



# Fast Facts Report for the Veterans Upward Bound Program

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## Introduction

This Fast Facts report provides a national profile of the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Program—one of the seven Federal TRIO programs (TRIO) funded by the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

TRIO Fast Facts reports present information on program background and funding, characteristics of program participants, and program outcomes. Fast Facts reports for TRIO’s Student Support Services (U.S. Department of Education, 2016a) and Talent Search (U.S. Department of Education, 2016b) programs are available on ED’s website.

The two main sources of data for this VUB report are (1) ED’s Federal TRIO Programs Funded Projects Database and (2) annual performance reports (APRs) that VUB grantees submit. The APRs provide individual-level data on each participant’s background characteristics, program services received, and achievement of program outcomes,<sup>i</sup> while the Funded Projects Database provides funding information on grantees (such as the amount of funding the grantee received and number of participants the grantee was funded to serve). ED’s National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and the National Center for Education Statistics’ Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data were used to supplement APR information on participants’ postsecondary education enrollment and the institutions attended.<sup>ii</sup>

The main body of this report provides information on the characteristics of the veterans who are served by this program, as well as information pertaining to the performance of the program. Detailed tables with additional findings are presented in Appendix A, and national rates of postsecondary degree completion by veteran status are provided in Appendix B.

# Population Served and Grantees Funded

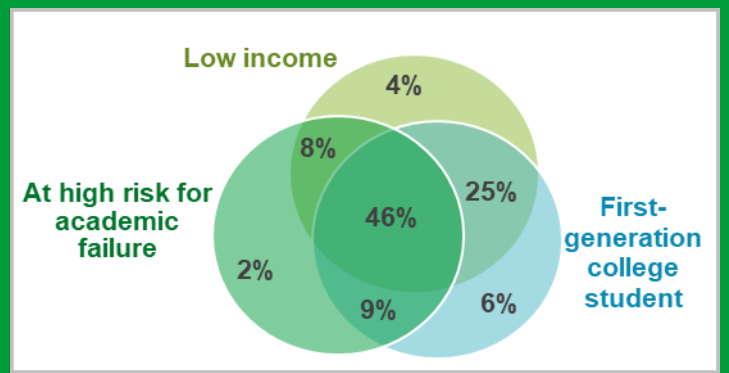
TRIO programs provide support services to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to promote achievement in postsecondary education. The VUB Program is designed to prepare, motivate, and assist military veterans in developing academic and other skills necessary for acceptance and success in postsecondary education.

According to Upward Bound regulations (which encompass VUB; see 34 C.F.R. § 645.3), to participate in VUB, a veteran must be: (1) a potential first-generation college student; (2) a low-income individual; or (3) an individual who has a high risk for academic failure.<sup>iii</sup> Among veterans who received VUB services during the 2016–17 program year, nearly half (46 percent) possessed all three of these eligibility characteristics (see Exhibit 1).

Most veterans who receive VUB services have several characteristics that are associated with not enrolling in or graduating from postsecondary education (i.e., risk factors) (Cataldi et al. 2018; Choy 2002; and Engle & Tinto 2008)<sup>iv</sup>:

- 86 percent were potential first-generation college students;

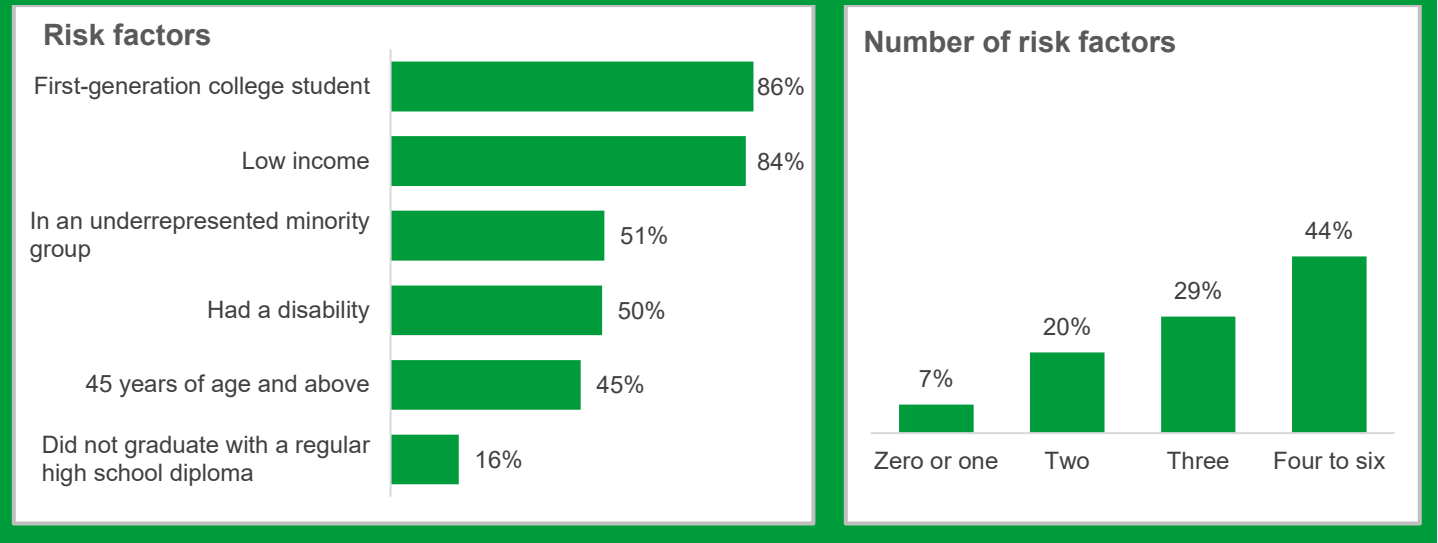
**Exhibit 1. Percentage of participants with VUB eligibility criteria: 2016–17**



- 84 percent were low-income;
- 51 percent were in an underrepresented minority group;<sup>v</sup>
- 50 percent had a disability;
- 45 percent were 45 years of age or older at the time they entered the program<sup>vi</sup>; and
- 16 percent had not earned a regular high school diploma (see Exhibit 2).

More than 40 percent of VUB participants who received services in 2016–17 reported at least four of these six risk factors.

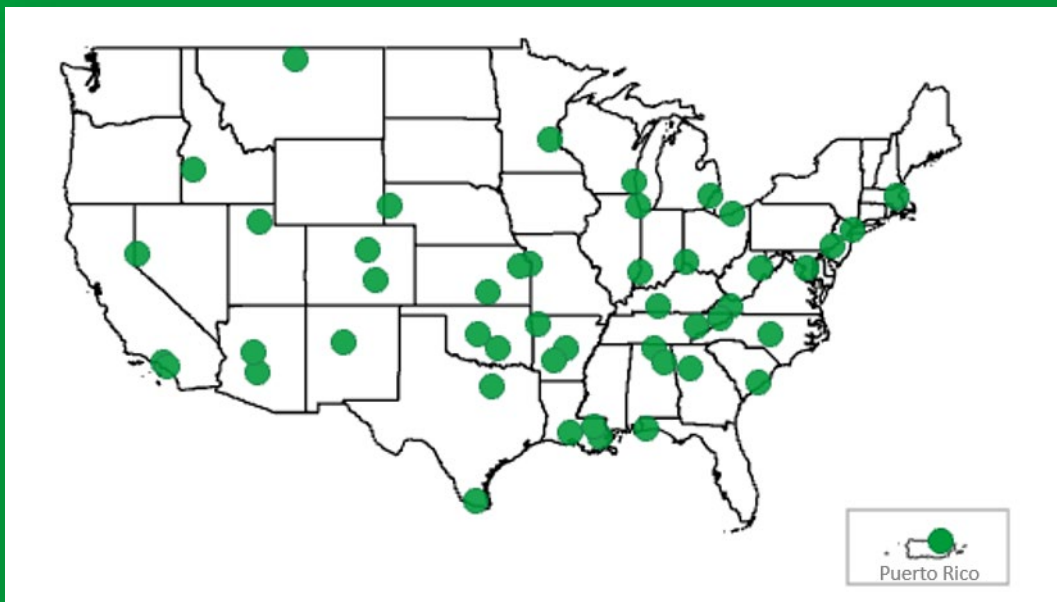
## Exhibit 2. Percentage of Veterans Upward Bound participants with select risk factors affecting postsecondary success: 2016–17



The VUB Program serves these individuals through grants to projects located throughout the U.S. (see Exhibit 3).<sup>vii</sup> In the 2016–17 program year, 49 grantees were funded—46 were postsecondary

institutions and three were nonprofit organizations (see Exhibit 4).<sup>viii</sup> Collectively, these grantees received nearly \$14 million in program funding and provided services to 6,385 participants.

## Exhibit 3. Veterans Upward Bound grantee locations: 2016–17



## Exhibit 4. Number of Veterans Upward Bound grants, number of program participants, and amount of program funding, by grantee type: 2016–17

Characteristic	Total	Grantee type			Nonprofit organization
		4-year public	4-year private	2-year public	
Number of funded grants	49	23	4	19	3
Number of grantees that are minority-serving institutions	10	4	0	4	2
Total funding (\$)	13,852,595	6,722,838	1,231,530	5,046,118	852,109
Average funding per grantee (\$)	282,706	292,297	307,883	265,585	284,036
Total participants served <sup>2</sup>	6,385	3,072	577	2,313	423
Average number of participants served per grantee	130	134	144	122	141
Average cost per participant served (\$)	2,170	2,188	2,134	2,182	2,014

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Veterans Upward Bound Annual Performance Report data and Funded Projects database, 2016–17.

## Program Outcomes

### Measures

The primary goal of the VUB program is to increase the rate at which participants enroll in and complete postsecondary education programs. Additionally, grantees have goals related to current-year participants (i.e., immediate assessment outcomes) that include meeting participant program retention and completion targets, as well as meeting academic progression targets as measured through improvement rates on standardized tests. Exhibit 5 provides the calculation rules for these outcomes.

Postsecondary degree completion is measured within 150 percent of normal time from first enrollment at a postsecondary institution. Degree completion rates for a bachelor's degree are determined as the percentage of participants who enrolled who completed a bachelor's degree within 6 years of first enrollment; degree completion rates for an associate degree are determined as the percent of students who enrolled who completed an associate's degree within 3 years of first enrollment.

## Exhibit 5. Veterans Upward Bound program outcomes calculation rules: 2016–17 program year

Outcome	Denominator	Numerator
Postsecondary enrollment	The number of participants who completed the VUB program in the 2015–16 program year (see endnote ix for information on the meaning of "program completion")	The number of participants in the denominator who enrolled in a postsecondary education program between September 1, 2015 and September 30, 2017
Postsecondary degree completion within 150% time	The number of participants who completed the VUB program in 2010–11 or 2011–12 and enrolled in a postsecondary education program during the 2011–12 academic year (August 1, 2011 - July 31, 2012). This set of participants is referred to as the VUB 2011–12 postsecondary enrollment cohort.	The number of participants in the denominator who completed a bachelor's degree by September 30, 2017 or completed an associate degree by September 30, 2014
VUB program retention and completion	The number of participants who received VUB services in 2016–17	The number of participants in the denominator who completed the VUB program in 2016–17 or were still participating at the end of the 2016–17 program year
Academic improvement on standardized test	The number of participants who both received VUB services and completed the VUB program in 2016–17	The number of participants in the denominator who improved their academic performance as demonstrated by pretests and posttests administered by the project



## Results

Most of the veterans served by VUB have multiple risk factors and the greater the number of risk factors that a participant possesses, the lower the likelihood that the participant achieves a program objective. This pattern occurs for three of the four program outcomes, with the one exception of improved academic performance on standardized tests.

- Around three-fourths (74 percent) of participants who completed the program in the 2015–16 reporting year had enrolled in postsecondary education by the end of the following reporting year.<sup>ix</sup> For those with no more than one risk factor, this rate was 92 percent, but for those with four to six risk factors this rate was 60 percent (see Exhibit 6).
- Just under one-in-four (23 percent) VUB participants who first enrolled in postsecondary education in the 2011–12 academic year had earned a bachelor’s degree within 6 years of matriculation or an associate degree with 3 years of matriculation. (For context, see Appendix B for national rates of degree completion for military veterans). For those with no more than one risk factor, this rate was 34 percent, but for those with four to six risk factors, this rate was 16 percent (see Exhibit 6).
- Overall, 82 percent of participants who received VUB services during the 2016–17 program year successfully completed the VUB program by the end of the same program year or were still participating at the end of the same program year. For VUB participants with no more than one risk factor, this rate was 86 percent and for those with

four to six risk factors this rate was 78 percent (see Exhibit 7).

- Among VUB participants who received VUB services and completed the VUB program in 2016–17, 71 percent improved their academic performance on the standardized tests as demonstrated by pretests and posttests. Unlike the pattern in the previous examples, this rate was lower for those with no more than one risk factor (at 62 percent) than for those with four to six risk factors (at 73 percent) (see Exhibit 7).

## Postsecondary Certificates

Military veteran students are often older and are more likely to be married with dependents and to be working than nonveteran students (Radford 2009; Radford et al. 2016). Postsecondary certificate programs can be an attractive option for older students with additional family and work responsibilities since, relative to associate and bachelor’s degree programs, they are often less expensive and require less time to complete.

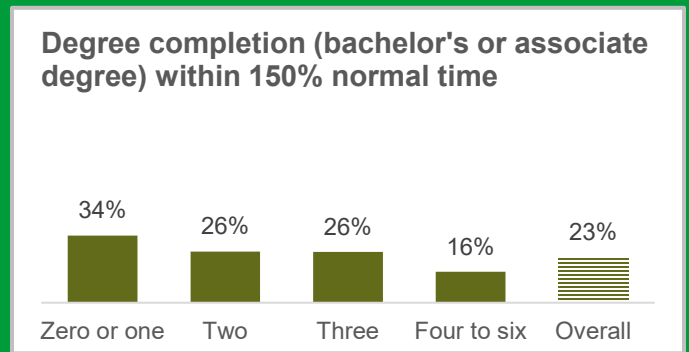
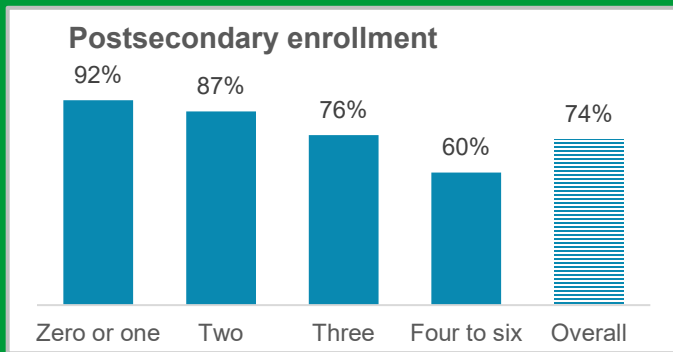
Among VUB participants who first enrolled in postsecondary education in 2011–12:

- Six percent had earned a certificate or diploma within 3 years of matriculation (8 percent did so within 6 years).
- When certificate earners are counted along with other degree recipients, the overall degree completion rate (see Exhibit 6, second panel) is increased by 5 percentage points to 28 percent.



## Exhibit 6. Percentage of Veterans Upward Bound participants achieving postsecondary enrollment and degree completion outcomes, by risk factors

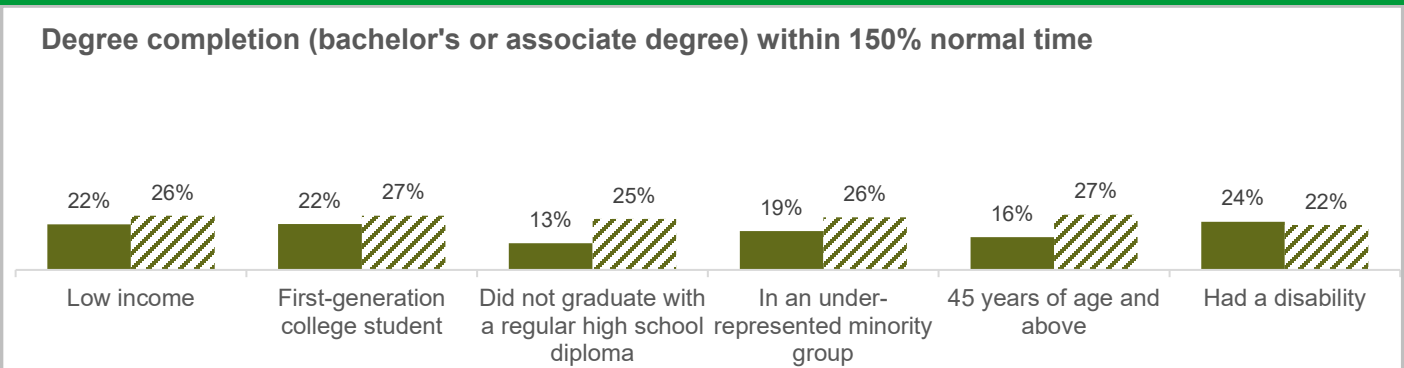
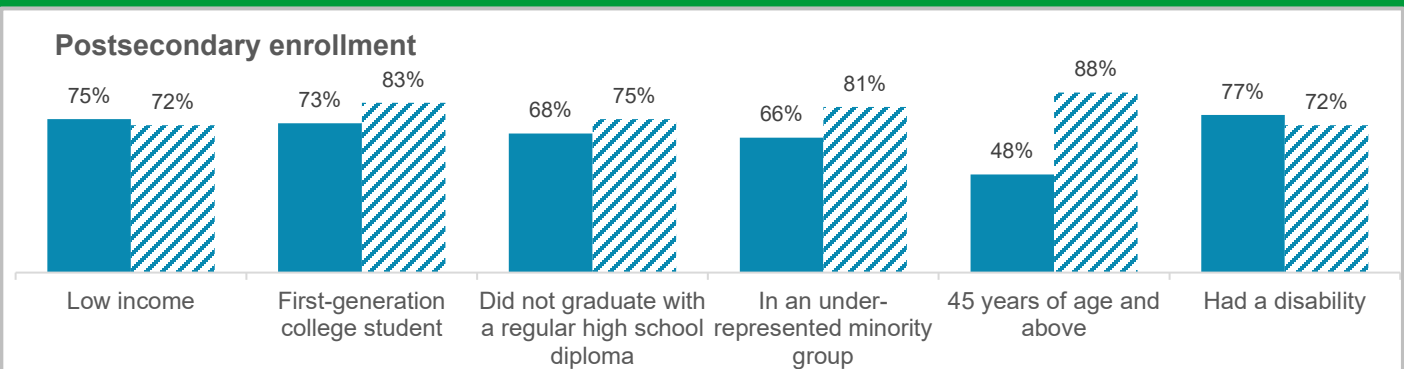
### Number of risk factors



### Individual risk factor status

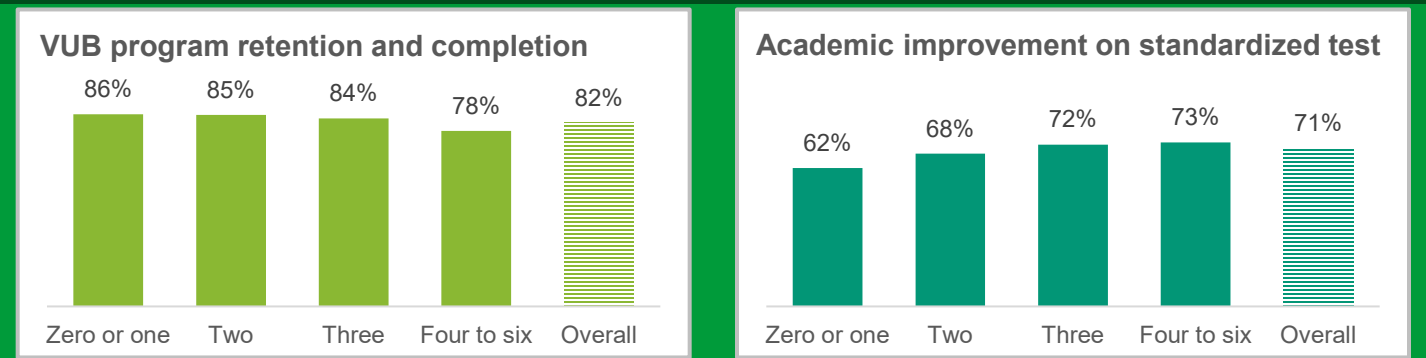
■ VUB participants in risk category

▨ VUB participants not in risk category



## Exhibit 7. Percentage of participants achieving Veterans Upward Bound immediate assessment outcomes, by risk factors

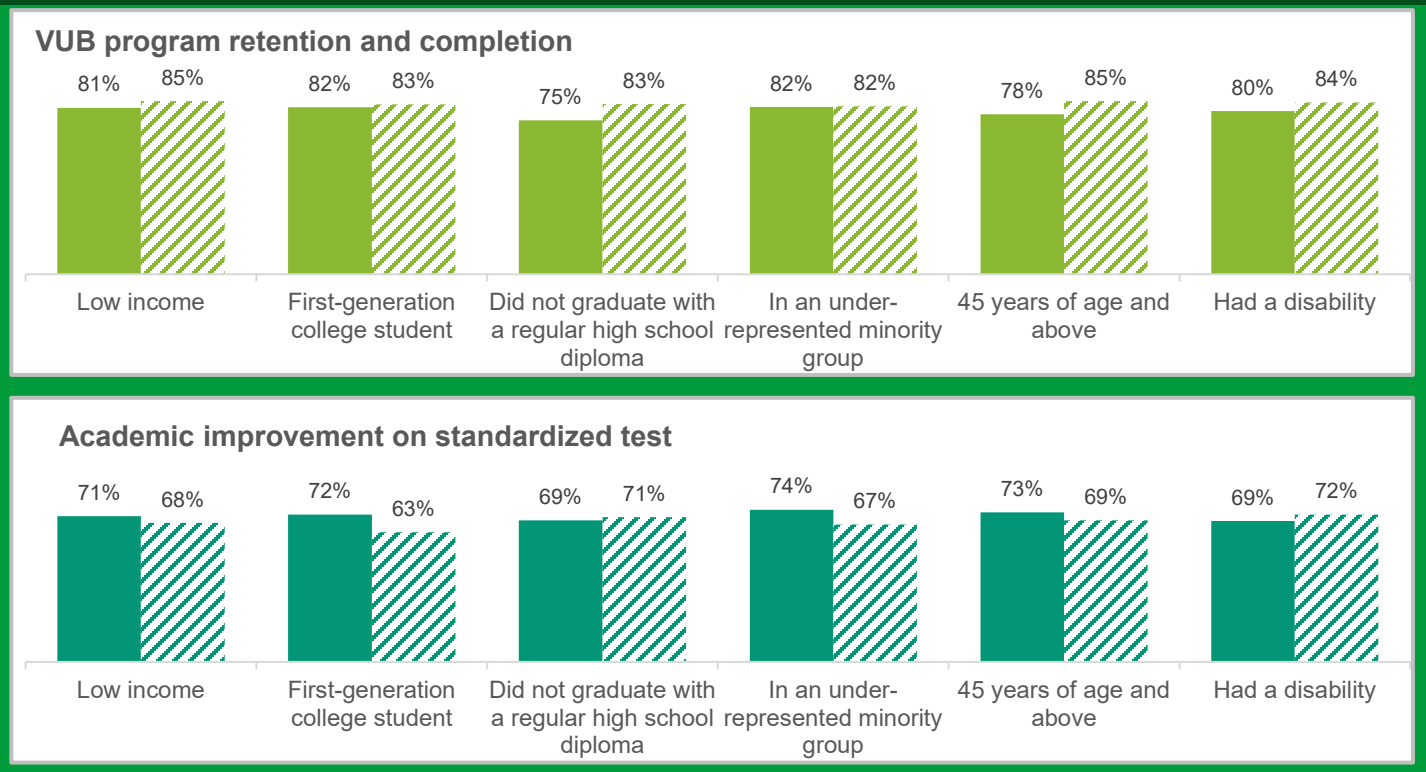
### Number of risk factors



### Percentage in risk and not in risk

■ VUB participants in risk category

▨ VUB participants not in risk category



For VUB participants, some risk factors make a particularly large difference with respect to postsecondary outcomes. Three factors—being 45 years of age or older, being a member of an underrepresented minority group, and lacking a traditional high school diploma—are each strongly, negatively associated with both postsecondary outcomes that were measured (see Exhibit 6).

- The postsecondary enrollment rate was 48 percent among those who were 45 years of age or older

and 88 percent among those who were younger (40 percentage point difference).

- The postsecondary enrollment rate was 66 percent among those in an underrepresented minority group and 81 percent among those who were not (15 percentage point difference).
- The postsecondary enrollment rate was 68 percent among those who did not earn a high school diploma and 75 percent among those who did (7 percentage point difference).



- Concerning the postsecondary degree completion outcome, the difference in the rate was 12 percentage points between those who did not earn a regular high school diploma and those who did (13 percent compared to 25 percent, respectively) (see Exhibit 6).
- The difference in this same rate was 11 percentage points between those who were 45 years of age or older and those who were younger (16 percent and 27 percent, respectively).
- The difference in the postsecondary degree completion rate was 7 percentage points between those who were in an underrepresented minority group and those who were not (19 percent and 26 percent, respectively).

For the outcomes concerning participants' experience while served in the VUB program, differences in achievement between those with and without individual risk factors were less striking, with a few exceptions (see Exhibit 7).

- The VUB program retention and completion rate was 75 percent among those who did not graduate with a regular high school degree and 83 percent among those who did (an 8 percentage point difference).
- The academic improvement on standardized test rate was 9 percentage points higher for veterans who were first-generation college students than those who were not (72 percent and 63 percent, respectively).

## For Further Reference

This report provided a national profile of the VUB Program, with program performance results and characteristics of current participants for the 2016–17 program year. For more information on the TRIO program and military veterans, see the resources listed in this section.

### TRIO Program Resources

TRIO webpage (provides links to the webpages for individual TRIO programs; TRIO news and information; and links to TRIO reports, maps, and other resources):

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>

VUB webpage (provides information VUB Program funding and other resources):

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/triovub/index.html>

### U.S. Military Veterans' Resources

US Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics Webpage (provides information on the Center, Center's reports on veterans, and quick facts on veterans):

<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website (by entering "veterans" in the search box, users will access employment and demographic information about veterans collected through the Current Population Survey): <https://www.bls.gov/opub/>

Census Bureau veterans population website (provides demographic, social, and economic information on veterans):

<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/veterans.html>

NCES publications and products search webpage (by entering "veterans" in the search box, users will access NCES reports related to military veterans):

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/>

National Veteran Education Success Tracker

(NVEST) webpage (NVEST is a partnership between Student Veterans of American, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the National Student Clearinghouse; NVEST webpage presents information on the performance of veterans in higher education):

<https://nvest.studentveterans.org/>





Student Veterans of America (SVA) Million Records Project webpage (Million Records Project is a research initiative that involved the partnership of SVA, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the National Student Clearinghouse; the initiative produced a report that provides information on high level higher education outcomes [completion, time-to-degree, and level of education]):  
<https://studentveterans.org/aboutus/research>

American Council on Education (ACE) service member and veteran resources webpage (provides college and university resources and service member and veteran resources):  
<https://www.acenet.edu/higher-education/topics/Pages/Supporting-Military-Connected-Students.aspx>

## References

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<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/triotalent/ts-fastfacts2016.pdf>



# Appendix A. Detailed Tables



**Table A-1. Number and percentage distribution of Veterans Upward Bound participants served in 2016–17, by participant characteristics and grantee type**

Characteristic	Grantee type									
	Total		4-year public		4-year private		2-year public		Nonprofit organization	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,385</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,072</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Gender	6,384	100.0	3,072	100.0	577	100.0	2,312	100.0	423	100.0
Male	5,516	86.4	2,665	86.8	510	88.4	1,947	84.2	394	93.1
Female	868	13.6	407	13.2	67	11.6	365	15.8	29	6.9
Underrepresented minority member <sup>1</sup>	6,379	100.0	3,066	100.0	577	100.0	2,313	100.0	423	100.0
Yes	3,228	50.6	1,391	45.4	290	50.3	1,204	52.1	343	81.1
No	3,151	49.4	1,675	54.6	287	49.7	1,109	47.9	80	18.9
Age, at first service	6,377	100.0	3,067	100.0	577	100.0	2,310	100.0	423	100.0
Less than 25 years of age	797	12.5	433	14.1	38	6.6	304	13.2	22	5.2
25 to 34	1,749	27.4	886	28.9	128	22.2	657	28.4	78	18.4
35 to 44	991	15.5	500	16.3	88	15.3	356	15.4	47	11.1
45 to 54	1,258	19.7	601	19.6	117	20.3	479	20.7	61	14.4
More than 54 years of age	1,582	24.8	647	21.1	206	35.7	514	22.3	215	50.8
VUB eligibility status, at time of program selection <sup>2</sup>	6,385	100.0	3,072	100.0	577	100.0	2,313	100.0	423	100.0
Low income only (not first generation or high risk for academic failure)	271	4.2	138	4.5	‡	‡	102	4.4	‡	‡
First generation only (not low income or high risk for academic failure)	350	5.5	121	3.9	58	10.1	123	5.3	48	11.3
High risk for academic failure only (not low income or first generation)	127	2.0	52	1.7	‡	‡	65	2.8	‡	‡
Low income and first generation (not high risk for academic failure)	1,624	25.4	799	26.0	110	19.1	609	26.3	106	25.1
Low income and at high risk for academic failure (not first generation)	507	7.9	309	10.1	32	5.5	129	5.6	37	8.7
First generation and at high risk for academic failure (not low income)	543	8.5	218	7.1	62	10.7	224	9.7	39	9.2
Low income, first generation, and at high risk for academic failure	2,963	46.4	1,435	46.7	285	49.4	1,061	45.9	182	43.0
Had been out of school for five years or more, at time of program selection	6,216	100.0	2,926	100.0	576	100.0	2,291	100.0	423	100.0
Yes	4,877	78.5	2,122	72.5	486	84.4	1,898	82.8	371	87.7
No	1,339	21.5	804	27.5	90	15.6	393	17.2	52	12.3
Had low standardized test scores, at time of program selection	6,154	100.0	2,901	100.0	576	100.0	2,255	100.0	422	100.0
Yes	4,521	73.5	2,096	72.3	300	52.1	1,850	82.0	275	65.2
No	1,633	26.5	805	27.7	276	47.9	405	18.0	147	34.8
Disability status	6,328	100.0	3,021	100.0	577	100.0	2,307	100.0	423	100.0
Disabled	3,137	49.6	1,479	49.0	345	59.8	1,168	50.6	145	34.3
Not disabled	3,191	50.4	1,542	51.0	232	40.2	1,139	49.4	278	65.7
Educational status, at first service	6,380	100.0	3,069	100.0	575	100.0	2,313	100.0	423	100.0
High school dropout, GED, high school equivalency credential	1,031	16.2	515	16.8	116	20.2	336	14.5	64	15.1
High school graduate	2,749	43.1	1,256	40.9	211	36.7	1,057	45.7	225	53.2
High school graduate with some college	2,600	40.8	1,298	42.3	248	43.1	920	39.8	134	31.7

—Continued



**Table A-1. Number and percentage distribution of Veterans Upward Bound participants served in 2016–17, by participant characteristics and grantee type—Continued**

Characteristic	Grantee type									
	Total		4-year public		4-year private		2-year public		Nonprofit organization	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Employment status, at first service	6,367	100.0	3,061	100.0	577	100.0	2,306	100.0	423	100.0
Unemployed	3,634	57.1	1,777	58.1	372	64.5	1,326	57.5	159	37.6
Retired	682	10.7	263	8.6	31	5.4	206	8.9	182	43.0
Employed part time	768	12.1	401	13.1	64	11.1	276	12.0	27	6.4
Employed full time	1,283	20.2	620	20.3	110	19.1	498	21.6	55	13.0
VUB participation status in 2016–17	6,385	100.0	3,072	100.0	577	100.0	2,313	100.0	423	100.0
New	3,428	53.7	1,450	47.2	288	49.9	1,393	60.2	297	70.2
Continuing and reentry	2,957	46.3	1,622	52.8	289	50.1	920	39.8	126	29.8
VUB services received in 2016–17										
Basic skills development	6,265	100.0	3,000	100.0	577	100.0	2,265	100.0	423	100.0
Yes	2,373	37.9	1,207	40.2	286	49.6	607	26.8	273	64.5
No	3,892	62.1	1,793	59.8	291	50.4	1,658	73.2	150	35.5
Short term remedial or refresher courses	6,274	100.0	2,998	100.0	577	100.0	2,276	100.0	423	100.0
Yes	3,055	48.7	1,626	54.2	299	51.8	857	37.7	273	64.5
No	3,219	51.3	1,372	45.8	278	48.2	1,419	62.3	150	35.5
Assistance in securing local support	6,267	100.0	2,995	100.0	577	100.0	2,272	100.0	423	100.0
Yes	2,627	41.9	1,309	43.7	264	45.8	821	36.1	233	55.1
No	3,640	58.1	1,686	56.3	313	54.2	1,451	63.9	190	44.9
Special services for transition to PSE	5,828	100.0	2,703	100.0	576	100.0	2,274	100.0	275	100.0
Yes	1,790	30.7	787	29.1	84	14.6	853	37.5	66	24.0
No	4,038	69.3	1,916	70.9	492	85.4	1,421	62.5	209	76.0

‡ Reporting standards not met or complementary suppression.

<sup>1</sup> Underrepresented minority members include participants who were reported in the American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or African American, and/or Hispanic race/ethnicity groups.

<sup>2</sup> The criterion of high risk for academic failure was added in the 2012–17 grant cycle and grantees were required to assess a new participant's eligibility using all three eligibility criteria beginning with the 2014–15 project year. "First generation" refers to a first-generation college student.

NOTE: VUB = Veterans Upward Bound. The results presented for each of the participant characteristics exclude participants who had an unknown response for the given characteristic. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Veterans Upward Bound Annual Performance Report data and Funded Projects database, 2016–17.



**Table A-2. Number and percentage distribution of Veterans Upward Bound participants in the 2015–16 program completion cohort who enrolled in postsecondary education, by level of postsecondary institution first attended, grantee type, and participant characteristics**

Characteristic	Total	Level of postsecondary institution first attended									
		Total postsecondary enrollment <sup>1</sup>		Enrolled in a 4-year institution		Enrolled in a less-than-4-year institution		Enrolled in an institution of unknown level <sup>2</sup>		Did not enroll in PSE	
		Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>25.6</b>
Grantee type											
4-year public	1,040	796	76.5	368	35.4	368	35.4	60	5.8	244	23.5
4-year private	131	107	81.7	33	25.2	44	33.6	30	22.9	24	18.3
2-year public	1,001	809	80.8	291	29.1	435	43.5	83	8.3	192	19.2
Nonprofit organization	260	97	37.3	12	4.6	68	26.2	17	6.5	163	62.7
Gender											
Male	2,081	1,516	72.8	585	28.1	774	37.2	157	7.5	565	27.2
Female	351	293	83.5	119	33.9	141	40.2	33	9.4	58	16.5
Underrepresented minority member <sup>4</sup>											
Yes	1,083	717	66.2	245	22.6	401	37.0	71	6.6	366	33.8
No	1,349	1,092	80.9	459	34.0	514	38.1	119	8.8	257	19.1
Age, at first service											
Less than 25 years of age	418	391	93.5	194	46.4	164	39.2	33	7.9	27	6.5
25 to 34	805	714	88.7	301	37.4	349	43.4	64	8.0	91	11.3
35 to 44	362	296	81.8	117	32.3	145	40.1	34	9.4	66	18.2
45 to 54	396	252	63.6	64	16.2	152	38.4	36	9.1	144	36.4
More than 54 years of age	447	153	34.2	28	6.3	102	22.8	23	5.1	294	65.8
VUB eligibility status, at time of program selection <sup>5</sup>											
Low income (not first-generation college student)	286	237	82.9	85	29.7	127	44.4	25	8.7	49	17.1
First-generation college student (not low income)	399	282	70.7	109	27.3	133	33.3	40	10.0	117	29.3
Low income and first-generation college student	1,682	1,237	73.5	481	28.6	633	37.6	123	7.3	445	26.5
Disability status											
Disabled	1,083	838	77.4	312	28.8	436	40.3	90	8.3	245	22.6
Not disabled	1,335	959	71.8	385	28.8	475	35.6	99	7.4	376	28.2
Educational status, at first service											
High school dropout, GED, high school equivalency credential	337	230	68.2	75	22.3	126	37.4	29	8.6	107	31.8
High school graduate	1,149	864	75.2	304	26.5	474	41.3	86	7.5	285	24.8
High school graduate with some college	946	715	75.6	325	34.4	315	33.3	75	7.9	231	24.4

—Continued



**Table A-2. Number and percentage distribution of Veterans Upward Bound participants in the 2015–16 program completion cohort who enrolled in postsecondary education, by level of postsecondary institution first attended, grantee type, and participant characteristics—Continued**

Characteristic	Total	Level of postsecondary institution first attended									
		Total postsecondary enrollment <sup>1</sup>		Enrolled in a 4-year institution		Enrolled in a less-than-4-year institution		Enrolled in an institution of unknown level <sup>2</sup>		Did not enroll in PSE	
		Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>
Employment status, at first service											
Unemployed	1,332	1,050	78.8	407	30.6	542	40.7	101	7.6	282	21.2
Retired	286	81	28.3	23	8.0	43	15.0	15	5.2	205	71.7
Employed part time	295	252	85.4	98	33.2	129	43.7	25	8.5	43	14.6
Employed full time	512	422	82.4	174	34.0	199	38.9	49	9.6	90	17.6

<sup>1</sup> The Date of First Postsecondary School Enrollment (VetFirstEnrollDT) APR field was used to determine whether cohort participants enrolled in a program of postsecondary education within a specified time period (i.e., between September 2015 and September 2017 for the 2015–16 cohort). Additionally, National Student Loan Data System data were checked for evidence of postsecondary enrollment.

<sup>2</sup> Information on the level of postsecondary institution first attended was obtained from VUB annual performance report and National Student Loan Data System data. Ten percent of participants in the 2015–16 program completion year cohort were missing information on the postsecondary institution attended in both of these sources.

<sup>3</sup> Row percentage taking the row total as the denominator of the rate.

<sup>4</sup> Underrepresented minority members include participants who were reported in the American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or African American, and/or Hispanic race/ethnicity groups.

<sup>5</sup> Results do not include the eligibility criterion of high risk for academic failure because it was not used to assess a participant's eligibility at the time some of the VUB participants in the 2015–16 program completion cohort were first served. The criterion of high risk for academic failure was added in the 2012–17 grant cycle and grantees were required to assess a new participant's eligibility using all three criteria beginning with the 2014–15 project year.

NOTE: VUB = Veterans Upward Bound. The results presented for each of the participant characteristics exclude participants who had an unknown response for the given characteristic. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs VUB Longitudinal File: 2006–17 and Funded Projects database, 2016–17; and National Student Loan Data System data: Fall 2015 through Fall 2017.



**Table A-3. Number and percentage distribution of Veterans Upward Bound participants in the 2011–12 postsecondary enrollment cohort who earned a postsecondary degree within 150% of normal time, by highest degree earned, grantee type, participant characteristics, and level of postsecondary institution first attended**

Characteristic	Total	Highest degree earned							
		Total degree completers <sup>1</sup>		Bachelor's degree within 6 years		Associate degree within 3 years		Did not complete postsecondary education program within 150% normal time	
		Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>77.1</b>
Grantee type									
4-year public	715	184	25.7	132	18.5	52	7.3	531	74.3
4-year private	97	24	24.7	17	17.5	7	7.2	73	75.3
2-year public	602	128	21.3	65	10.8	63	10.5	474	78.7
Nonprofit organization	112	14	12.5	9	8.0	5	4.5	98	87.5
Gender									
Male	1,326	283	21.3	181	13.7	102	7.7	1,043	78.7
Female	200	67	33.5	42	21.0	25	12.5	133	66.5
Underrepresented minority member <sup>3</sup>									
Yes	629	119	18.9	80	12.7	39	6.2	510	81.1
No	897	231	25.8	143	15.9	88	9.8	666	74.2
Age, at first service									
Less than 25 years of age	263	64	24.3	49	18.6	15	5.7	199	75.7
25 to 34	484	142	29.3	93	19.2	49	10.1	342	70.7
35 to 44	281	67	23.8	41	14.6	26	9.3	214	76.2
45 to 54	336	64	19.0	36	10.7	28	8.3	272	81.0
More than 54 years of age	155	13	8.4	4	2.6	9	5.8	142	91.6
VUB eligibility status, at time of program selection <sup>4</sup>									
Low income only (not first-generation college student)	195	52	26.7	37	19.0	15	7.7	143	73.3
First-generation college student only (not low income)	226	60	26.5	39	17.3	21	9.3	166	73.5
Low income and first-generation college student	1,104	238	21.6	147	13.3	91	8.2	866	78.4
Disability status									
Disabled	696	164	23.6	106	15.2	58	8.3	532	76.4
Not disabled	796	175	22.0	112	14.1	63	7.9	621	78.0
Educational status, at first service									
High school dropout, GED, high school equivalency credential	252	33	13.1	16	6.3	17	6.7	219	86.9
High school graduate	676	149	22.0	92	13.6	57	8.4	527	78.0
High school graduate with some college	596	168	28.2	115	19.3	53	8.9	428	71.8
Employment status, at first service									
Unemployed or retired	1,061	226	21.3	145	13.7	81	7.6	835	78.7
Employed part time	192	61	31.8	34	17.7	27	14.1	131	68.2
Employed full time	266	59	22.2	41	15.4	18	6.8	207	77.8

—Continued



**Table A-3. Number and percentage distribution of Veterans Upward Bound participants in the 2011–12 postsecondary enrollment cohort who earned a postsecondary degree within 150% of normal time, by highest degree earned, grantee type, participant characteristics, and level of postsecondary institution first attended—Continued**

Characteristic	Total	Highest degree earned							
		Total degree completers <sup>1</sup>		Bachelor's degree within 6 years		Associate degree within 3 years		Did not complete postsecondary education program within 150% normal time	
		Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>
Level of postsecondary institution first enrolled in									
4-year institution	612	200	32.7	163	26.6	37	6.0	412	67.3
Less-than-4-year institution	865	148	17.1	59	6.8	89	10.3	717	82.9

<sup>1</sup> For the 2011–12 PSE cohort, the bachelor's degree completion date had to be on or before September 30, 2017 (within 6 years of entering postsecondary education) and the associate degree and certificate/diploma completion date by September 30, 2014 (within 3 years of entering postsecondary education) to be considered "within 150% of normal time."

<sup>2</sup> Row percentage taking the row total as the denominator of the rate.

<sup>3</sup> Underrepresented minority members include participants who were reported in the American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or African American, and/or Hispanic race/ethnicity groups.

<sup>4</sup> Results do not include the eligibility criterion of high risk for academic failure because it was not used to assess a participant's eligibility at the time the 2011–12 PSE cohort was first served. The criterion of high risk for academic failure was added in the 2012–17 grant cycle and grantees were required to assess a new participant's eligibility using all three criteria beginning with the 2014–15 project year.

NOTE: PSE = postsecondary education enrollment; and VUB = Veterans Upward Bound. Participants qualify for a PSE enrollment cohort if they complete the VUB program in one project year and enroll in a program of postsecondary education no later than the end of the subsequent project year for the first time since completing the VUB program. The cohort that participants are assigned to corresponds to the academic year that participants enrolled in postsecondary education (2011–12 PSE cohort participants enrolled during the 2011–12 academic year).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs VUB Longitudinal File: 2006–17 and Funded Projects database, 2016–17; and National Student Loan Data System data: Fall 2011 through Fall 2017.





**Table A-4. Among Veterans Upward Bound participants in the 2011–12 postsecondary enrollment cohort who first enrolled at a 4-year institution, the number and percentage distribution who earned a postsecondary degree within 150% of normal time, by highest degree earned, grantee type, participant characteristics, and level of postsecondary institution first attended**

Characteristic	First enrolled at 4-year institution								
	Total	Total degree completers <sup>1</sup>		Highest degree earned				Did not complete postsecondary education program within 150% normal time	
		Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>67.3</b>
Gender									
Male	526	164	31.2	136	25.9	28	5.3	362	68.8
Female	86	36	41.9	27	31.4	9	10.5	50	58.1
Underrepresented minority member <sup>3</sup>									
Yes	205	71	34.6	61	29.8	10	4.9	134	65.4
No	407	129	31.7	102	25.1	27	6.6	278	68.3
Age, at first service									
Less than 25 years of age	138	40	29.0	34	24.6	6	4.3	98	71.0
25 to 34	223	81	36.2	66	29.6	15	6.7	142	63.7
35 to 44	114	37	32.5	31	27.2	6	5.3	77	67.5
More than 44 years of age	134	42	31.3	32	23.9	10	7.5	92	68.7
VUB eligibility status, at time of program selection <sup>4</sup>									
Low income only (not first-generation college student)	84	26	31.0	‡	‡	‡	‡	58	69.0
First-generation college student only (not low income)	93	37	39.8	28	30.1	‡	‡	56	60.2
Low income and first-generation college student	434	137	31.6	111	25.6	26	6.0	297	68.4
Disability status									
Disabled	274	94	34.3	78	28.5	16	5.8	180	65.7
Not Disabled	314	98	31.2	80	25.5	18	5.7	216	68.8
Educational status, at first service									
High school dropout, GED, high school equivalency credential	79	16	20.3	11	13.9	5	6.3	63	79.7
High school graduate	256	82	32.0	65	25.4	17	6.6	174	68.0
High school graduate with some college	276	102	37.0	87	31.5	15	5.4	174	63.0
Employment status, at first service									
Unemployed or retired	399	121	30.3	102	25.6	19	4.8	278	69.7
Employed part time	89	39	43.8	28	31.5	11	12.4	50	56.2
Employed full time	118	37	31.4	30	25.4	7	5.9	81	68.6

‡ Reporting standards not met or complementary suppression.

<sup>1</sup> For the 2011–12 PSE cohort, the bachelor's degree completion date had to be on or before September 30, 2017 (within 6 years of entering postsecondary education) and the associate degree and certificate/diploma completion date by September 30, 2014 (within 3 years of entering postsecondary education) to be considered "within 150% of normal time."

<sup>2</sup> Row percentage taking the row total as the denominator of the rate.

<sup>3</sup> Underrepresented minority members include participants who were reported in the American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or African American, and/or Hispanic race/ethnicity groups.

<sup>4</sup> Results do not include the eligibility criterion of high risk for academic failure because it was not used to assess a participant's eligibility at the time the 2011–12 PSE cohort was first served. The criterion of high risk for academic failure was added in the 2012–17 grant cycle and grantees were required to assess a new participant's eligibility using all three criteria beginning with the 2014–15 project year.

NOTE: PSE = postsecondary education enrollment; and VUB = Veterans Upward Bound. Participants qualify for a PSE enrollment cohort if they complete the VUB program in one project year and enroll in a program of postsecondary education no later than the end of the subsequent project year for the first time since completing the VUB program. The cohort that participants are assigned to corresponds to the academic year that participants enrolled in postsecondary education (2011–12 PSE cohort participants enrolled during the 2011–12 academic year).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs VUB Longitudinal File: 2006–17 and Funded Projects database, 2016–17; and National Student Loan Data System data: Fall 2011 through Fall 2017.



**Table A-5. Among VUB participants in the 2011–12 postsecondary enrollment cohort who first enrolled at a less-than-4-year institution, the number and percentage distribution who earned a postsecondary degree within 150% of normal time, by highest degree earned, grantee type, participant characteristics, and level of postsecondary institution first attended**

Characteristic	First enrolled at a less-than-4-year institution									
	Total	Total degree completers <sup>1</sup>			Bachelor's degree within 6 years		Associate degree within 3 years		Did not complete postsecondary education program within 150% normal time	
		Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>82.9</b>	
Gender										
Male	758	117	15.4	44	5.8	73	9.6	641	84.6	
Female	107	31	29.0	15	14.0	16	15.0	76	71.0	
Underrepresented minority member <sup>3</sup>										
Yes	388	47	12.1	19	4.9	28	7.2	341	87.9	
No	477	101	21.2	40	8.4	61	12.8	376	78.8	
Age, at first service										
Less than 25 years of age	119	24	20.2	15	12.6	9	7.6	95	79.8	
25 to 34	253	61	24.1	27	10.7	34	13.4	192	75.9	
35 to 44	158	29	18.4	9	5.7	20	12.7	129	81.6	
More than 44 years of age	332	34	10.2	8	2.4	26	7.8	298	89.8	
VUB eligibility status, at time of program selection <sup>4</sup>										
Low income only (not first-generation college student)	105	26	24.8	13	12.4	13	12.4	79	75.2	
First-generation college student only (not low income)	125	22	17.6	11	8.8	11	8.8	103	82.4	
Low income and first-generation college student	635	100	15.7	35	5.5	65	10.2	535	84.3	
Disability status										
Disabled	400	68	17.0	27	6.8	41	10.3	332	83.0	
Not Disabled	455	77	16.9	32	7.0	45	9.9	378	83.1	
Educational status, at first service										
High school dropout, GED, high school equivalency credential recipient	168	17	10.1	5	3.0	12	7.1	151	89.9	
High school graduate	402	65	16.2	26	6.5	39	9.7	337	83.8	
High school graduate with some college	294	66	22.4	28	9.5	38	12.9	228	77.6	
Employment status, at first service										
Unemployed or retired	619	103	16.6	42	6.8	61	9.9	516	83.4	
Employed part time	102	22	21.6	6	5.9	16	15.7	80	78.4	
Employed full time	143	22	15.4	11	7.7	11	7.7	121	84.6	

<sup>1</sup> For the 2011–12 PSE cohort, the bachelor's degree completion date had to be on or before September 30, 2017 (within 6 years of entering postsecondary education) and the associate degree and certificate/diploma completion date by September 30, 2014 (within 3 years of entering postsecondary education) to be considered "within 150% of normal time."

<sup>2</sup> Row percentage taking the row total as the denominator of the rate.

<sup>3</sup> Underrepresented minority members include participants who were reported in the American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or African American, and/or Hispanic race/ethnicity groups.

<sup>4</sup> Results do not include the eligibility criterion of high risk for academic failure because it was not used to assess a participant's eligibility at the time the 2011–12 PSE cohort was first served. The criterion of high risk for academic failure was added in the 2012–17 grant cycle and grantees were required to assess a new participant's eligibility using all three criteria beginning with the 2014–15 project year.

NOTE: PSE = postsecondary education enrollment; and VUB = Veterans Upward Bound. Participants qualify for a PSE enrollment cohort if they complete the VUB program in one project year and enroll in a program of postsecondary education no later than the end of the subsequent project year for the first time since completing the VUB program. The cohort that participants are assigned to corresponds to the academic year that participants enrolled in postsecondary education (2011–12 PSE cohort participants enrolled during the 2011–12 academic year).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs VUB Longitudinal File: 2006–17 and Funded Projects database, 2016–17; and National Student Loan Data System data: Fall 2011 through Fall 2017.



**Table A-6. Number and percentage of participants who achieved the Veterans Upward Bound program's immediate accountability outcomes, by grantee type, participant characteristics, and program outcome: 2016–17**

Characteristic	VUB program retention and completion rate <sup>1</sup>			Academic improvement on standardized test rate <sup>2</sup>		
	Total	Achieved outcome		Total	Achieved outcome	
		Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>		Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,349</b>	<b>5,201</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>70.6</b>
Grantee type						
4-year public	3,056	2,518	82.4	1,061	748	70.5
4-year private	570	410	71.9	84	27	32.1
2-year public	2,301	1,858	80.7	843	568	67.4
Nonprofit organization	422	415	98.3	291	266	91.4
Gender						
Male	5,482	4,453	81.2	1,946	1,365	70.1
Female	866	747	86.3	332	243	73.2
Underrepresented minority member <sup>4</sup>						
Yes	3,210	2,626	81.8	1,071	797	74.4
No	3,133	2,573	82.1	1,208	812	67.2
Age, at first service						
Less than 25 years of age	794	705	88.8	349	252	72.2
25 to 34	1,743	1,477	84.7	750	513	68.4
35 to 44	986	803	81.4	354	242	68.4
45 to 54	1,251	979	78.3	352	238	67.6
More than 54 years of age	1,567	1,230	78.5	469	361	77.0
VUB eligibility status, at time of program selection <sup>5</sup>						
Low income only (not first generation or high risk for academic failure)	268	232	86.6	94	58	61.7
First generation only (not low income or high risk for academic failure)	346	305	88.2	146	115	78.8
High risk for academic failure only (not low income or first generation)	127	108	85.0	54	30	55.6
Low income and first generation (not high risk for academic failure)	1,616	1,357	84.0	484	380	78.5
Low income and at high risk for academic failure (not first generation)	506	408	80.6	218	144	66.1
First generation and at high risk for academic failure (not low income)	542	446	82.3	234	150	64.1
Low income, first generation, and at high risk for academic failure	2,944	2,345	79.7	1,049	732	69.8
Had been out of school for five years or more, at time of program selection						
Yes	4,846	3,946	81.4	1,782	1,317	73.9
No	1,334	1,125	84.3	471	275	58.4
Had low standardized test scores, at time of program selection						
Yes	4,501	3,773	83.8	1,691	1,248	73.8
No	1,618	1,268	78.4	558	346	62.0
Disability status						
Disabled	3,116	2,488	79.8	1,064	733	68.9
Not disabled	3,176	2,670	84.1	1,203	866	72.0
Educational status, at first service						
High school dropout, GED, high school equivalency credential	1,025	771	75.2	269	186	69.1
High school graduate	2,735	2,253	82.4	1,065	766	71.9
High school graduate with some college	2,584	2,173	84.1	945	657	69.5

—Continued



**Table A-6. Number and percentage of participants who achieved the Veterans Upward Bound program's immediate accountability outcomes, by grantee type, participant characteristics, and program outcome: 2016–17—Continued**

Characteristic	VUB program retention and completion rate <sup>1</sup>			Academic improvement on standardized test rate <sup>2</sup>		
	Total	Achieved outcome		Total	Achieved outcome	
		Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>		Number	Percent <sup>3</sup>
Employment status, at first service						
Unemployed	3,612	2,922	80.9	1,187	811	68.3
Retired	675	573	84.9	315	263	83.5
Employed part time	767	642	83.7	321	225	70.1
Employed full time	1,277	1,050	82.2	452	309	68.4

† Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> The cohort for the educational program retention and completion measure included participants who received VUB services during the 2016–17 program year. Participants were counted as achieving outcome if they completed their Veterans Upward Bound educational program by the end of the 2016–17 program year or were still in the educational program offered by the project at the end of the 2016–17 program year.

<sup>2</sup> The cohort for the academic improvement on standardized test measure included participants who received VUB services and completed the VUB program during the 2016–17 program year. Participants were counted as achieving outcome if they improved their academic performance as measured by a standardized test taken before and after receiving services from the project.

<sup>3</sup> Row percentage taking the row total as the denominator of the rate.

<sup>4</sup> Underrepresented minority members include participants who were reported in the American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or African American, and/or Hispanic race/ethnicity groups.

<sup>5</sup> The criterion of high risk for academic failure was added in the 2012–17 grant cycle and grantees were required to assess a new participant's eligibility using all three criteria beginning with the 2014–15 project year. "First generation" refers to a first-generation college student.

NOTE: VUB = Veterans Upward Bound. The results presented for each of the participant characteristics exclude participants who had an unknown response for the given characteristic. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Veterans Upward Bound Annual Performance Report data and Funded Projects database, 2016–17.



# Appendix B. National Rates of Postsecondary Degree Completion

To provide some context for the VUB participant degree completion rates presented in the Program Outcomes section of this report, estimates of national postsecondary degree completion rates for low income and/or first-generation college students by veteran status are presented below. The estimates are based on data from the 2004 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (*BPS:04*); the *BPS:04* was a longitudinal study that followed a nationally representative cohort of students who enrolled in a program of postsecondary education for the first time during 2003–04. Given that the most important criteria that military veterans must meet to be eligible for VUB program services include being low-income and/or a first-generation college student, the selection of *BPS:04* students for this sample was limited to military veterans who met at least one of these criteria.<sup>x</sup> Although the national sample was limited to military veterans who met these TRIO eligibility characteristics, differences still existed between the VUB cohort and the *BPS:04* sample that limits the ability to directly compare degree completion rates.

The VUB cohort, on average, was older, more likely to have a disability and to be both low-income and first-generation college student, and was less likely to have a regular high school diploma than the *BPS:04* sample.<sup>xi</sup> The VUB cohort and the *BPS:04* sample also had differences in the characteristics of the postsecondary institution in which the student first enrolled. For example, VUB cohort members were more likely to have first attended a 4-year institution. Finally, this national information on degree completions is available for military veteran students who began college during the 2003–04 academic year, and this timeframe is eight years earlier than when the

VUB cohort participants entered postsecondary education.

Exhibit B-1 summarizes the national postsecondary degree completion rates for low-income and/or first-generation college students who enrolled in a program of postsecondary education for the first time in 2003–04.<sup>xii</sup> Students who completed both a bachelor's degree and an associate degree within 6 years are shown in the highest degree earned category (i.e., bachelor's degree).

As presented in the Program Outcomes section of this report (see Exhibit 6), 23 percent of VUB participants in the 2011–12 postsecondary enrollment cohort completed either a bachelor's degree or an associate degree within 150 percent of normal time. The national data use a degree completion timeframe of 6 years from matriculation for both the bachelor's and associate degrees. Following the same degree completion time frame as the national sample, the percentage of VUB cohort participants who completed a bachelor's degree or an associate degree was 27 percent; this same rate is 19 percent for the national sample of military veterans who met TRIO eligibility criteria.

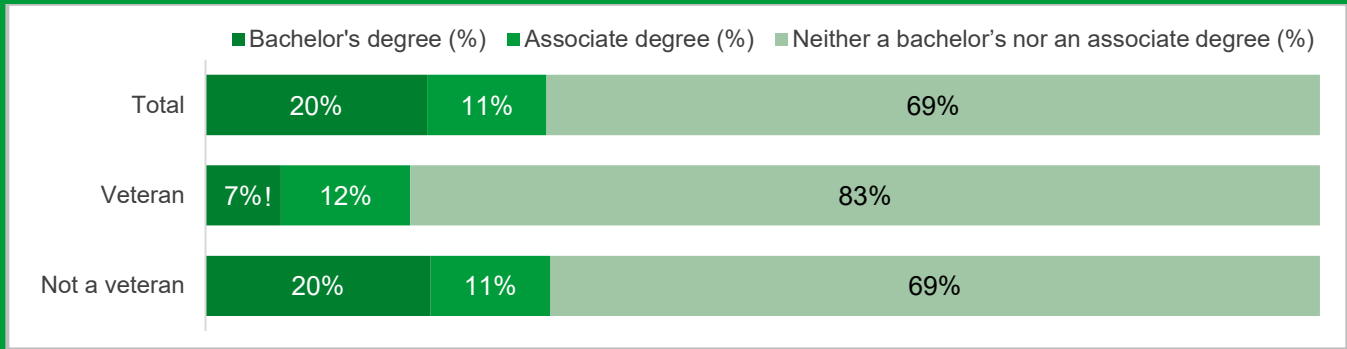
While the data from the national sample add valuable context, readers are cautioned against attributing differences in degree completion rates to VUB participation status, since differences in degree completion rates may instead be a function of other differences (e.g. student age; timing of enrollment; type of postsecondary institution attended) between these two groups. A more rigorous program evaluation (such as one that includes experimental or quasi-experimental designs) is required to make such direct comparisons. Although the comparison is insufficient to support inferences as to whether program participation has caused the VUB



participants to have higher degree completion rates than the national sample of VUB eligible veterans, the comparison does establish that VUB participant degree completion rates are higher (27 percent 6-year

degree completion rate for VUB participants compared to a 19 percent rate for the national sample).

**Exhibit B-1. Highest degree attained among low-income and/or first-generation college students who enrolled in a postsecondary institution for the first time in 2003–04, by veteran status: 2004–09**



! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.  
 NOTE: Results include students who enrolled in a program of postsecondary education for the first time during 2003–04 at Title IV-eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Students who completed both an associate degree and a bachelor's degree within 6 years of entry into postsecondary education (i.e., by 2009) are shown in the "highest degree earned" category (i.e., bachelor's degree). Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2003–04 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:04/09). Results computed using NCES PowerStats (at <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab>) on March 26, 2019.



# Endnotes

<sup>i</sup> The information that grantees report in the APR is derived from several sources. Participant background characteristics are based on information self-reported by participants, and VUB participation information is based on grantee administrative records. For postsecondary enrollment and completion information, the most common source (64 percent for participants who completed the VUB program during 2015–16 and enrolled in postsecondary education by the end of September 2017) is third-party verification (e.g., National Student Clearinghouse [NSC]) and additional sources include institutional data, participant self-reports, and official college transcripts.

<sup>ii</sup> To determine whether participants had enrolled in postsecondary education, APR and NSLDS data were checked for evidence of enrollment. The unique identification codes for participants' postsecondary enrollment institution (as reported in the APR and/or NSLDS data) were matched with the unique identification codes in the IPEDS data to obtain information from IPEDS on the characteristics of the institution first attended.

<sup>iii</sup> Under Upward Bound regulations (which encompass VUB; see Title 34, Section 645.6), a high risk for academic failure means a veteran who: (1) has been out of school or dropped out of a program of postsecondary education for five or more years; (2) has scored on standardized test scores below the level that demonstrates a likelihood of success in a program of postsecondary education; or (3) meets the definition of an individual with a disability as defined in §645.6(b). The criterion of high risk for academic failure was added in the 2012–17 grant cycle and grantees were required to assess a new participant's eligibility using all three eligibility criteria beginning with the 2014–15 project year.

<sup>iv</sup> This report presents program outcomes by a set of six risk factors. The set of risk factors includes the program eligibility criteria of being a potential first-generation college student and a low-income individual, as well as risk factors based on ethnicity/racial group, disability status, age, and type of high school credential earned. The set of risk factors does not include the program eligibility criterion of being an individual who has a high risk for academic failure since many of the cohort participants included in the postsecondary enrollment and degree completion results did not have data on this criterion. Because this program eligibility criterion was not included in the set of risk factors, it is possible for a participant to have qualified for the VUB program by being an individual who had a high risk for academic failure but to not have any of the six risk factors.

<sup>v</sup> Underrepresented minority students are those who have traditionally been a numerical minority in postsecondary education and includes the American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or African American, and/or Hispanic race/ethnicity groups.

<sup>vi</sup> For the risk factor based on age, the report uses the age cutoff of 45 years to separate participants into the higher and lower risk groups. Being “45 years of age and above” was defined as the higher risk group based on results from analyses of outcomes by age that showed postsecondary enrollment and degree completion rates were lower for those who were 45 years of age and above than those who were younger than 45 (see tables A-2 and A-3).

<sup>vii</sup> Exhibit 3 is based on TRIO Story Maps, which present TRIO's footprint across the U.S. For a link to TRIO Story Maps, visit the main TRIO webpage (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>) and scroll down to the “Maps” section. The TRIO Story Maps are regularly updated, and so the number and geographic distribution of TRIO grantees will no longer represent the 2016–17 project year.

<sup>viii</sup> The findings in this report are based on the 49 VUB grantees that were funded in the 2016–17 program year (final year of the 2012–17 grant cycle). At the time of publication, the VUB program expanded such that 63 programs were funded in the 2017–18 program year (first year of the 2017–22 grant cycle).

<sup>ix</sup> Completion of the VUB program involves a participant fulfilling an individualized educational plan devised by the project and participant. Fulfillment of the plan addresses the following preparations for postsecondary education: clarification of aspirations, academic foundations, and a capacity to access available financial resources.

<sup>x</sup> Since the national sample was restricted to students who met at least one of the VUB eligibility criteria, some students in the national sample could have received VUB services.

<sup>xi</sup> It is also possible that the two groups differ on unobserved characteristics like personality traits, attitudes, motivations, and expectations.

<sup>xii</sup> Results include students who enrolled in a program of postsecondary education for the first time during 2003–04 at Title IV-eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The reported results are based on the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2003–04 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:04/09). Results were computed using NCES PowerStats (at <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab>) on March 26, 2019.



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