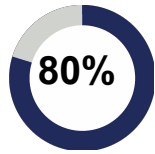




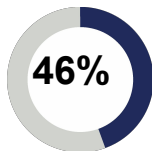


## Today's Student Veterans...

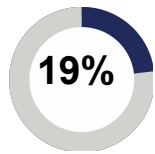
More than 1 million are receiving G.I. Bill benefits and 754,000 of them are on campuses with a SVA Chapter.



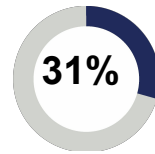
24-35 Years Old



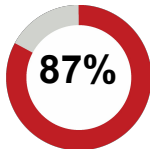
Have Children



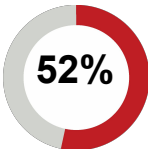
Single Parents



Women



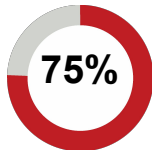
Attend a Public or Private Nonprofit



Married



Were Enlisted



Work Full/Part Time

## Academic Performance

Student veterans have higher academic performance (GPA) compared to traditional students

**3.41 GPA**

Student Veteran Average

**2.8 GPA**

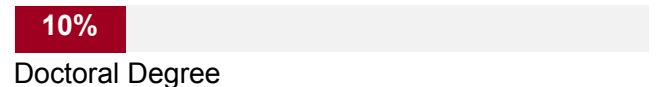
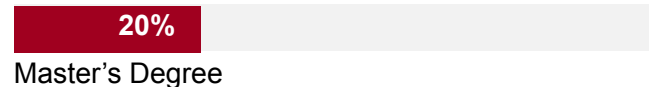
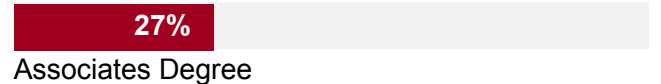
Traditional Student Average

## Post-Secondary Success Rates

Student veterans maintain success rates higher than the national average.



Veterans using Post-9/11 GI Bill to earn High-Level Degrees



## Top 3 Fields



Business



Health



STEM



## Today's Student Veterans...

- Roughly half are married or in a domestic partnership
- Over half have children and nearly 20 percent of those consider themselves single parents
- Two-thirds work full- or part-time while in school
- More than 60 percent are first generation college students
- More likely to be Black or Hispanic
- More than 70 percent have a disability
- The vast majority attend public or private not-for-profit universities
- Over half of enlisted veterans did so to earn the G.I. Bill to pay for college









## Today's Student Veterans...

To fully understand service to veterans, we must develop a comparable group for analysis.

We looked at:

-  Student athletes
-  Honors students
-  First-generation students
-  At-risk students

Then, we looked at:

-  International students

(Kinch, 2019)

### Student Veteran Average



1.1 million

### International Student Average



1.2 million

### Number

### Academic Performance

3.41 GPA

3.43 GPA

### Post-Secondary Success Rates

72%

74%

### Top 3 Fields for both Student Veterans and International Students (in order)



Business



Health



STEM



## Today's Student Veterans...

Institutional-level policies and practices mirror those that serve international students:

- Single Point of Contact
- Veteran-specific Orientation
- Institutional Commitment
  - For veterans, this means participation in the *8 Keys for Veteran Success*

All policies and programs focus on “Veteran Inclusion”



# The Veteran Success Gap



**TWIN A:**  
Graduated high school in 2000, top 10%  
  
Went straight to college, and got her B.A. in 2005  
  
Started earning immediately and saving for retirement.

**TWIN B:**  
Graduated high school in 2000, top 10%  
  
Enlisted in the Air Force and separated in 2006  
  
Transitioned into college, starting in the fall of 2006  
  
Graduated college and started earning and saving in 2011



It takes about 17 years for Twin B to catch back up to Twin A economically, even with higher earnings post college.

# Serving Student Veterans and Families



## Programs

As a coordinating element for our chapters, we deliver student-centric tools and training nationwide



## Research

Our peer-reviewed original research informs all of our programs and policy work, providing clear learning and measurement metrics



## Advocacy

As an organization actively engaged with policymakers in DC and on campuses across the country, we shape the landscape for student veterans



## SVA Chapters

SVA Chapters exist on **over 1,500 college and university campuses** in **all 50 states** and several countries abroad.

- Chapters on mostly 4-year public institutions
  - Also 4-year private and 2-year institutions
- Recognized Student Organization
- Elected chapter leadership
- Emphasis on inclusion on campus
  - Partner with other student organizations
  - Participate in student government
- Represent student veterans to campus administration
  - Campus Liaisons in policy, DEI, career services, and disability services







## Chapter Services

### Delivery of Services

- Chapter Consultations and Support
- Chapter Outreach and Networking
- Chapter Coalition Building
- Alumni Connections
- Mentor Relationship Building
- Scholarships



First Lady Jill Biden



# SVA Programs: The Leadership Continuum

## Leadership Institute

Just prior to graduation, we invite the top one percent of chapter leaders to Washington, D.C. to participate in a foundational and transformative leadership development program designed to push student veterans into discovering their own identities as leaders as they move into the civilian workforce.

## Regional Summits

At the end of every summer, we train new chapter leaders on the strategic planning and development of their chapter as well as deliver role-specific workshops with all leadership (officer) positions and advisors, providing an additional network for chapter leaders.



## Washington Week

As an integral part of our advocacy work, student veterans join the SVA team in Washington, D.C. as we deliver our policy priorities to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Veteran Affairs Committees. Student veterans then meet with members of congress and their staff to discuss issues relevant to them and their chapters.

## National Conference (“NatCon”)

The academic year is bifurcated by the largest gathering of student veterans anywhere in the world meant to **train** chapters and stakeholders on salient topics, **convene** our network for the sharing of ideas and resources, and **reframe** the possible for student veterans given their experiences and the transformative power of education.



## Advocacy in Washington, D.C.

### Federal Legislative

Maintain and grow frequency of SVA subject matter expert testimony, grow relationships with individual member offices and committees, grow participation in the Policy Liaison Program (PLP), and host roundtables and briefings to further influence federal policy.

### Federal Executive

Maintain open-door engagement with the White House leading through to next administration. Deepen agency relationships. Add program-specific engagements with executive branch via Leadership Institute, Washington Week, VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship, and more.

### Campus

Support chapters and campuses through roundtable discussions, grassroots advocacy, 'peer champions', and strengthen student government relationships and influence across the network.





## Advocacy in Washington, D.C.

### Issues

SVA advocates for GI Bill improvements, post-traditional student success, VA modernization, strengthening higher education, and transparency and accountability.

### Legislative

Top legislative priorities include protecting access to VA education benefits by addressing policies leading to unnecessary administrative burdens on institutions, updating MHA to better serve today's student veterans, and expanding access to VA healthcare on campuses through the VA VITAL Program. This year, SVA has already testified three times before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs.

### Regulatory

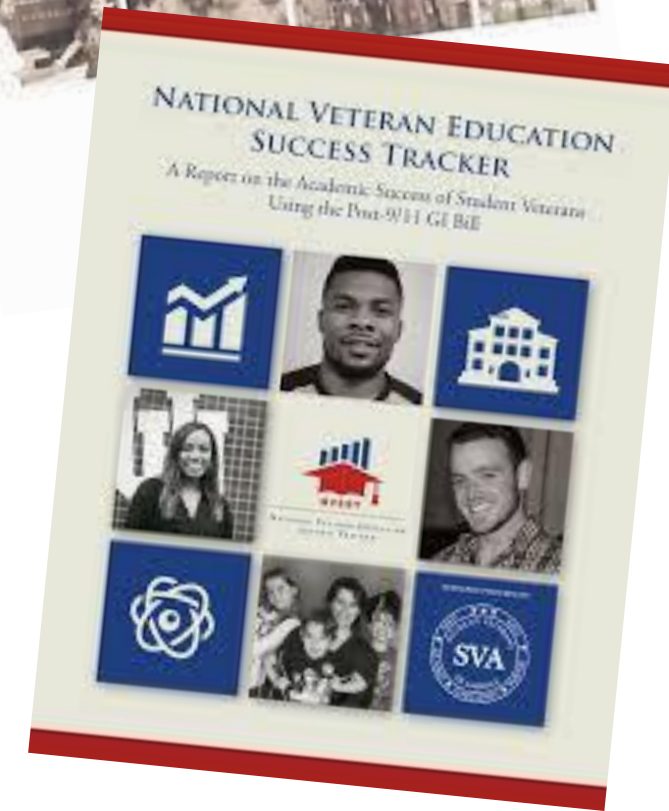
SVA is active in the regulatory process engaging in negotiations, responding to requests for information, and submitting public comment on regulatory matters at the Department of Education, Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal agencies.





## Research on behalf of all Veterans

- Data sharing for national-level student veteran outcomes
- Better understanding of institutional role in student veteran success
- Full understanding of student veteran decision-making from pre-enlistment to career decisions
- Lifestyle and well-being surveys to predict the upcoming needs of student veterans and their families
- Learning and measurement for SVA programs and services





## Friendly AND Inclusive

### "Veteran friendly"

Programs and policies designed to get student veterans into college:

- ✓ Fee waivers
- ✓ Test waivers
- ✓ Requirement support or specialized remedial support

### "Veteran inclusive"

Programs and policies designed to:

- ✓ Integrate student veterans into campus life
  - ✓ Student veteran organization
  - ✓ Student veteran orientation
- ✓ Ensure the campus understands unique needs of student veterans
- ✓ Single point of contact
- ✓ Data collection and success tracking

# #SVALeads

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