Of the 1.6 million American veterans with combat-related disabilities, 4.2% report severe hearing difficulties. Deaf veterans may use different identifying terms such as late deafened, hearing impaired, hard of hearing, and more. Veterans who become deaf later in life and enroll in college will need to learn how to navigate postsecondary settings. These veterans often do not know about accommodations, resources, and tools available to them.

Colleges can support deaf veterans by:

- **Collaborating** with dedicated veteran liaisons on campus
- **Reaching out** to veteran advocacy and support groups
- **Sharing information** about available accommodations

All deaf students may need assistance exploring accommodation options, especially students who become deaf later in life. The disability services office can work closely with the campus veteran liaison to educate deaf veterans on the variety of accommodations available to them as well as the process for requesting auxiliary aids and services. The resources listed on the right may be helpful for professionals and deaf veterans.

### Recommended Resources for Professionals

**Late-Deafened Individuals: Implications for Postsecondary Outcomes**
nationaldeafcenter.org/late-deafened-postsec

**Mental Health Care for Deaf Individuals: Needs, Risk Factors, and Access to Treatment**
nationaldeafcenter.org/mental-health-research

**Disability Services Liaison Toolkit**
studentveterans.org/images/pdf/dsl/DSL-Toolkit-180208.pdf

**Student Veterans of America’s Disability Services Liaison Program**
studentveterans.org/aboutus/disability-in-education

**Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) Veterans Special Interest Group**
ahead.org/about-ahead/about-overview/special-interest-groups/veterans

### Recommended Resources for Veterans

**Accommodations 101**
nationaldeafcenter.org/accommodations101

**Heroes with Hearing Loss**
heroeswithhearingloss.org/

**Hearing Center of Excellence**
hearing.health.mil/

**Hearing Loss Association of America Veterans Chapter**
hearingloss.org/hearing-help/communities/veterans/

**Association of Late-Deafened Adults**
alda.org/

**National Association of the Deaf**
nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/learning-american-sign-language/
Deaf Veterans
Undergraduate Enrollment and Degree Completion

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of veterans returning home with combat-related hearing loss and tinnitus. Deaf veterans may need accommodations and support to be successful in college and the work environment. Here are some key statistics about deaf veterans:

- Most deaf veterans are enrolled in associate and bachelor degree programs:
  - 2.6% of deaf veterans
  - 44% of deaf veterans that have an additional disability

- Fewer deaf veterans complete a bachelor's degree:
  - 19.4% of deaf veterans
  - 27.1% of hearing veterans

- Among deaf veterans, women are more likely to have a bachelor's degree:
  - 31.4% of deaf veterans
  - 18.4% of hearing veterans

- Employment rates among deaf veterans are higher with a bachelor's degree:
  - 60.7% of deaf veterans
  - 72.4% of hearing veterans

- Deaf Veterans Undergraduate Enrollment and Degree Completion

AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS between high school and enrolling in college: 9.7 YEARS

AVERAGE AGE OF ENROLLED DEAF VETERANS enrolled in college: 38.8 YEARS

ENROLLED DEAF VETERANS have taken developmental courses, a higher percentage than hearing college students: 46.1%

DEAF VETERANS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE: 37,000+

STUDYING FOR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE: 35.3%

STUDYING FOR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE: 55.6%

STUDYING FOR A CERTIFICATE: 9.1%

STUDYING FOR A CERTIFICATE: 9.1%
Notes and References

¹NDC uses the term deaf in an all-inclusive manner, to include people who may identify as deaf, deafblind, deafdisabled, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and hearing impaired. NDC recognizes that for many people, identity is fluid and can change over time or with setting. NDC has chosen to use one term, deaf, with the goal of recognizing experiences that are shared by people from diverse deaf communities while also honoring their differences.


Data for individuals ages 24-54 from the U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Data for currently enrolled undergraduate students from the U.S. Department of Education; National Center for Education Statistics, 2015–2016 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS).