

UC's Student Veteran Community

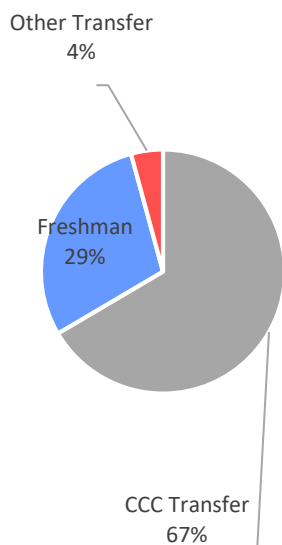
In 2017-18 UC enrolled almost 2,500 students who have served in the United States Armed Forces - including veterans, those on active duty, reservists, and members of the National Guard.¹ Two-thirds of these students (66 percent) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, with the remainder enrolled in graduate and professional programs. This brief summarizes veteran and military student (henceforth collectively referred to as veterans) enrollment trends, demographic characteristics, fields of study, and graduation outcomes. It also describes their satisfaction with their undergraduate student experience from the 2016 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES). Lastly, this brief highlights the post-graduation employment trajectories for those who work in California.

In Fall 2017, almost three-quarters (71 percent) of undergraduate veterans were transfer students while 29 percent entered directly from high school. Among graduate student veterans, almost three-quarters (73 percent) were enrolled in graduate professional program while about a quarter were in academic graduate programs (9 percent in academic masters programs and 18 percent in academic doctoral programs).

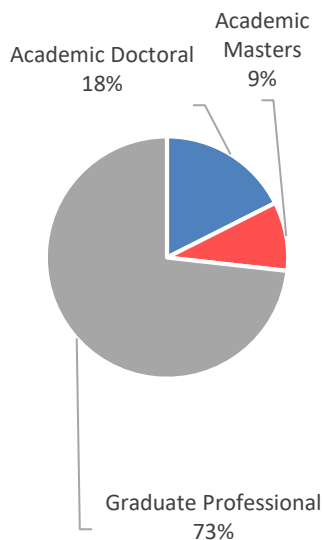
More than half (56 percent) of UC's student veterans were enrolled at three campuses: UCLA, Berkeley, and San Diego. In addition, Berkeley saw the most growth in student veterans over the past five years, increasing from 12 percent to 19 percent over that time.²

UC STUDENT VETERAN ENROLLMENT – FALL 2017

Undergraduates



Graduate Students



UC STUDENT VETERAN ENROLLMENT PERCENT SHARE BY CAMPUS, 2017-18

Campus	Undergraduate	Graduate	Total
UCLA	15%	31%	20%
Berkeley	18%	21%	19%
San Diego	17%	17%	17%
Davis	17%	7%	14%
Irvine	11%	13%	12%
Riverside	7%	3%	6%
Santa Barbara	7%	1%	5%
Santa Cruz	6%	1%	4%
UCSF	0%	7%	2%
Merced	2%	1%	1%

¹ Veteran and military students were identified through self-report on admissions applications or receipt of qualified military financial aid awards.

² Part of the systemwide increase in enrollment was due to an addition of a veteran self-report question on graduate admissions applications.

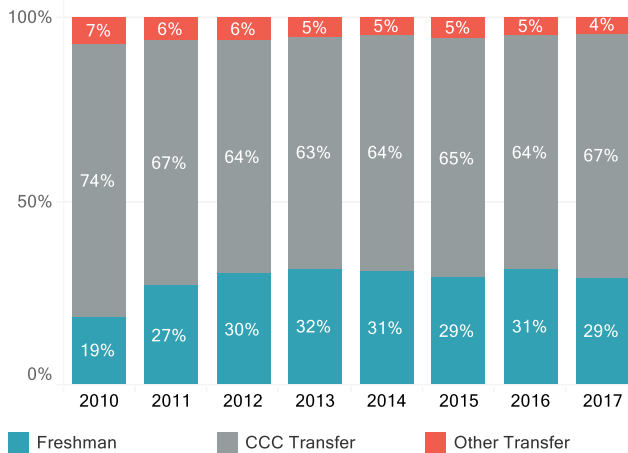
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UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY PATHWAYS

The majority of undergraduate veterans entered UC as community college transfers. Almost 70 percent of undergraduate veterans enrolled at UC in 2017-18 originally entered as California Community College transfers.

The freshman pathway continued to expand for undergraduate veterans. Twenty-nine percent of the undergraduate veterans enrolled in 2017-18 originally entered UC as freshmen, up from only 19 percent in 2010-11.

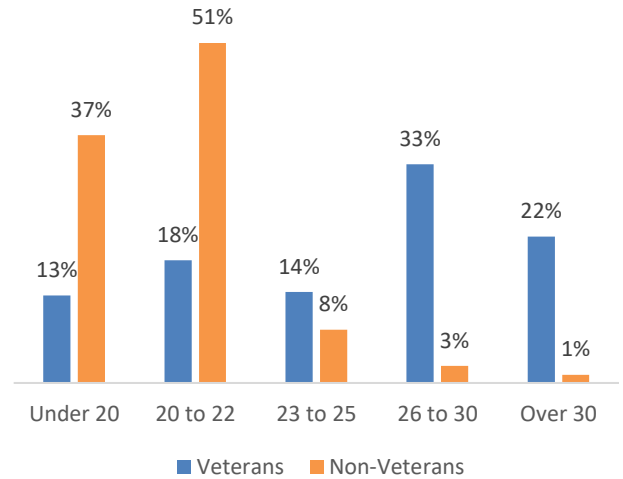
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT VETERAN ENTRY FALL 2010 – FALL 2017



THE STUDENT VETERAN PROFILE

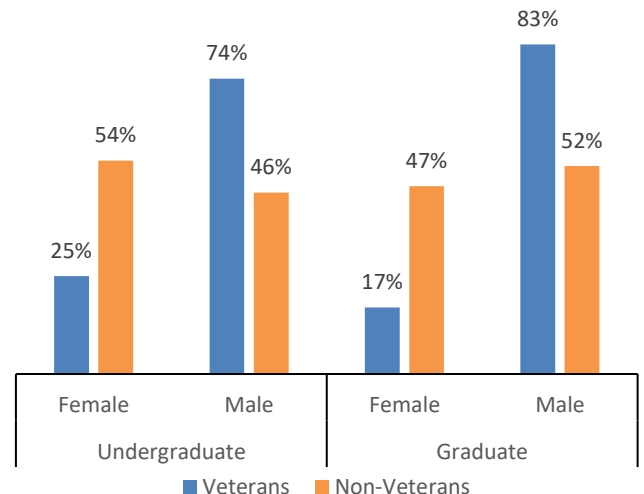
Undergraduate veterans are typically older than their undergraduate peers, likely due to years of military service prior to enrolling in a degree program. About 70 percent of undergraduate veterans are aged 23 years and older, compared to only 12 percent of non-veteran undergraduates.

UC UNDERGRADUATES AND AGE GROUPS – FALL 2017



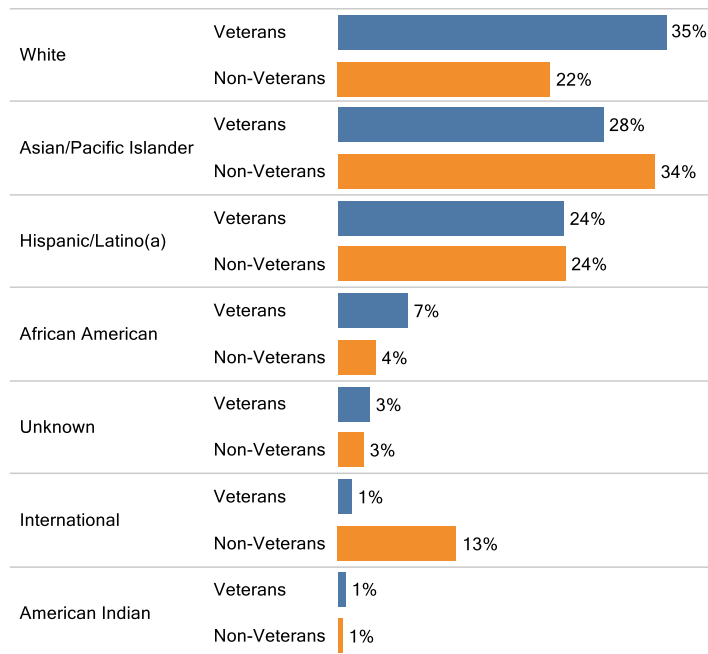
Undergraduate veterans are predominantly male (74 percent) compared to 46 percent for non-veteran undergraduates. Within the UC graduate student population, student veterans also are predominantly male (83 percent) compared to non-veteran graduate students (52 percent male).

UC UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE STUDENTS AND GENDER - FALL 2017



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UC UNDERGRADUATES AND RACE/ETHNICITY – FALL 2017

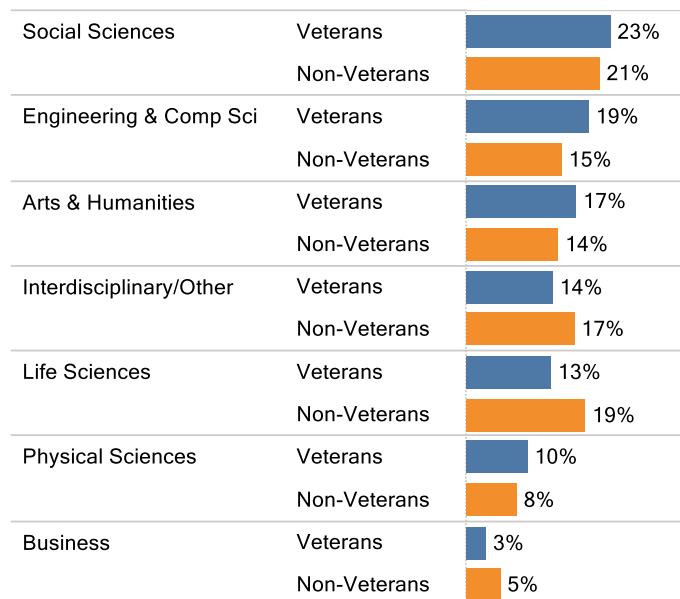


In addition, undergraduate veterans are more likely to be white (35 percent) and African American (8 percent) compared to non-veteran undergraduates (22 percent and 4 percent respectively). They are also less likely to be Asian/Pacific Islander (28 percent) compared to non-veteran undergraduates (34 percent).

MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS OF STUDY

With a few exceptions, undergraduate veterans' chosen fields of study closely resemble that of non-veteran undergraduates. Veterans are more likely to major in engineering, computer science or physical sciences (29 vs. 23 percent) and less likely to major in life sciences (13 vs 19 percent), business, and interdisciplinary fields.

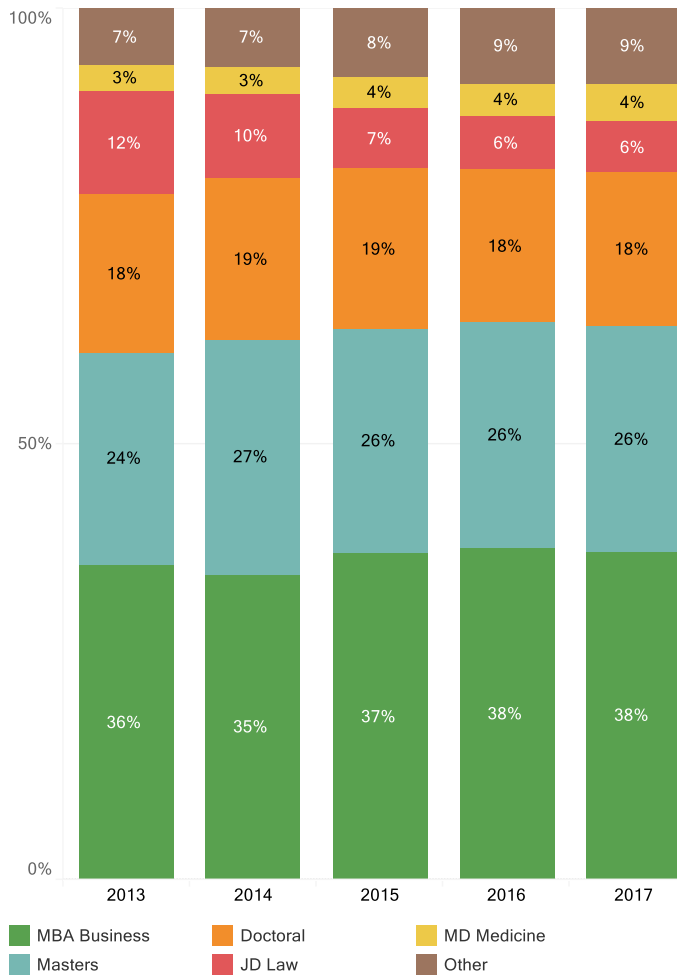
UC UNDERGRADUATES AND DISTRIBUTION OF MAJORS³ - FALL 2017



³ "Other" includes majors such as Public Health, Public Administration, and Other Health Sciences.

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GRADUATE STUDENT VETERANS AND DISTRIBUTION OF DEGREE TYPES⁴ FALL 2013 – 2017

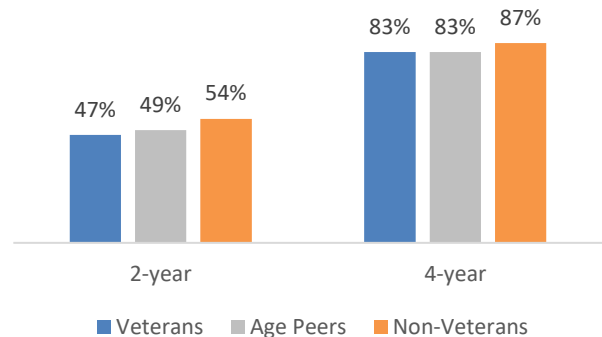


For graduate student veterans, between Fall 2013 and Fall 2017, the most popular graduate degree programs were Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Masters degree (MA/MS), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

GRADUATION RATES

Undergraduate veterans have lower graduation rates than non-veteran undergraduates overall, but more comparable rates to their age peer undergraduates. Undergraduate veterans who enter as transfers have lower two-year graduation rates than non-veteran transfer entrants (47 percent vs 54 percent). Their four-year graduation rates are also lower than non-veteran students at 83 percent and 87 percent, respectively. There is a similar gap when comparing freshmen undergraduate veterans with non-veteran freshmen undergraduate entrants. However, undergraduate veteran graduation rates are comparable to other non-traditional undergraduates who do not enter UC directly from high school (e.g., those who delay attending college). For example, the four-year and six-year graduation rates for freshmen who entered at age 20 or older are 55 percent and 73 percent, respectively. These rates are similar to the graduation rates for undergraduate veterans.

TRANSFER TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES ENTERING COHORTS⁵ BETWEEN 2007-2012

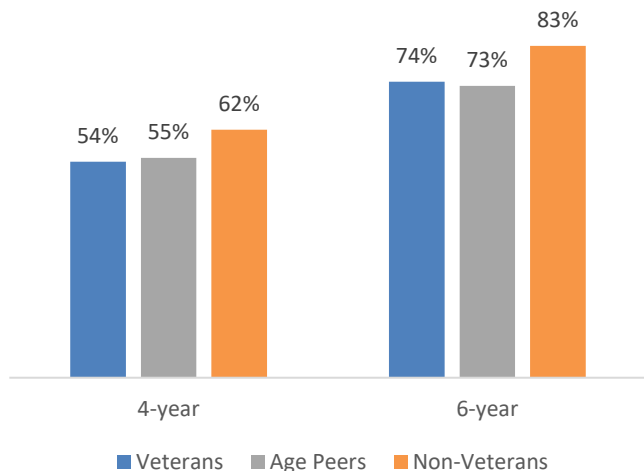


⁴ "Other" includes degree types such as OD Optometry, MPP Public Policy, and DVM Veterinary Medicine.

⁵ Age peers are transfer students who entered at age 23 or older.

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FRESHMAN FOUR-YEAR AND SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATES ENTERING COHORTS⁶ BETWEEN 2007-2012



SATISFACTION WITH UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE AND CAMPUS CLIMATE

While undergraduate veterans report similar levels of satisfaction as non-veteran undergraduates in most aspects of the student experience, they are less likely to be satisfied in some key areas - feeling valued as an individual, feeling a sense of belonging on campus, and that their campus climate is caring. Veterans are, however, more likely to feel that the price of their education is affordable and satisfied with the value of their education relative to the price.

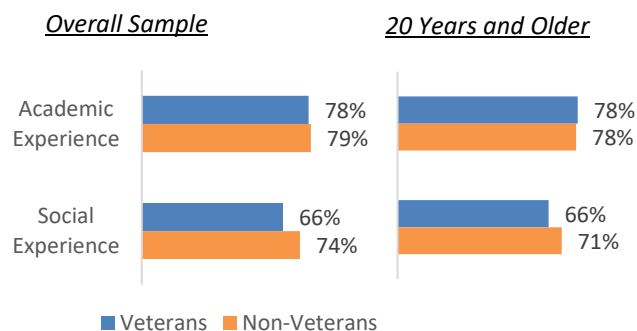
UC's Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) asks students a wide range of questions about campus academic and social life. In the 2016 survey, a total of 496 undergraduate student veterans responded to the survey. Of these respondents, 94 percent were ages 20 years and

older. For the non-veteran respondents, 86 percent were 20 years and older. With significant age differences between veteran and non-veteran undergraduate respondents, this brief compares their experiences with the overall sample and also by age.

Students indicated their level of satisfaction with overall academic experience, social experience, and value of education on a scale from 1 to 6, with 1 being very dissatisfied and 6 being very satisfied. The figures about student satisfaction shows the percentages of students who were 'somewhat satisfied,' 'satisfied,' or 'very satisfied.' As shown in the figure below, undergraduate veterans expressed similar levels of satisfaction with their overall academic experience as non-veteran undergraduates. However, they reported less satisfaction with their overall social experience compared to non-veteran undergraduates. These trends remained the same when focusing on older survey respondents.

SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCE

How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your campus experiences/education?
(Percent of satisfied students)



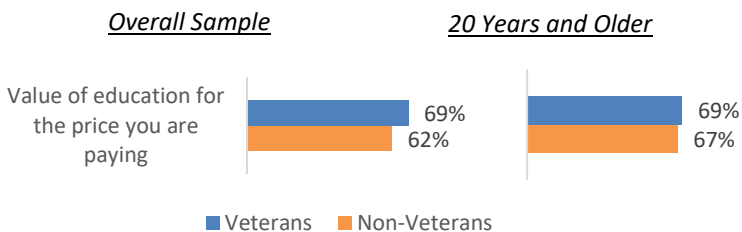
⁶ Age peers are freshmen who entered at age 20 or older.

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Almost 70 percent of undergraduate veterans indicated that they were satisfied with the value of education for the price they are paying, compared to 62 percent for non-veteran undergraduates. For respondents 20 years and older, the difference in percent satisfaction between the two groups becomes smaller.

SATISFACTION WITH VALUE OF EDUCATION

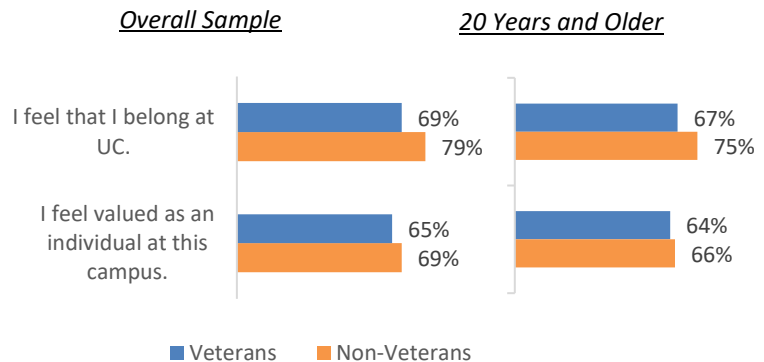
How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your campus experiences/education?
(Percent of satisfied students)



Sixty-nine percent of undergraduate veterans indicated that they 'somewhat agreed,' 'agreed,' or 'strongly agreed' that they expressed a sense of belonging on campus, although not as high as non-veteran undergraduates (79 percent). In addition, a high proportion of undergraduate veterans (65 percent) felt valued as an individual on campus. These trends remained the same when focusing on older survey respondents.

SENSE OF BELONGING AND FEELING VALUED

Please select your level of agreement with the following statements.
(Percent of students who agree)



CAMPUS CLIMATE

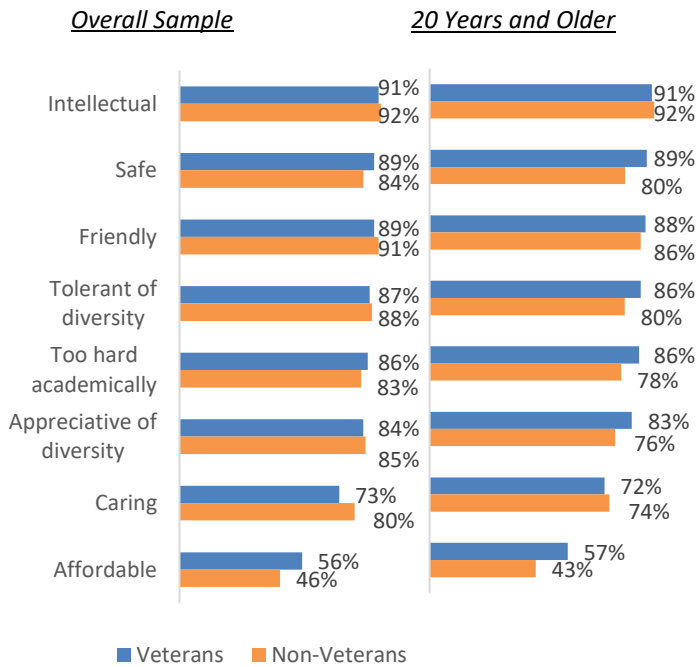
Undergraduates were asked to rate the general climate for students at UC on a scale from 1 to 6, with 6 being the highest score for being 'intellectual,' 'safe,' 'friendly,' 'tolerant of diversity,' and so on. The figure on campus climate shows the percentages of students who gave a rating of 4 or above on the different dimensions.

The campus climate figure shows that the majority of undergraduate veterans gave high ratings for campus climate, and those ratings were similar to the ratings given by non-veteran undergraduates.

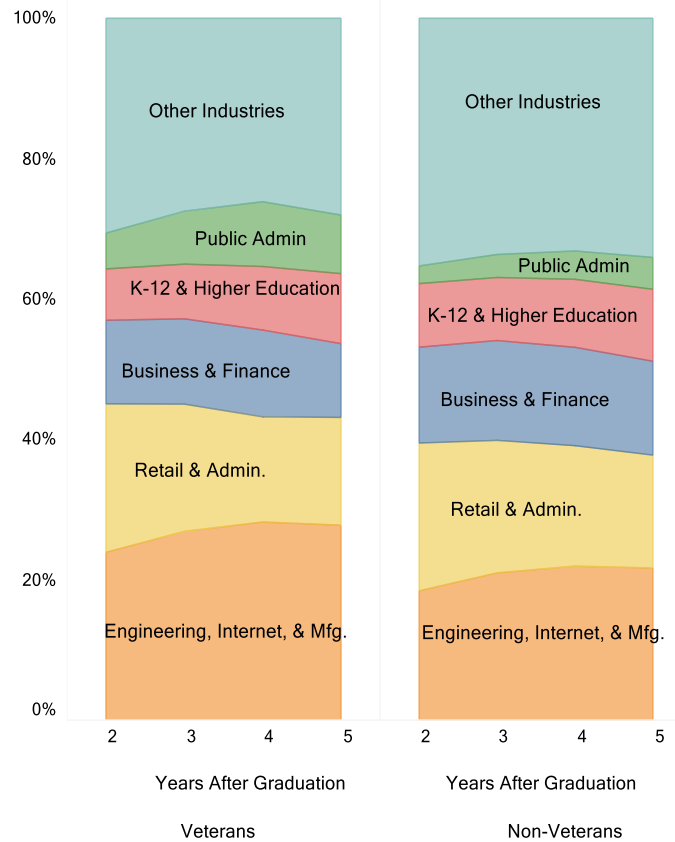
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CAMPUS CLIMATE ALONG DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS

Based on your experience and observation, rate the general climate for students at UC along the following dimensions.



CALIFORNIA INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT OF UC UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI



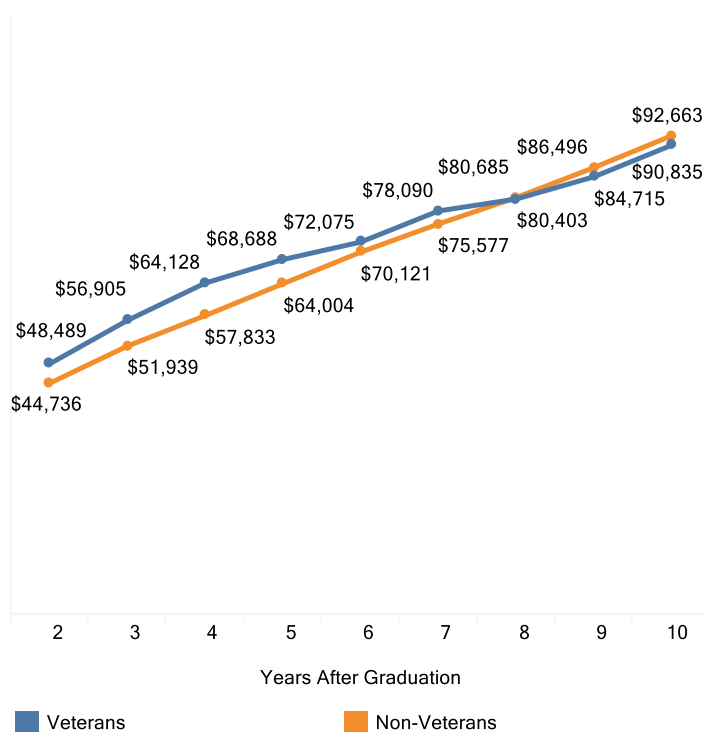
UNDERGRADUATE VETERAN ALUMNI IN THE CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE

UC's undergraduate veteran alumni go on to contribute to California's economy and workforce in key areas. About a quarter (26 percent) of veteran bachelor's degree recipients employed in the state go on to work in industries of engineering, internet, and manufacturing (compared to 20 percent of non-veteran undergraduate alumni). About 18 percent go on to work in retail, administrative, and support services, while 12 percent work in business and finance. In addition, undergraduate veteran alumni are almost twice as likely to work in the industry of public administration as non-veteran undergraduate alumni.

UC undergraduate veteran alumni who go on to work in California experience wage growth. They earn, on average, almost \$49,000 two years after graduating and entering the California workforce, and they progress to more than \$90,000 within ten years. This earnings trajectory is similar to non-veteran undergraduate alumni. Undergraduate veteran alumni earn slightly lower than non-veteran alumni in later years, likely due to differences in industry of employment (veteran alumni are more likely to work in public service) or graduate degree attainment (about a third of non-veteran alumni versus about 30 percent undergraduate veteran alumni earn a graduate degree) during those years.

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EARNINGS OF UC UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI WORKING IN CALIFORNIA



LOOKING FORWARD

UC enrolled almost 2,500 students who have served in the United States Armed Forces with the majority of these students enrolled at the undergraduate level. Veteran undergraduates differ somewhat demographically from other UC undergraduates – they are typically older, are predominantly male, and tend to enter UC as community college transfers. And while they have slightly lower graduation rates than other undergraduates, their graduation rates are comparable to other non-traditional students who do not enter UC directly from high school.

Undergraduate veterans' satisfaction with their student experience highlights some areas of success and potential need. Veterans are more

likely to feel that the price of their education is affordable and satisfied with the value of their education relative to the price.

Undergraduate veterans also report similar levels of satisfaction as non-veteran students in a range of aspects of the student experience, including academics, friendly environment, and tolerance and appreciation of diversity. However, undergraduate veterans are less likely to be satisfied in some important areas, such as the overall social experience, feeling a sense of belonging on campus, feeling valued as an individual, and that their campus climate is caring.

After graduating from UC, undergraduate veteran alumni who work in California contribute to the state's economy and workforce, mostly within the industries of engineering, internet, and manufacturing, and they are twice as likely to work in public administration as non-veteran undergraduate alumni. Additionally, undergraduate veteran alumni achieve wage growth on par with other students within ten years after graduation.