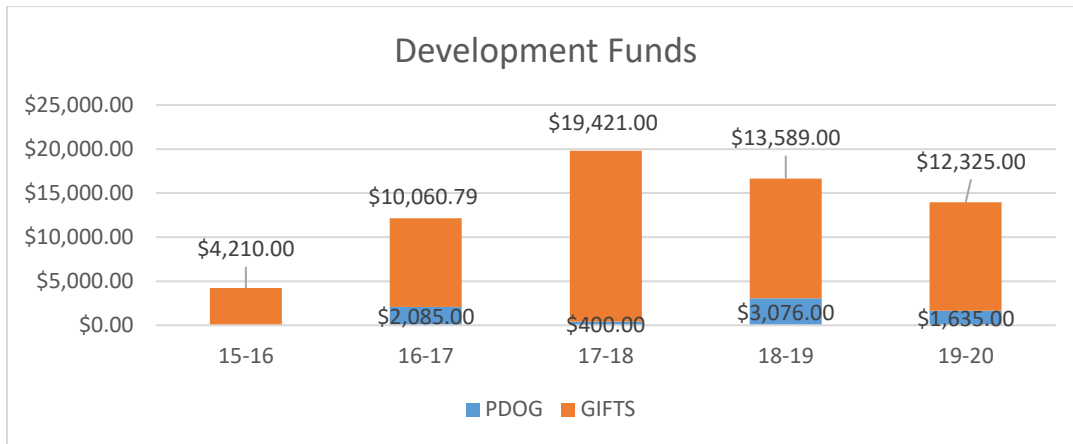
## OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The Veterans Success Center provides four broad levels of VMF support:

- **Benefits and Advocacy:** Certify and maintain compliance for the GI Bill; support access to Federal Tuition Assistance and specific State Funded Benefits; and facilitate the process for residency, the military absence policy and military withdrawal. Directly advocate for students and improve campus VMF awareness. Maintain a space for students and staff.
- **Veteran to Veteran Peer Program (V2V):** An orientation and peer program to support the first year for Veteran and Military (VM) students.
- **The Purdue Student Veterans Organization (PSVO):** An active student organization created in 2005 open to the entire VMF population. Advocates for campus change, community service, and shared camaraderie. The Director and Assistant Director serve as Advisors for the SVO.
- **Education to Occupation (E2O):** Supporting the VM student's transition from higher education to career by creating transition awareness, strengthening self-advocacy, and facilitating connections with employers.

## OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC OUTCOMES

- **Benefits and Advocacy:**
  - Physical Space: Assistant Director and Director moved offices into PMU 280 and will wait until after the pandemic before moving forward with remodeling options.
  - Staffing: We experienced our first staffing turnover since 2013 as one of our SCOs earned her BA and took a position elsewhere on campus. We hired Dawn Amato as a new SCO to replace her. We also hired Wendy Mouser as a new SCO to respond to the growth of Purdue Online.
  - Development Funds: We were able to raise \$1,635 from Purdue Day of Giving as well as another \$12,325 over the course of the year. Due to Purdue Research Foundation switching data systems, the numbers may not be 100% accurate. These will be updated next year and an additional section will be available to track funds raised for the Purdue Student Veterans Organization.



**Veteran to Veteran Peer Program (V2V):** Due to COVID-19, we adjusted our fall orientation for incoming students. We did not have student leaders available to facilitate communication and outreach. We collaborated with Span Plan and had approximately eight students participate with their programming. We also hosted two virtual orientations with five students participating.

**Purdue Student Veterans Organization (PSVO):** The PSVO continues to be the primary source for camaraderie and military-connected student involvement. PSVO was in the process of elections and preparing for leadership turnover when the pandemic hit. Closing out the spring was difficult, but they did elect a new leadership team.

**Education to Occupation (E2O):** Fall programming included a networking reception, headshot photoshoot, and LinkedIn session.

### NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2018-19 Academic Year

In March 2020, Purdue made the decision to shift all instruction and assessment to be online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This caused us to change our work in the following ways:

- The Veterans Success Center closed the center and shifted staff to work at home.
- Installed Jabber on computers, acquired USB headsets, and shifted the ability to answer office phones from home.
- Big Ten Academic Alliance Peer Group started hosting regular phone calls to talk about our responses and provide each other peer support.
- Caylen Redden, from the Purdue Testing Center, provided support to our office by answering our main phone line, fielding questions, and forwarding messages as needed. This gave us the time and space to train a new employee and certify benefits in a timelier manner.
- Cancelled spring graduation and awards dinner.
- Cancelled annual Memorial Day ceremony co-hosted with Purdue Student Union Board.
- Cancelled Green Zone training and spring student panel.
- Allowed by the State Approving Agency to submit our catalog to them via email; submitted in June.

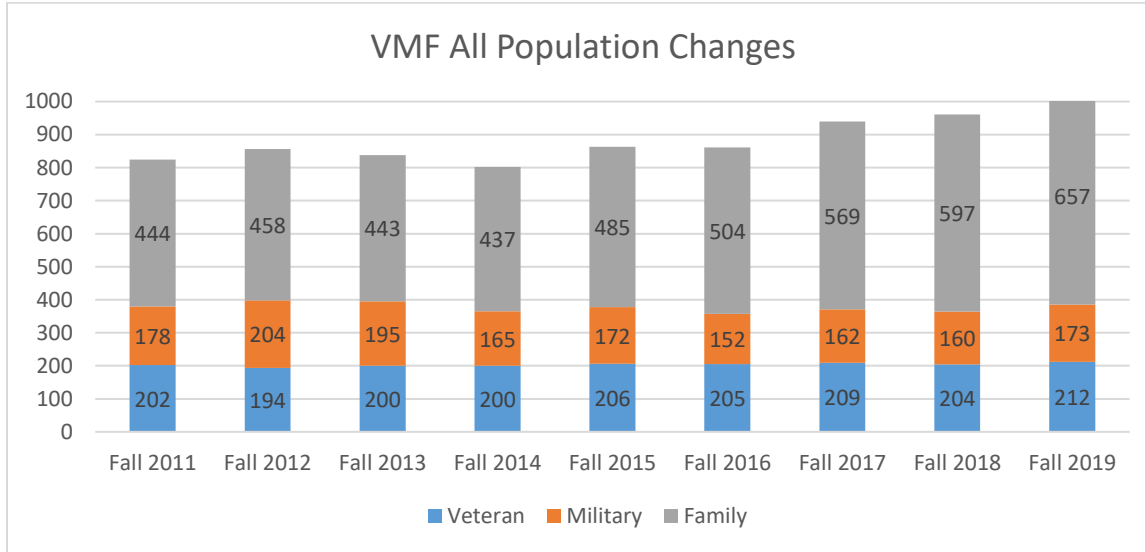
Other notable changes:

- Sarah Underwood, School Certifying Official, transitioned to a new role at Purdue in November of 2019.
- Jamie Richards, Director, shifted to provide support as a School Certifying Official to keep up with GI Bill processing from November 2019 through end of the fiscal year.
- Dawn Amato was hired at the new School Certifying Official in March 2020.
- With the acquisition of PMU280, the VSC will soon include space for the Program Manager of the Purdue Military Research Institute (PMRI). PMRI students are active duty officers who are working toward a Purdue masters or PhD program. These students are historically involved with our office as leaders, use VSC services, or take part of our programming, and this will help provide closer coordination and support.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs switched to a new billing system for Chapter 31 VRE students called Tungsten. Purdue was incorrectly placed in the system by either the VA or Tungsten, and this created problems finding students and billing. The VSC coordinated with the Bursar's Office, Purdue's Parking Services and Follett's West to resolve the issue.
- In 2019-20 the Department of Veterans affairs implemented initial training for new and continuing SCOs along with required CE credits. The initial training was approximately 10 hours of work and then approximately 4 hours of CE or 4 training modules either in person or online each continuing year. All office staff completed their initial training and are now certified as SCOs.

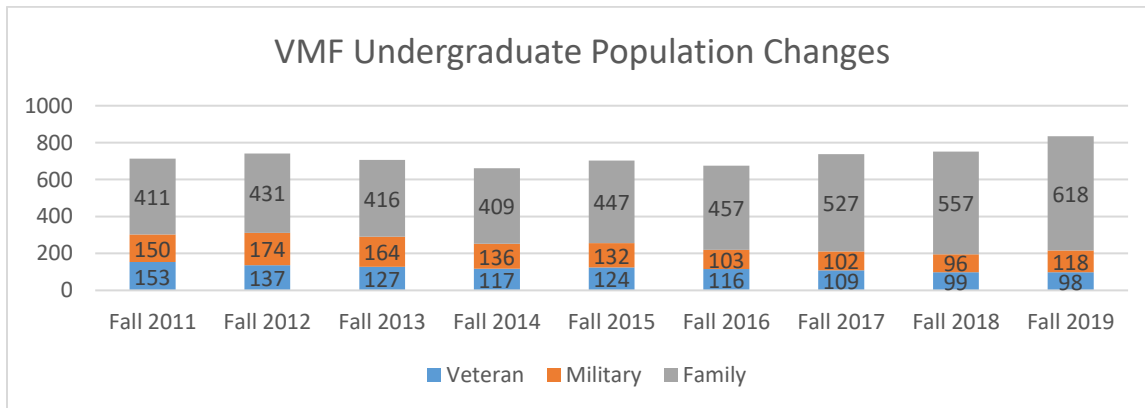
## OUR DATA

This data snapshot is based upon the fall 2019 (201910) census. There are three sections to our data: overall population, retention and graduation, and demographics.

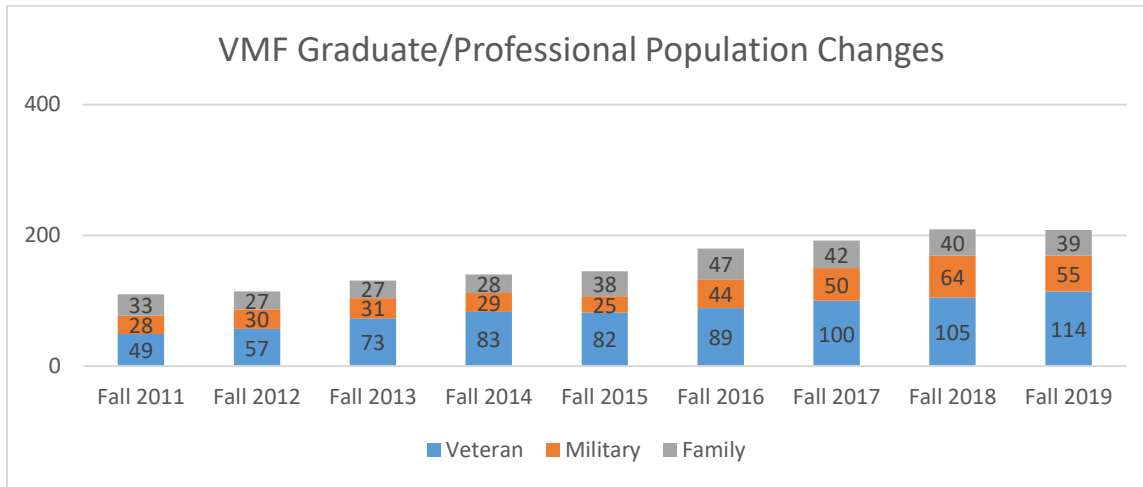
Overall VMF student numbers: The following numbers represent undergraduate, graduate and professional students.



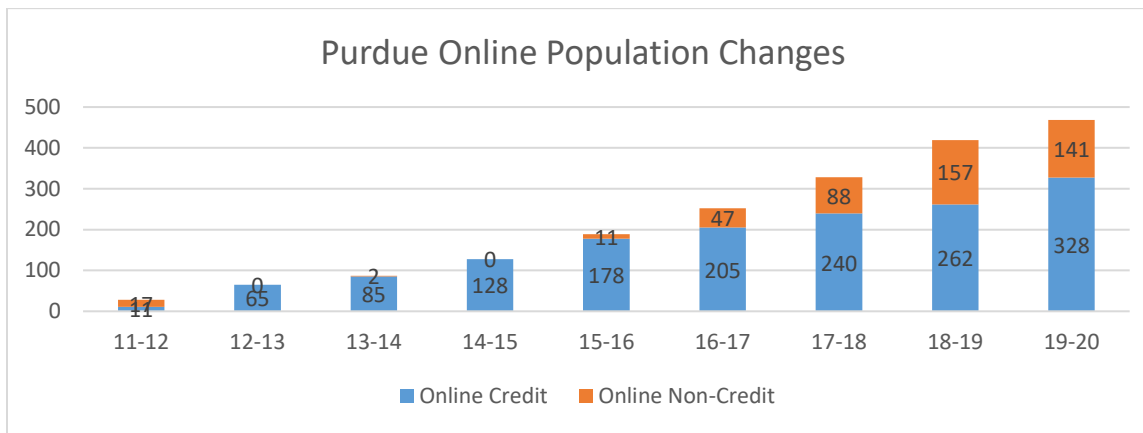
Undergraduate VMF Population Changes: The following is a breakout of undergraduate students only.

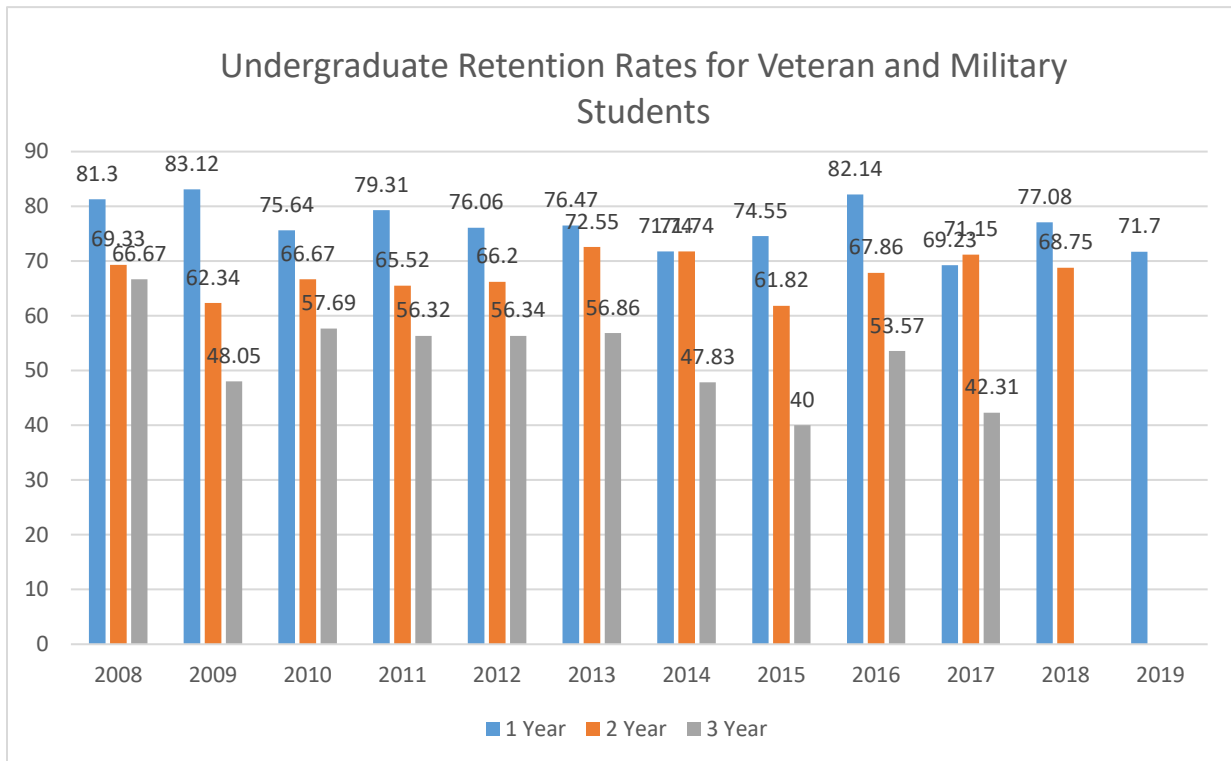


Graduate/Professional VMF Population Changes: The following is a breakout of graduate and professional students only.



Purdue Online Learning Population Changes: The following is an isolated breakout of POL's population changes. These numbers are included in our overall population charts as well as our demographics, but because they have been a growth point for our office, it is helpful to track this separately.



Overall VM undergraduate retention and success rates


A direct comparison between the last 3 years of VM retention rates and Purdue’s undergraduate retention demonstrates that the VM retention lags behind.

*Table 1 Veterans Undergraduate Retention as Compared to Purdue's Undergraduate Retention*

Cohort	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
2016 VM	82.14%	67.86%	53.57%
2016 Purdue	91.64%	87.44%	83.00%
2017 VM	69.23%	71.15%	42.31%
2017 Purdue	91.94%	87.80%	83.08%
2018 VM	77.08%	68.75%	-
2018 Purdue	91.57%	87.43%	-
2019 VM	71.70%	-	-
2019 Purdue	93.55%	-	-

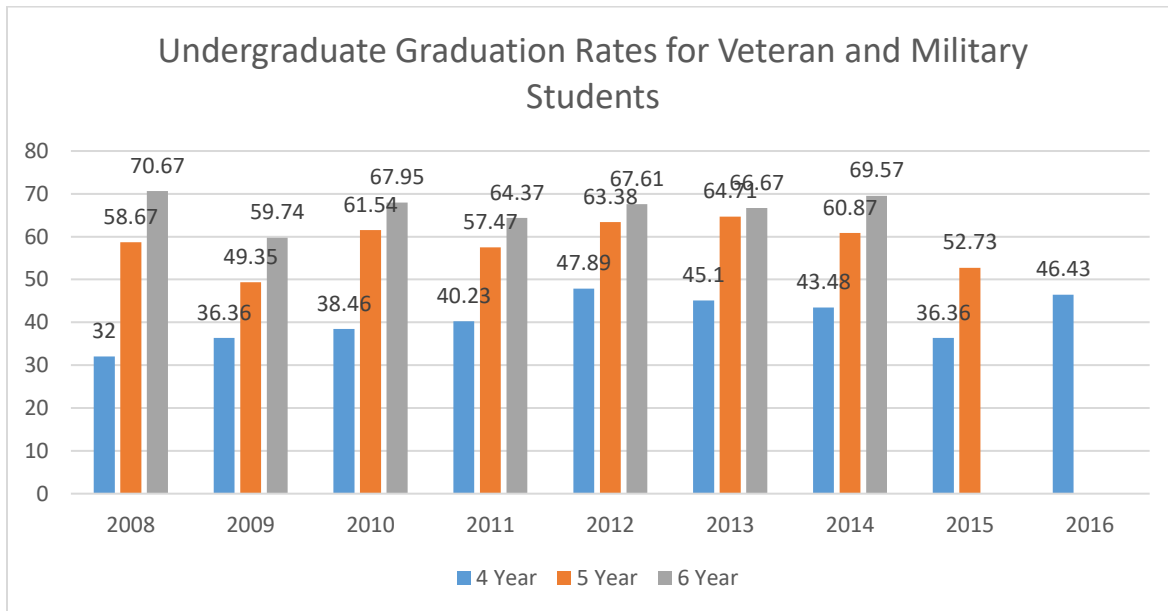
Many VM students are transfer students, attend less than full-time, have families, jobs, and/or still serve in the military, etc. For example, a student with transfer credits who graduates in two years is considered not retained in the three-year rate. It is more helpful to review a “success rate” of our student population—those students who are either retained or graduated—and helpful to add transfer students to the overall Purdue retention rate for a more accurate comparison.

*Table 2 Undergraduate Veterans Success Retention as Compared to Purdue's Undergraduate Retention with Transfer Students*

Cohort	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
2016 VM Success	82.15%	82.15%	80.35%
2016 Purdue w/Transfer Students	88.70%	84.45%	82.85%
2017 VM Success	69.2%	75%	73.08%
2017 Purdue w/Transfer Students	89.03%	84.92%	75.20%
2018 VM Success	76.95%	76.95%	-
2018 Purdue w/Transfer Students	88.73%	82.60%	-
2019 VM Success	71.70%	-	-
2019 Purdue w/Transfer Students	90.25%	-	-

While the gap is narrower, VM students still lag behind. We intend to research using Purdue’s Banner and BoilerConnect systems, as well as individual surveys, to determine whether students are retained.

Undergraduate graduation rates.



Comparing the last three years available VM graduation rate with Purdue's indicates that our students lag behind.

*Table 3 Veterans Graduation as Compared to Purdue's Graduation*

<b>Cohort</b>	<b>4 Year</b>	<b>5 Year</b>	<b>6 Year</b>
2013 VM	45.10%	64.71%	66.67%
2013 Purdue	58.58%	78.1%	82.2%
2014 VM	43.48%	60.87%	69.57%
2014 Purdue	60.3%	79.30%	83.27%
2015 VM	36.36%	52.73%	-
2015 Purdue	60.3%	79.07%	-
2016 VM	46.43%	-	-
2016 Purdue	62.64%	-	-

Potential reasons for this disparity could be the nature of nontraditional student's working and life commitments, a higher percentage of our students taking classes less than full-time, military deployments, veteran-related temporary medical withdrawals, etc. Again, it is helpful to compare to the undergraduate population including transfer students.

*Table 4 Undergraduate Veterans Graduation as compared to Purdue's Undergraduate Graduation with Transfer Students*

<b>Cohort</b>	<b>4 Year</b>	<b>5 Year</b>	<b>6 Year</b>
2013 VM	45.10%	64.71%	66.67%
2013 Purdue w/Transfer Students	57.70%	75.08%	78.74%
2014 VM	43.48%	60.87%	69.57%
2014 Purdue w/Transfer Students	58.94%	75.85%	79.56%
2015 VM	36.36%	52.73%	-
2015 Purdue w/Transfer Students	59.72%	76.21%	-
2016 VM	46.43%	-	-
2016 Purdue w/Transfer Students	64.58%	-	-

The remaining data is from the fall 2020 census.



**Veterans**

Average Age = 32.9

**Ethnicity or Race**

2 or more races	10
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian	6
Black or African American	11
Hispanic/Latino	18
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2
Unknown	8
White	154
International	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>210</b>

**Gender**

Female	41
Male	169
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>210</b>

**Military**

Average Age = 25

**Ethnicity or Race**

2 or more races	9
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian	15
Black or African American	8
Hispanic/Latino	12
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Unknown	4
White	131
International	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>180</b>

**Gender**

Female	31
Male	149
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>180</b>

**Family**

Average Age = 20

**Ethnicity or Race**

2 or more races	58
American Indian or Alaska Native	0
Asian	13
Black or African American	32
Hispanic/Latino	46
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Unknown	7
White	552
International	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>708</b>

**Gender**

Female	359
Male	349
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>708</b>

**Veterans**
**Military**
**Family**
**Benefit Type\***

Chapter 1606	0
Chapter 30	6
Chapter 31	16
Chapter 33	173
Chapter 33 YRP	1
Chapter 33 Child	0
Chapter 33 Spouse	0
Chapter 33 Child YRP	0
Chapter 33 Spouse YRP	0
Chapter 35	0
No Benefit	14
Active Duty	0
CVO Remission of Fees	0
Indiana National Guard Grant	0
Military Contract	0
Tuition Assistance	0
PMRI	0
<b>Grand Total**</b>	<b>210</b>

**Benefit Type\***

Chapter 1606	43
Chapter 30	0
Chapter 31	0
Chapter 33	2
Chapter 33 YRP	0
Chapter 33 Child	0
Chapter 33 Spouse	0
Chapter 33 Child YRP	0
Chapter 33 Spouse YRP	0
Chapter 35	1
No Benefit	0
Active Duty	0
CVO Remission of Fees	4
Indiana National Guard Grant	74
Military Contract	28
Tuition Assistance	20
PMRI	35
<b>Grand Total**</b>	<b>207</b>

**Benefit Type\***

Chapter 1606	0
Chapter 30	0
Chapter 31	0
Chapter 33	0
Chapter 33 YRP	0
Chapter 33 Child	133
Chapter 33 Spouse	1
Chapter 33 Child YRP	42
Chapter 33 Spouse YRP	0
Chapter 35	84
No Benefit	0
Active Duty	0
CVO Remission of Fees	438
Indiana National Guard Grant	0
Military Contract	0
Tuition Assistance	0
PMRI	0
<b>Grand Total**</b>	<b>698</b>

\*For more information regarding specific different benefits:

- Learn more about the [Federal GI Bill](#)
- Learn more about [Federal Tuition Assistance](#)
- Learn more about [State Benefits](#)
- Learn more about the [National Guard Supplemental Grant](#)

\*\*Due to individuals using multiple benefits, the grand total may differ from the number of actual individuals.

**Veterans**
**Student Level**

UG	90
GR/PR	120
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>210</b>

**Residency**

Resident	117
Non-Resident	93
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>210</b>

**Current Time Status**

Full Time	120
Three Quarter Time	51
Half Time	5
Less than Half Time	32
No Credit	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>210</b>

**Military**
**Student Level**

UG	116
GR/PR	64
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>180</b>

**Residency**

Resident	163
Non-Resident	17
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>180</b>

**Current Status**

Full Time	165
Three Quarter Time	5
Half Time	3
Less than Half Time	7
No Credit	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>180</b>

**Family**
**Student Level**

UG	669
GR/PR	39
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>708</b>

**Residency**

Resident	627
Non-Resident	81
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>708</b>

**Current Status**

Full Time	668
Three Quarter Time	20
Half Time	10
Less than Half Time	8
No Credit	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>708</b>

**Veterans Colleges**

College of Agriculture	10
College of Education	1
College of Engineering	11
Exploratory Studies	3
College of Health and Human Sciences	8
College of Liberal Arts	11
Krannert School of Management	0
College of Pharmacy	0
Purdue Polytechnic Institute	34
College of Science	2
Veterinary Technology	9
Temporary	1
Graduate Professional	12
Graduate School	103
Doctor of Pharmacy	1
Veterinary Medicine	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>210</b>

**Military Colleges**

College of Agriculture	5
College of Education	0
College of Engineering	24
Exploratory Studies	4
College of Health and Human Sciences	13
College of Liberal Arts	19
Krannert School of Management	0
College of Pharmacy	2
Purdue Polytechnic Institute	42
College of Science	7
Veterinary Technology	0
Temporary	0
Graduate Professional	0
Graduate School	56
Doctor of Pharmacy	2
Veterinary Medicine	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>180</b>

**Family College**

College of Agriculture	51
College of Education	18
College of Engineering	180
Exploratory Studies	28
College of Health and Human Sciences	95
College of Liberal Arts	68
Krannert School of Management	0
College of Pharmacy	24
Purdue Polytechnic Institute	111
College of Science	83
Veterinary Technology	9
Temporary	2
Graduate Professional	1
Graduate School	30
Doctor of Pharmacy	6
Veterinary Medicine	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>708</b>

**Top Veteran Undergrad Programs**

Vet Nrs Distance Learning	8
Cybersecurity	5
Prof Flight Technology	5
Law and Society	4
Unmanned Aerial Systems	4
Aeronautic Engr Technology	3
Electrical Engineering	3
Explorers	3

**Top Military Undergraduate Programs**

Aeronautic Engr Technology	11
Construction Management	7
Law and Society	7
Political Science	6
Aero & Astro Engineering	4
Cybersecurity	4
Explorers	4
Industrial Engineering	4
Mechanical Engr Technology	4
Prof Flight Technology	4

**Top Family Undergraduate Programs**

First Year Engineering	48
Explorers	28
Pharmaceutical Sciences	24
Computer Science	21
Mechanical Engineering	20
Biology	17
Prof Flight Technology	17
Health Science PreProfessional	16
Cybersecurity	15
Animal Sciences	14
Computer Engineering	14
Kinesiology	14
Law and Society	14
Aero & Astro Engineering	13
Elementary Education	13
Nursing	13
Aeronautic Engr Technology	11
Construction Management	11
Psychological Sciences	11
Civil Engineering	10
Mechanical Engr Technology	10

**Top Veteran Graduate/Professional Programs**

Communication	6
Economics	6
Interdisciplinary Engineering	6
Aviation Technology	5
Aeronautics & Astronautics	4
Management-Executive MBA	4
Technology	4

**Top Military Graduate/Professional Programs**

Aeronautics & Astronautics	12
Veterinary Medicine	6
Electrical & Computer Engr	5
Mechanical Engineering	5
Technology	5
Materials Engineering	4
Chemical Engineering	3

**Top Family Graduate/Professional Programs**

Dr Pharm/Traditional	6
Communication	3
Educational Studies	3
Electrical & Computer Engr	3
Public Health	3
Curriculum & Instruction	2
Hospitality & Tourism Mgmt	2
Veterinary Medicine	2