

# **SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE: VETERAN STUDENTS' CHARACTERISTICS AND OUTCOMES IN THE VCCCS**



STUDENT SUCCESS SNAPSHOT #28

October 2013



# 8 KEYS TO SUCCESS

The U.S. Departments of Education and Veterans Affairs developed the 8 Keys to Success in 2013 to encourage veteran students on campus and improve employment outcomes.

1. *Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans.*
2. *Ensure consistent and sustained support from campus leadership.*
3. *Implement an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.*
4. *Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space (even if limited in size).*
5. *Collaborate with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans.*
6. *Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention and degree completion.*
7. *Provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans.*
8. *Develop systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans.*

# MILITARY-FRIENDLY VCCS INSTITUTIONS

## GI Jobs' Military-Friendly School List

- Blue Ridge Community College
- Central Virginia Community College
- Dabney S Lancaster Community College
- J Sargeant Reynolds Community College
- John Tyler Community College
- Lord Fairfax Community College
- New River Community College
- Northern Virginia Community College
- Patrick Henry Community College
- Paul D Camp Community College
- Piedmont Virginia Community College
- Southwest Virginia Community College
- Thomas Nelson Community College
- Tidewater Community College
- Virginia Highlands Community College
- Virginia Western Community College
- Wytheville Community College

## Military Advanced Education (MAE) Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities

- Blue Ridge Community College
- Eastern Shore Community College
- Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale
- Tidewater Community College, Norfolk



# VIRGINIA EDUCATION WIZARD VETERAN CAREER FINDER

- Allows veteran users to browse civilian occupations based upon their prior military service

The screenshot shows the 'Veteran Career Finder' section of the Virginia Education Wizard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Careers', 'College Planner', 'Paying for College', 'Parent Info', 'Transfer', and 'Apply Now'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for 'Assess Skills', 'Assess Interests', 'Assess Values', 'Careers', 'Résumé', 'Interview', 'Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeships', and 'Veteran's Career'. The main content area is titled 'Veteran Career Finder' and contains a search form with two dropdown menus: 'Branch: Army codes' and 'Service Type: Enlisted'. Below the form, there are two columns of results. The first column, '1. Select your military occupation', lists several military occupations including 'Acquisition, Logistics & Technology (AL&T) Contracting NCO (51C)', 'AH-64 Attack Helicopter Repairer (15R)', 'AH-64A Amament/Electrical/Avionics Systems Repairer (15X)', 'AH-64D Amament/Electrical/Avionics Systems Repairer (15Y)', 'Air and Missile Defense (AMD) Crewmember (14S)', and 'Air Defense (AD) Battle Management System Operator (14G)'. The second column, '2. Select a target career', shows 'Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians InDemand' and a link to 'Need more ideas? Use the Veteran Profiler to explore more career ideas.' To the right of the search results, there is a sidebar with two sections: 'Troops to Energy Jobs' and 'Additional Veteran's Resources & Service Programs'. The 'Troops to Energy Jobs' section describes an initiative to accelerate training and employability of veterans in key energy positions. The 'Additional Veteran's Resources & Service Programs' section lists links for 'All Volunteer Force', 'Mission Continues', 'Give an Hour', 'Mission Serve', and 'We are Virginia Veterans'.

**Careers** | College Planner | Paying for College | Parent Info | Transfer | Apply Now

Assess Skills | Assess Interests | Assess Values | **Careers** | Résumé | Interview | Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeships | Veteran's Career

## Veteran Career Finder

To locate your military occupation, choose your branch and service type from the drop-down menu at the top. Next, select your specific military occupation in the left column. The Veteran Career Finder will then display civilian careers that correspond to your military occupation. To view additional occupations, select the Veteran Profiler link, if available.

Branch:  Service Type:

### 1. Select your military occupation

- Acquisition, Logistics & Technology (AL&T) Contracting NCO (51C)
- AH-64 Attack Helicopter Repairer (15R)**
- AH-64A Amament/Electrical/Avionics Systems Repairer (15X)
- AH-64D Amament/Electrical/Avionics Systems Repairer (15Y)
- Air and Missile Defense (AMD) Crewmember (14S)
- Air Defense (AD) Battle Management System Operator (14G)

### 2. Select a target career

- Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians InDemand**

Need more ideas? Use the [Veteran Profiler](#) to explore more career ideas.

### Troops to Energy Jobs

Troops to Energy Jobs is an initiative designed to accelerate the training and employability of veterans in key energy positions. Energy jobs offer promising opportunities, for both experienced workers and those just starting their careers. The jobs are active, hands-on, rewarding, and available in every state, in an industry that is stable and growing. [Click here](#) and explore the opportunities you may have in the energy field. For any questions please contact [Dominion](#).

### Additional Veteran's Resources & Service Programs

- All Volunteer Force
- Mission Continues
- Give an Hour
- Mission Serve
- We are Virginia Veterans

# VCCS STUDENTS WITH MILITARY STATUS

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Active	2,703	4,733	4,298	4,794	5,111
Dependent	5,981	10,169	12,932	14,589	15,325
Reserve	1,551	3,113	3,591	3,420	3,135
Retired	887	1,874	2,236	2,420	2,229
Spouse	2,067	4,272	5,308	5,720	5,623
<b>Veteran</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>8,546</b>	<b>9,563</b>	<b>9,582</b>	<b>9,404</b>
Total Military Status	18,892	32,707	37,928	40,525	40,827

# SNAPSHOT POPULATION

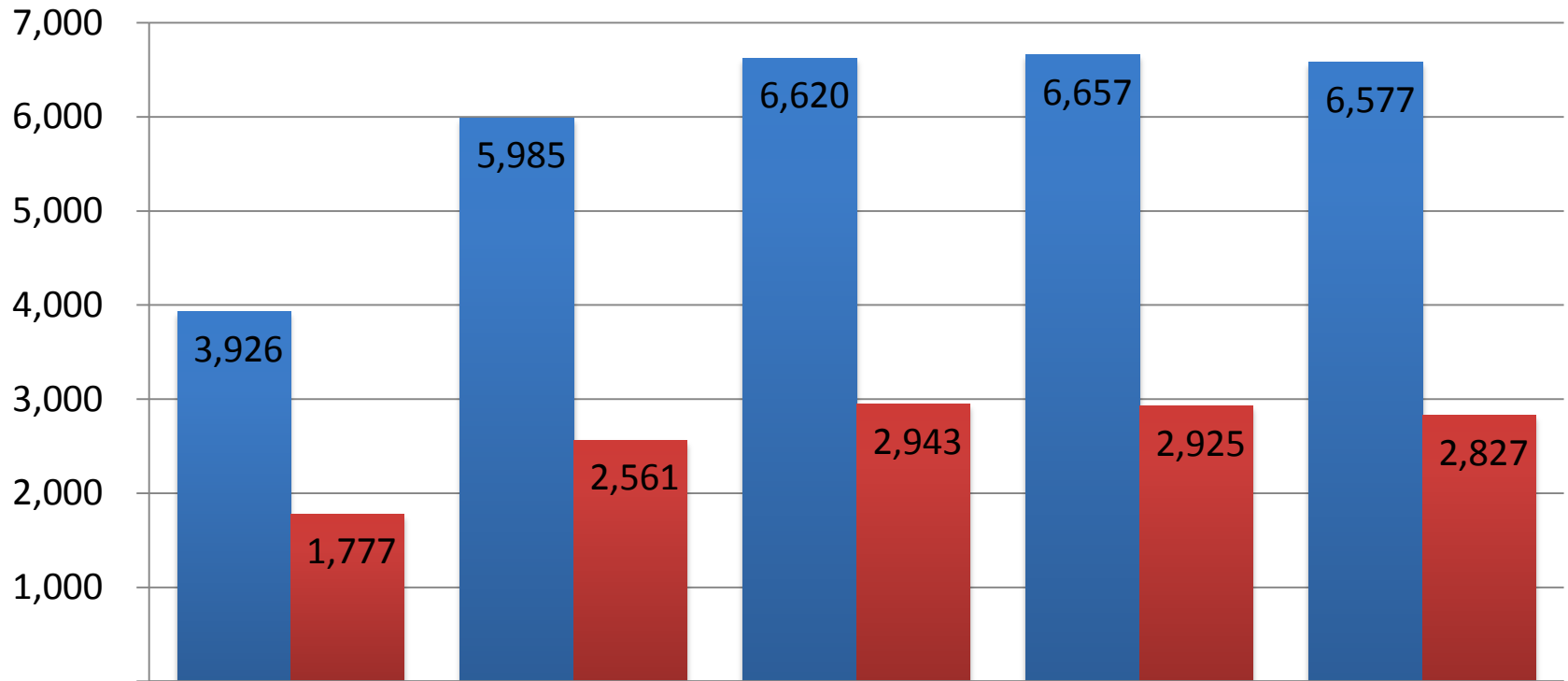
- Veterans who attended the VCCS between 2008 and 2013.
  - Military status is self-reported on the admissions application; only students who identified themselves as veterans at time of admission included in analysis



## VETERANS ATTENDING VCCS INSTITUTIONS

- In 2008-09, 5,703 veteran students attended VCCS colleges; by 2012-13, this number had increased 65% to 9,404.
- In total, 24,132 unduplicated veteran students attended VCCS institutions from 2008-09 to 2012-13.

# VETERAN STUDENTS BY GENDER

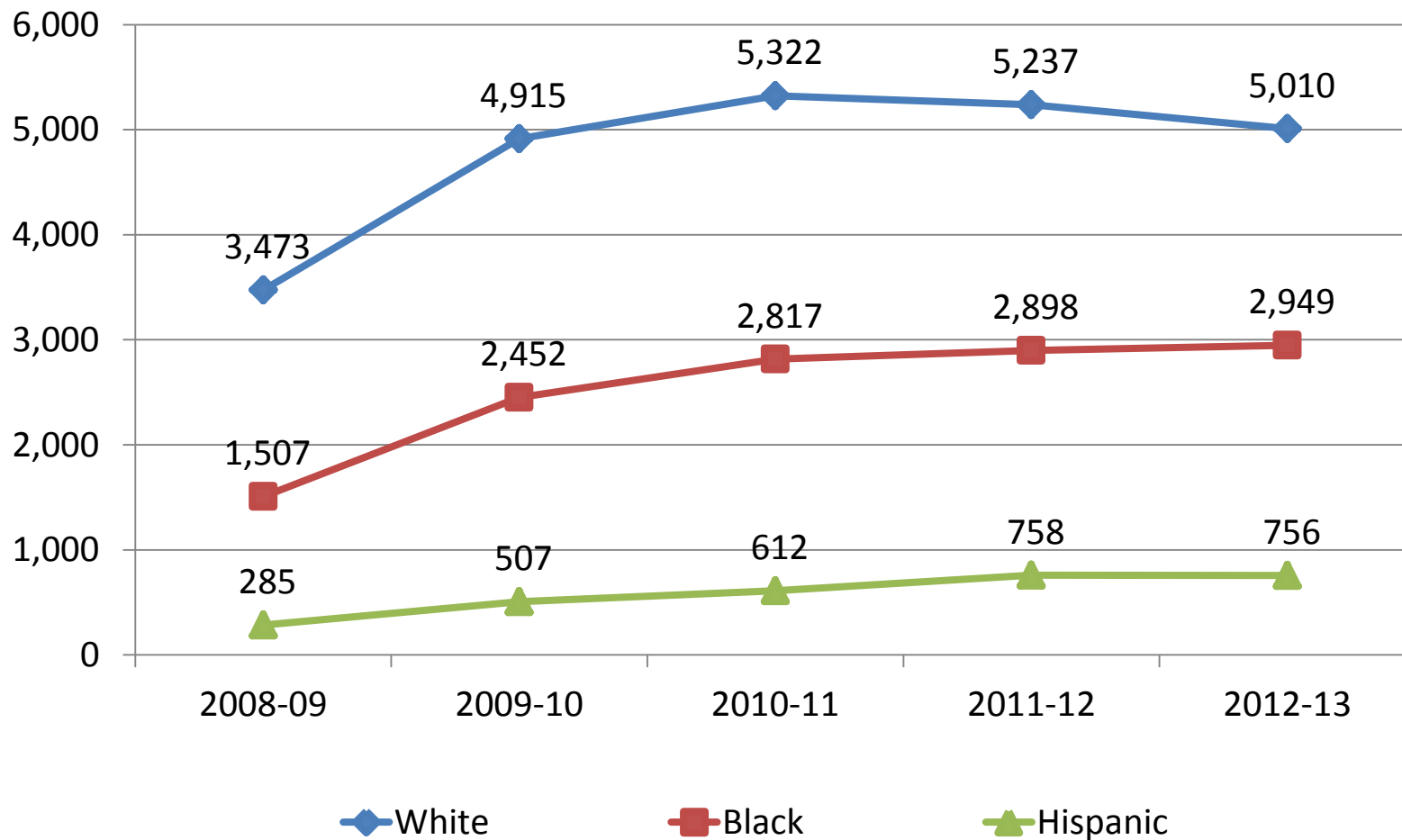


	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Male	3,926	5,985	6,620	6,657	6,577
Female	1,777	2,561	2,943	2,925	2,827

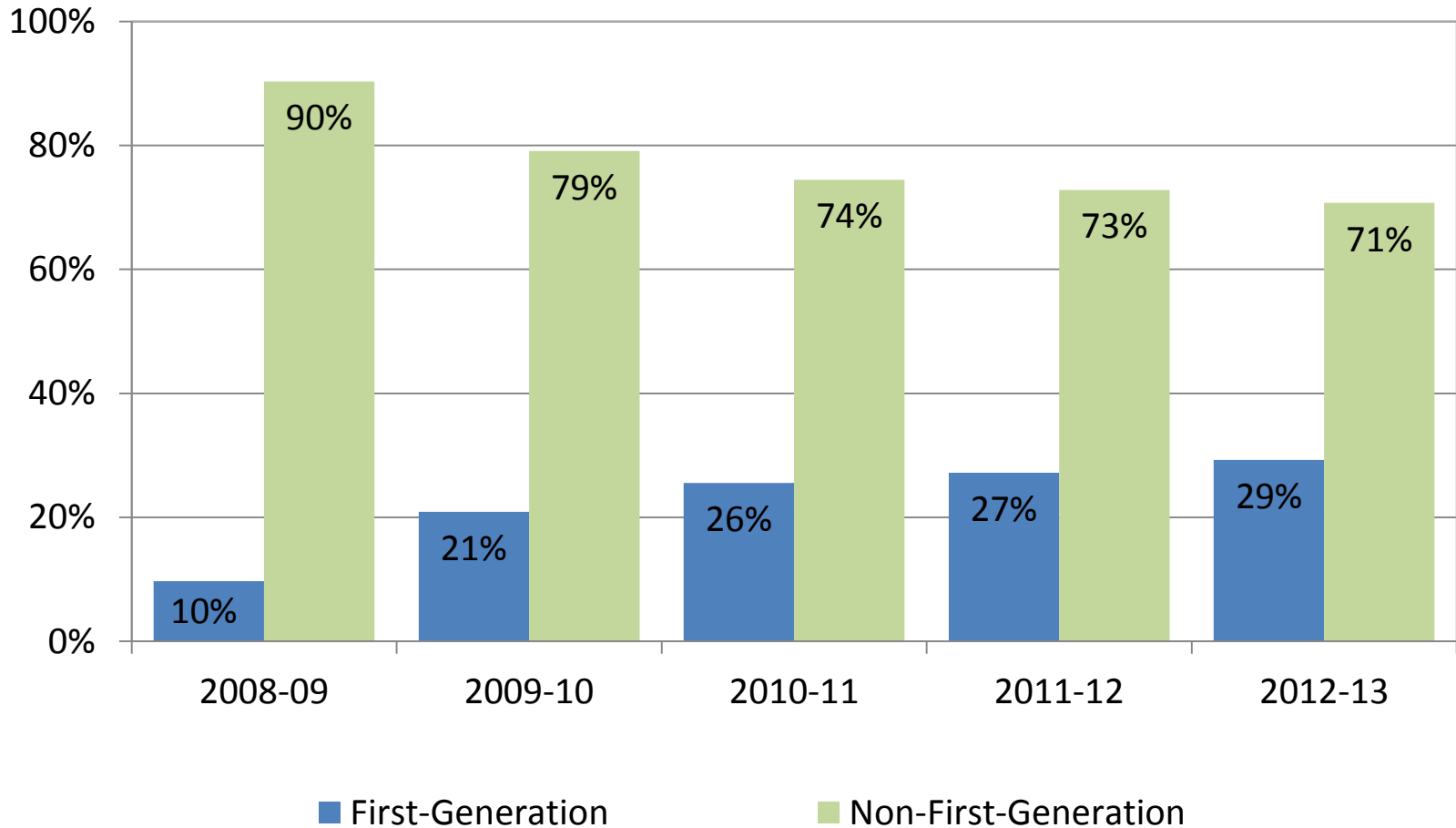
■ Male ■ Female



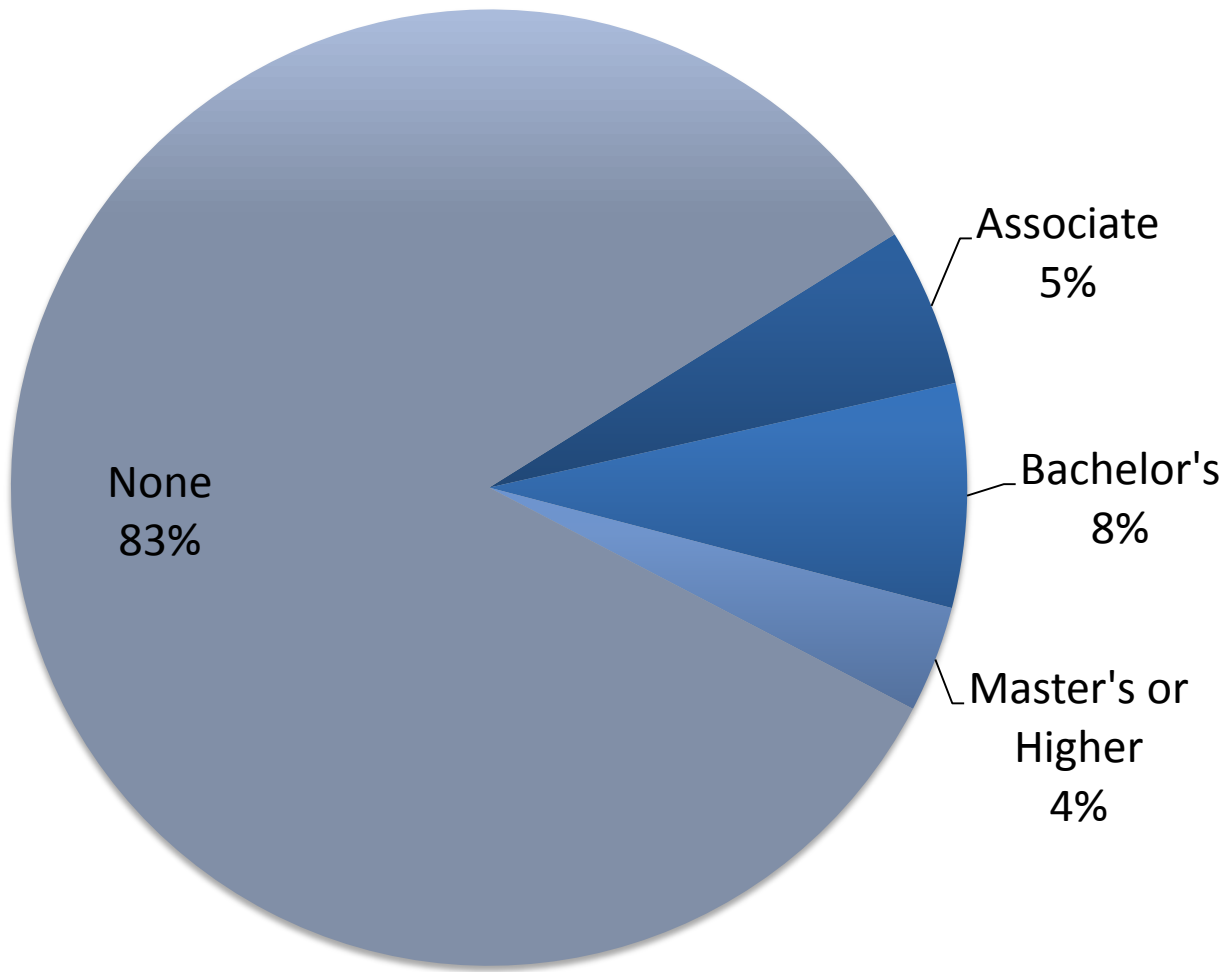
# MINORITY STATUS OF VETERAN STUDENTS



# FIRST-GENERATION STATUS OF VETERAN STUDENTS



# VETERANS' PRIOR DEGREE ATTAINMENT



# VETERANS' OUTCOMES IN THE VCCS



In 2008-09, 498 veterans enrolled in the VCCS as first-time-in-college students. By 2012-13:

- 18% of these students were VCCS graduates
- 29% had transferred to a 4-year institution
- 8% had graduated from a 4-year institution

# HOW THE VCCS CAN CONTINUE HELPING VETERANS TO SUCCEED

- Student support services specific to veterans' needs
  - Guidance on how to obtain educational assistance benefits
  - Advising on the Department of Veteran's Affairs requirements, including requirements for maintaining satisfactory course pursuit
  - Educational counseling and support
  - Obtaining work study opportunities



**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?**