

# Issue Tables

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## Issue Tables: A Profile of Military Servicemembers and Veterans Enrolled in Postsecondary Education in 2007–08

### Introduction

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 goes into effect August 1, 2009. This “New GI Bill” provides financial assistance for postsecondary education to military servicemembers and veterans with at least 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001. Under the bill, eligible military personnel and veterans who enroll in postsecondary education can receive a housing stipend and have the total cost of their tuition and fees paid in full, (provided their educational costs do not exceed those of the most expensive program of study at a public university in the recipient’s state of residence) (Department of Veterans Affairs, 2008a). These benefits are more financially generous than the benefits veterans and military personnel currently receive, primarily under the Montgomery GI Bill.<sup>1</sup>

This set of Issue Tables describes military servicemembers and veterans in undergraduate education (hereafter referred to as military undergraduates) at institutions eligible for Title IV federal funding for financial aid. The data come from 2007–08, just prior to the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act’s implementation. The purpose is to provide baseline data with which to compare undergraduate enrollment and student characteristics of current military undergraduates with their future counterparts who will enroll

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<sup>1</sup> Since August of 2008 the monthly dollar amount issued to veterans attending school full-time under the Montgomery GI Bill has been \$1,321 (Department of Veterans Affairs, 2008b). This amount is meant to be used for both education and living expenses.

in postsecondary education under the New GI Bill.

The 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08) reveals that during the 2007–08 academic year some 660,000 undergraduates were veterans, constituting about 3 percent of all undergraduates. Approximately 215,000, or 1 percent of all undergraduates that year, were military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves. About 329,000 or 38 percent of all military undergraduates used veterans' education benefits during the 2007–08 academic year.

The Issue Tables consist of the following tables:

Table 1 reports the percentage of undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers overall, and the percentage of military undergraduates who used their education benefits in 2007–08.

Tables 2a and 2b describe the demographic characteristics of all military undergraduates compared with (1) nonmilitary dependent and independent undergraduates,<sup>2</sup> and (2) military undergraduates who used and did not use veterans' education benefits.

Tables 3a and 3b detail the enrollment characteristics of these same groups.

Table 4 is limited to first-time undergraduates enrolled in 2003–04 and compares the factors military students considered in selecting a college and their reasons for

enrolling in their particular institution with those reported by other students.

Tables 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d present the financial aid received during the 2007–08 academic year by military and nonmilitary undergraduates. Because financial aid varies by the type of institutions that students attend, results are presented separately for public two-year, public four-year, private not-for-profit four-year, and private for-profit institutions.

## Data

Except for data presented in table 4, all the information presented in these tables is based on data collected in the 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), a comprehensive, nationally representative survey of how students finance their postsecondary education. NPSAS also includes a broad array of demographic and enrollment characteristics.

Table 4 is based on data from the 2003–04 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:04/06), a survey that tracks new postsecondary students through their postsecondary education and into the labor force. BPS:04/06 students enrolled in postsecondary education for the first time in 2003–04 and were interviewed then; they were subsequently interviewed in 2006 and will be interviewed again in 2009.

## References

- Department of Veterans Affairs. (2008a). *The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008*. VA Pamphlet 22-09-1. Washington, DC: Veterans Benefits Administration. Retrieved November 12, 2008, from [http://www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/CH33/CH33\\_Pamphlet.pdf](http://www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/CH33/CH33_Pamphlet.pdf).
- Department of Veterans Affairs. (2008b). *Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (Chapter 30) Increased Educational Assistance Allowance Effective August 1, 2008*. Retrieved April 9, 2009, from [http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_Bill\\_Info/rates/CH30/ch30rates080108.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates/CH30/ch30rates080108.htm).

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<sup>2</sup> Dependent students are typically those under age 24 and their federal financial aid status is based largely on their parents' income. Independent students are primarily 24 years of age and older and their federal financial aid status is based on their own and/or their spouse's income. All veterans and military servicemembers on active duty are categorized as independent. Military servicemembers in the reserves can be categorized as either independent or dependent based on their other characteristics (see detailed definition of dependency status in glossary following tables).

# National Center for Education Statistics

**Table 1. Percentage distribution of undergraduates, by military status and receipt of veterans' educational benefits: 2007–08**

Military status and receipt of benefits	Pct.	95% CI
Total	100.0	[†]
Veterans	3.1	[2.9–3.4]
Military servicemembers		
Active duty	0.7	[0.5–0.8]
Reserves	0.4	[0.3–0.4]
Undergraduates who are not veterans or military servicemembers	95.8	[95.5–96.2]
Veterans and military servicemembers who received veterans' education benefits available for the 2007–08 academic year		
Yes	37.7	[35.4–40.1]
No	62.3	[59.9–64.6]

† Not applicable.

NOTE: Military servicemembers include personnel on active duty or in the reserves. See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that 3.1 percent of undergraduates were veterans in 2007–08. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08).

# National Center for Education Statistics

**Table 2-A. Percentage distribution of undergraduates, by military status, dependency status, and selected demographic characteristics: 2007–08**

Demographic characteristics	All military undergraduates <sup>1</sup>		Nonmilitary independent undergraduates <sup>2</sup>		Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates <sup>3</sup>	
	Pct.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI
Total	100.0	[†]	100.0	[†]	100.0	[†]
Race/ethnicity <sup>4</sup>						
White	60.1	[57.6–62.6]	57.0	[55.5–58.4]	65.8	[64.9–66.7]
Black	18.3	[16.1–20.4]	18.1	[17.1–19.0]	10.3	[9.8–10.8]
Hispanic	12.8	[11.5–14.0]	15.1	[14.0–16.1]	13.5	[12.6–14.4]
Asian	3.2	[2.5–3.9]	5.6	[5.2–6.0]	6.3	[5.9–6.8]
Other	5.7	[4.6–6.7]	4.3	[3.9–4.7]	4.1	[3.7–4.4]
Gender						
Male	73.1	[70.5–75.6]	35.2	[33.8–36.6]	47.1	[45.9–48.3]
Female	26.9	[24.4–29.5]	64.8	[63.4–66.2]	52.9	[51.7–54.1]
Age						
18 or younger	0.5 !	[0.1–0.9]	0.9	[0.7–1.0]	18.1	[17.5–18.8]
19–23	15.0	[13.3–16.8]	13.6	[13.0–14.1]	81.9	[81.2–82.5]
24–29	31.4	[29.3–33.4]	37.2	[36.5–37.9]	†	[†]
30–39	28.2	[26.5–30.0]	26.5	[25.8–27.1]	†	[†]
40 or older	24.9	[22.9–26.9]	21.9	[21.3–22.5]	†	[†]
Dependency and marital status						
Dependent	3.0	[2.2–3.7]	†	[†]	100.0	[†]
Independent						
Unmarried, no dependents	35.3	[33.3–37.3]	33.1	[32.2–34.0]	†	[†]
Married, no dependents	14.8	[12.9–16.7]	12.4	[11.9–12.8]	†	[†]
Single parent	14.5	[12.9–16.1]	29.6	[28.8–30.4]	†	[†]
Married parents	32.5	[30.3–34.7]	24.9	[24.0–25.7]	†	[†]

† Not applicable.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

<sup>1</sup> Military undergraduates include undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves. All veterans and military servicemembers on active duty are categorized as independent. Military servicemembers in the reserves can be categorized as either independent or dependent based on their other characteristics.

<sup>2</sup> Nonmilitary independent undergraduates include independent undergraduates who were not veterans or military servicemembers. Independent undergraduates are primarily 24 years of age and older and their federal financial aid status is based on their own and/or their spouse's income.

<sup>3</sup> Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates include dependent undergraduates who are not veterans or military servicemembers. Dependent undergraduates are typically under age 24 and their federal financial aid status is based largely on their parents' income.

<sup>4</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, and Other includes American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, other, and two or more races.

NOTE: See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that 60.1 percent of military undergraduates were White in 2007–08. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08).

# National Center for Education Statistics

**Table 2-B. Percentage distribution of military undergraduates, by receipt of veterans' education benefits and selected demographic characteristics: 2007–08**

Demographic characteristics	All military undergraduates <sup>1</sup>		Military undergraduates <sup>1</sup> who received veterans' education benefits available for the 2007–08 academic year			
	Pct.	95% CI	Yes		No	
			Pct.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI
Total	100.0	[†]	100.0	[†]	100.0	[†]
Race/ethnicity <sup>2</sup>						
White	60.1	[57.6–62.6]	62.2	[59.1–65.3]	58.8	[55.3–62.3]
Black	18.3	[16.1–20.4]	16.1	[13.7–18.6]	19.6	[16.3–22.9]
Hispanic	12.8	[11.5–14.0]	13.1	[10.9–15.3]	12.6	[10.6–14.5]
Asian	3.2	[2.5–3.9]	3.0	[1.8–4.2]	3.3	[2.4–4.2]
Other	5.7	[4.6–6.7]	5.5	[4.0–7.1]	5.7	[4.2–7.3]
Gender						
Male	73.1	[70.5–75.6]	74.8	[70.8–78.9]	72.0	[69.3–74.7]
Female	26.9	[24.4–29.5]	25.2	[21.1–29.2]	28.0	[25.3–30.7]
Age						
18 or younger	0.5 †	[0.1–0.9]	‡	[†]	0.7 †	[0.1–1.2]
19–23	15.0	[13.3–16.8]	14.7	[12.3–17.1]	15.2	[13.0–17.5]
24–29	31.4	[29.3–33.4]	45.9	[42.7–49.0]	22.6	[20.2–24.9]
30–39	28.2	[26.5–30.0]	26.4	[23.2–29.6]	29.4	[26.8–32.0]
40 or older	24.9	[22.9–26.9]	12.9	[10.5–15.3]	32.1	[29.4–34.8]
Dependency and marital status						
Dependent	3.0	[2.2–3.7]	2.4	[1.4–3.3]	3.3	[2.3–4.4]
Independent						
Unmarried, no dependents	35.3	[33.3–37.3]	40.5	[37.1–44.0]	32.1	[29.4–34.8]
Unmarried, with dependents	14.8	[12.9–16.7]	14.2	[11.4–17.0]	15.1	[12.5–17.7]
Single parent	14.5	[12.9–16.1]	12.1	[10.0–14.1]	15.9	[13.8–18.1]
Married parents	32.5	[30.3–34.7]	30.8	[27.6–34.1]	33.5	[30.5–36.5]

† Not applicable.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met.

<sup>1</sup> Military undergraduates include undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves. All veterans and military servicemembers on active duty are categorized as independent. Military servicemembers in the reserves can be categorized as either independent or dependent based on their other characteristics.

<sup>2</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, and Other includes American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, other, and two or more races.

NOTE: See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that 60.1 percent of all military undergraduates were White in 2007–08. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08).

# National Center for Education Statistics

**Table 3-A. Percentage distribution of undergraduates, by military status, dependency status, and selected enrollment characteristics: 2007–08**

Enrollment characteristics	All military undergraduates <sup>1</sup>		Nonmilitary independent undergraduates <sup>2</sup>		Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates <sup>3</sup>	
	Pct.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI
Total	100.0	[†]	100.0	[†]	100.0	[†]
Institutional type						
Public 2-year	43.3	[40.3–46.2]	49.1	[46.2–52.1]	32.2	[30.6–33.9]
Public 4-year	21.4	[18.5–24.3]	19.1	[18.3–19.8]	38.2	[35.8–40.5]
Private not-for-profit 4-year	13.5	[10.9–16.1]	8.9	[8.4–9.4]	16.3	[15.6–17.0]
Private for-profit	12.4	[9.8–15.1]	14.7	[14.2–15.2]	4.1	[3.6–4.5]
Others or attended more than one institution <sup>4</sup>	9.4	[5.3–13.5]	8.2	[4.5–11.9]	9.2	[4.6–13.8]
Degree program						
Certificate	5.4	[4.1–6.7]	11.3	[10.2–12.4]	3.9	[3.5–4.3]
Associate's degree	46.9	[43.5–50.4]	48.6	[47.4–49.7]	32.8	[31.8–33.8]
Bachelor's degree	41.9	[38.8–45.0]	31.6	[30.5–32.6]	59.3	[58.5–60.1]
Not in a degree program or other	5.8	[4.6–7.0]	8.6	[7.7–9.4]	4.0	[3.6–4.5]
Attendance status						
Full-time/full year	23.4	[21.6–25.1]	20.0	[19.1–20.8]	56.2	[55.5–57.0]
Full-time/part year	16.4	[14.6–18.2]	14.2	[12.9–15.5]	13.8	[13.2–14.4]
Part-time/full year	23.1	[21.0–25.2]	28.8	[27.9–29.6]	16.5	[15.9–17.2]
Part-time/part year	37.1	[34.5–39.8]	37.1	[35.9–38.4]	13.4	[12.8–14.1]

† Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Military undergraduates include undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves. All veterans and military servicemembers on active duty are categorized as independent. Military servicemembers in the reserves can be categorized as either independent or dependent based on their other characteristics.

<sup>2</sup> Nonmilitary independent undergraduates include independent undergraduates who were not veterans or military servicemembers. Independent undergraduates are primarily 24 years of age and older and their federal financial aid status is based on their own and/or their spouse's income.

<sup>3</sup> Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates include dependent undergraduates who are not veterans or military servicemembers. Dependent students are typically under age 24 and their federal financial aid status is based largely on their parents' income.

<sup>4</sup> Other institutions include public less-than 2-year and private not-for-profit 2-year or less.

NOTE: See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that 43.3 percent of military undergraduates attended public 2-year institutions in 2007–08. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08).

# National Center for Education Statistics

**Table 3-B. Percentage distribution of military undergraduates, by receipt of veterans' education benefits and selected enrollment characteristics: 2007–08**

Enrollment characteristics	All military undergraduates <sup>1</sup>		Military undergraduates <sup>1</sup> who received veterans' education benefits available for the 2007–08 academic year			
	Pct.	95% CI	Yes		No	
			Pct.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI
Total	100.0	[†]	100.0	[†]	100.0	[†]
Institutional type						
Public 2-year	43.3	[40.3–46.2]	39.1	[35.1–43.0]	45.8	[42.0–49.6]
Public 4-year	21.4	[18.5–24.3]	26.6	[23.3–29.9]	18.3	[15.0–21.5]
Private not-for-profit 4-year	13.5	[10.9–16.1]	13.1	[10.5–15.7]	13.7	[10.6–16.7]
Private for-profit	12.4	[9.8–15.1]	10.4	[6.9–14.0]	13.6	[10.4–16.9]
Others or attended more than one institution <sup>2</sup>	9.4	[5.3–13.5]	10.8	[6.2–15.4]	8.6	[4.6–12.7]
Degree program						
Certificate	5.4	[4.1–6.7]	4.5	[2.4–6.6]	6.0	[4.6–7.4]
Associate's degree	46.9	[43.5–50.4]	48.2	[43.7–52.6]	46.1	[42.3–49.9]
Bachelor's degree	41.9	[38.8–45.0]	45.4	[41.5–49.4]	39.7	[35.9–43.5]
Not in a degree program or other	5.8	[4.6–7.0]	1.9	[1.1–2.8]	8.2	[6.4–10.0]
Attendance status						
Full-time/full year	23.4	[21.6–25.1]	32.5	[29.6–35.4]	17.9	[15.7–20.0]
Full-time/part year	16.4	[14.6–18.2]	19.9	[16.9–22.9]	14.3	[12.1–16.5]
Part-time/full year	23.1	[21.0–25.2]	22.2	[19.3–25.2]	23.6	[21.0–26.2]
Part-time/part year	37.1	[34.5–39.8]	25.4	[21.3–29.4]	44.2	[40.9–47.6]

† Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Military undergraduates include undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves.

<sup>2</sup> Other institutions include public less-than 2-year and private not-for-profit 2-year or less.

NOTE: See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that 43.3 percent of all military undergraduates attended public 2-year institutions in 2007–08. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08).

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**Table 4. Percentage of first-time beginning undergraduates, by military status, dependency status, and selected considerations in and reasons for attending their institutions: 2003–04**

Considerations in and reasons for attending	All military undergraduates <sup>1</sup>		Nonmilitary independent undergraduates <sup>2</sup>		Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates <sup>3</sup>	
	Pct.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI
Before selecting a college <sup>4</sup>						
Considered campus safety	<b>28.0</b>	[22.1–33.9]	<b>28.9</b>	[27.0–30.9]	<b>46.0</b>	[44.5–47.6]
Considered graduation rate of enrolled students	<b>24.6</b>	[18.3–30.9]	<b>26.4</b>	[24.4–28.4]	<b>42.0</b>	[40.5–43.6]
Consulted published list of college rankings	<b>12.2</b>	[8.0–16.5]	<b>11.8</b>	[10.2–13.3]	<b>32.5</b>	[31.3–33.8]
Reasons decided to attend institution <sup>4</sup>						
Location	<b>75.3</b>	[68.7–82.0]	<b>77.8</b>	[75.8–79.8]	<b>78.1</b>	[77.1–79.1]
Program/coursework	<b>52.3</b>	[45.0–59.6]	<b>61.0</b>	[58.5–63.4]	<b>53.1</b>	[51.7–54.6]
Cost	<b>46.7</b>	[39.3–54.1]	<b>49.3</b>	[47.0–51.6]	<b>59.4</b>	[58.2–60.6]
Personal or family	<b>29.7</b>	[23.2–36.1]	<b>36.2</b>	[33.7–38.7]	<b>40.6</b>	[39.5–41.6]
Reputation	<b>29.0</b>	[22.3–35.6]	<b>41.3</b>	[39.1–43.4]	<b>51.2</b>	[49.8–52.7]
Other	<b>18.7</b>	[13.6–23.7]	<b>13.4</b>	[11.9–15.0]	<b>16.6</b>	[15.8–17.4]

<sup>1</sup> Military undergraduates include undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves. All veterans and military servicemembers on active duty are categorized as independent. Military servicemembers in the reserves can be categorized as either independent or dependent based on their other characteristics.

<sup>2</sup> Nonmilitary independent undergraduates include independent undergraduates who were not veterans or military servicemembers. Independent undergraduates are primarily 24 years of age and older and their federal financial aid status is based on their own and/or their spouse's income.

<sup>3</sup> Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates include dependent undergraduates who are not veterans or military servicemembers. Dependent undergraduates are typically under age 24 and their federal financial aid status is based largely on their parents' income.

<sup>4</sup> Multiple reasons could be given.

NOTE: See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that in 2003–04, 28.0 percent of military undergraduates reported considering campus safety before selecting a college.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2003/04 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:03/04).

# National Center for Education Statistics

**Table 5-A. Percentage receiving financial aid and average amount received among undergraduates attending public 2-year institutions, by military status, dependency status, and type of aid: 2007–08**

Financial aid	All military undergraduates <sup>1</sup>				Nonmilitary independent undergraduates <sup>2</sup>				Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates <sup>3</sup>			
	Percent receiving		Average amount received		Percent receiving		Average amount received		Percent receiving		Average amount received	
	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI
<b>Total aid<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>66.4</b>	[62.4–70.3]	<b>\$4,500</b>	[4,360–4,706]	<b>47.9</b>	[43.3–52.6]	<b>\$3,200</b>	[2,934–3,402]	<b>45.3</b>	[40.2–50.3]	<b>\$3,500</b>	[3,331–3,704]
Total grants	40.9	[36.7–45.0]	1,800	[1,640–2,008]	42.4	[38.4–46.4]	2,000	[1,902–2,098]	36.0	[31.7–40.3]	2,500	[2,358–2,686]
Total loans	11.3	[9.5–13.0]	4,600	[4,008–5,162]	12.9	[12.1–13.7]	4,400	[4,020–4,729]	13.7	[12.4–15.0]	3,800	[3,676–3,955]
Types of financial aid												
Veterans benefits <sup>5</sup>	34.1	[30.0–38.1]	4,800	[4,336–5,248]	0.5	[0.4–0.7]	3,900	[2,790–4,928]	0.4	[0.2–0.6]	3,000	[2,046–4,002]
Need-based grant aid												
Federal Pell grant	16.0	[13.7–18.2]	2,100	[1,877–2,249]	23.3	[20.4–26.1]	2,100	[2,000–2,273]	18.8	[16.7–20.9]	2,500	[2,320–2,630]
State grants	4.7	[3.5–5.9]	1,100	[878–1,224]	6.9	[6.1–7.7]	1,100	[1,014–1,175]	8.8	[7.9–9.8]	1,400	[1,271–1,433]
Institutional grants	5.6	[3.7–7.6]	600	[379–801]	8.5	[6.8–10.2]	500	[485–564]	8.9	[7.3–10.4]	700	[602–700]
Federal SEOG <sup>6</sup>	1.0	[0.5–1.4]	‡	[†]	3.3	[2.8–3.7]	400	[393–469]	2.4	[2.0–2.7]	400	[384–450]
Non-need-based grant aid												
State grants	5.1	[3.8–6.3]	1,300	[1,035–1,637]	2.7	[2.1–3.3]	1,000	[961–1,090]	5.0	[3.8–6.1]	1,200	[1,143–1,338]
Institutional grants	2.4	[1.1–3.7]	‡	[†]	1.6	[1.1–2.1]	700	[600–765]	3.5	[2.8–4.2]	1,600	[1,376–1,759]
Loans												
Federal subsidized loans <sup>7</sup>	8.1	[6.7–9.5]	2,600	[2,354–2,819]	9.4	[9.0–9.8]	2,800	[2,622–3,012]	7.1	[6.3–7.9]	2,500	[2,353–2,603]
Total unsubsidized loans	8.7	[7.0–10.4]	3,500	[3,048–3,976]	9.4	[8.9–9.9]	3,200	[3,007–3,364]	9.7	[8.6–10.8]	3,600	[3,414–3,740]

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

<sup>1</sup> Military undergraduates include undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves. All veterans and military servicemembers on active duty are categorized as independent. Military servicemembers in the reserves can be categorized as either independent or dependent based on their other characteristics.

<sup>2</sup> Nonmilitary independent undergraduates include independent undergraduates who were not veterans or military servicemembers. Independent graduates are primarily 24 years of age and older and their federal financial aid status is based on their own and/or their spouse's income.

<sup>3</sup> Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates include dependent undergraduates who are not veterans or military servicemembers. Dependent undergraduates are typically under age 24 and their federal financial aid status is based largely on their parents' income.

<sup>4</sup> Total aid is the sum of all types of financial aid received by students in 2007–08 from any source except parents, relatives, or friends. It includes all grants, loans, work-study, veterans' benefits, and any other aid except federal education tax benefits. The financial aid average amounts shown are for those who received the specified type of aid. Therefore, the sum of the average grant amount (for those who received grants) plus the average loan amount (for those who received loans) may be greater than the average total aid amount, which includes students who did not receive any grants as well as students who did not take out any loans.

<sup>5</sup> Nonmilitary undergraduates can sometimes receive veterans' dependent benefits.

<sup>6</sup> Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant.

<sup>7</sup> Includes subsidized Stafford and Perkins loans.

NOTE: See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that 66.4 percent of military undergraduates attending public 2-year institutions received an average amount of \$4,500 in aid in 2007–08.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08).

# National Center for Education Statistics

**Table 5-B. Percentage receiving financial aid and average amount received among undergraduates attending public 4-year institutions, by military status, dependency status, and type of aid: 2007–08**

	All military undergraduates <sup>1</sup>				Nonmilitary independent undergraduates <sup>2</sup>				Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates <sup>3</sup>			
	Percent receiving		Average amount received		Percent receiving		Average amount received		Percent receiving		Average amount received	
	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI
Financial aid												
<b>Total aid<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>81.4</b>	[77.9–84.9]	<b>\$9,100</b>	[8,383–9,862]	<b>66.9</b>	[65.1–68.8]	<b>\$8,100</b>	[7,938–8,353]	<b>72.7</b>	[71.1–74.3]	<b>\$9,900</b>	[9,716–10,009]
Total grants	51.1	[46.8–55.5]	4,300	[4,006–4,687]	51.8	[50.6–52.9]	4,000	[3,857–4,111]	53.4	[51.8–55.1]	5,700	[5,569–5,785]
Total loans	33.2	[28.1–38.4]	6,300	[5,758–6,846]	44.4	[43.2–45.7]	7,200	[6,994–7,326]	48.1	[47.3–48.9]	8,000	[7,852–8,224]
Types of financial aid												
Veterans benefits <sup>5</sup>	46.9	[42.7–51.1]	5,700	[5,295–6,146]	1.0	[0.7–1.2]	4,800	[3,929–5,573]	0.7	[0.5–0.8]	4,800	[4,263–5,344]
Need-based grant aid												
Federal Pell grant	25.0	[20.8–29.3]	2,600	[2,426–2,860]	34.5	[33.3–35.7]	2,700	[2,623–2,762]	21.6	[20.6–22.6]	3,000	[2,896–3,007]
State grants	8.5	[6.2–10.8]	2,400	[1,931–2,868]	12.8	[11.9–13.7]	2,000	[1,902–2,139]	16.5	[15.3–17.8]	3,000	[2,932–3,123]
Institutional grants	5.9	[4.1–7.8]	2,300	[1,709–2,918]	9.0	[8.2–9.9]	2,200	[1,999–2,443]	13.3	[12.7–13.9]	2,600	[2,505–2,774]
Federal SEOG <sup>6</sup>	3.0	[1.9–4.1]	700	[461–938]	6.7	[6.1–7.3]	700	[689–781]	4.5	[4.2–4.8]	900	[807–923]
Non-need-based grant aid												
State grants	6.6	[4.7–8.5]	3,700	[3,124–4,364]	2.0	[1.7–2.4]	2,300	[2,004–2,508]	10.8	[9.9–11.8]	2,900	[2,759–3,054]
Institutional grants	7.5	[5.8–9.3]	3,300	[2,546–4,153]	5.2	[4.6–5.8]	2,800	[2,434–3,083]	16.0	[15.1–16.8]	4,200	[4,030–4,441]
Loans												
Federal subsidized loans <sup>7</sup>	26.2	[22.1–30.3]	3,800	[3,588–4,052]	36.7	[35.6–37.8]	4,100	[3,983–4,126]	32.7	[32.2–33.3]	3,800	[3,621–3,915]
Total unsubsidized loans	26.8	[22.2–31.5]	4,100	[3,445–4,700]	35.8	[34.7–36.9]	4,700	[4,562–4,905]	35.4	[34.7–36.2]	7,400	[7,235–7,622]

<sup>1</sup> Military undergraduates include undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves. All veterans and military servicemembers on active duty are categorized as independent. Military servicemembers in the reserves can be categorized as either independent or dependent based on their other characteristics.

<sup>2</sup> Nonmilitary independent undergraduates include independent undergraduates who were not veterans or military servicemembers. Independent undergraduates are primarily 24 years of age and older and their federal financial aid status is based on their own and/or their spouse's income.

<sup>3</sup> Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates include dependent undergraduates who are not veterans or military servicemembers. Dependent undergraduates are typically under age 24 and their federal financial aid status is based largely on their parents' income.

<sup>4</sup> Total aid is the sum of all types of financial aid received by students in 2007–08 from any source except parents, relatives, or friends. It includes all grants, loans, work-study, veterans' benefits, and any other aid except federal education tax benefits. The financial aid average amounts shown are for those who received the specified type of aid. Therefore, the sum of the average grant amount (for those who received grants) plus the average loan amount (for those who received loans) may be greater than the average total aid amount, which includes students who did not receive any grants as well as students who did not take out any loans.

<sup>5</sup> Nonmilitary undergraduates can sometimes receive veterans' dependent benefits.

<sup>6</sup> Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant.

<sup>7</sup> Includes subsidized Stafford and Perkins loans.

NOTE: See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that 81.4 percent of military undergraduates attending public 4-year institutions received an average amount of \$9,100 in aid in 2007–08.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08).

# National Center for Education Statistics

**Table 5-C. Percentage receiving financial aid and average amount received among undergraduates attending private not-for-profit 4-year institutions, by military status, dependency status, and type of aid: 2007–08**

Financial aid	All military undergraduates <sup>1</sup>				Nonmilitary independent undergraduates <sup>2</sup>				Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates <sup>3</sup>			
	Percent receiving		Average amount received		Percent receiving		Average amount received		Percent receiving		Average amount received	
	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI
<b>Total aid<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>84.7</b>	[80.4–89.1]	<b>\$10,000</b>	[8,840–11,240]	<b>81.8</b>	[78.7–85.0]	<b>\$11,000</b>	[10,477–11,529]	<b>85.9</b>	[84.0–87.8]	<b>\$20,500</b>	[19,939–21,075]
Total grants	56.7	[52.0–61.4]	4,700	[3,832–5,470]	67.9	[65.1–70.7]	5,700	[5,396–6,025]	77.2	[75.1–79.3]	12,200	[11,773–12,537]
Total loans	34.7	[29.9–39.6]	8,400	[7,659–9,119]	57.5	[55.5–59.4]	8,500	[8,218–8,838]	61.8	[60.4–63.3]	12,200	[11,738–12,576]
Types of financial aid												
Veterans benefits <sup>5</sup>	36.7	[31.2–42.2]	5,800	[5,181–6,399]	0.3	[0.2–0.5]	5,100	[2,870–7,370]	0.4	[0.2–0.5]	4,500	[3,238–5,734]
Need-based grant aid												
Federal Pell grant	17.8	[13.7–21.9]	2,600	[2,191–3,097]	38.5	[36.7–40.2]	2,700	[2,640–2,825]	20.5	[19.6–21.3]	3,000	[2,878–3,042]
State grants	9.4	[6.7–12.1]	2,300	[1,446–3,076]	17.9	[14.9–20.9]	2,400	[2,138–2,663]	19.8	[18.3–21.3]	3,400	[3,229–3,593]
Institutional grants	4.8	[2.7–6.9]	4,100	[2,366–5,871]	14.2	[12.3–16.1]	4,300	[3,768–4,832]	41.6	[39.4–43.9]	7,700	[7,399–8,089]
Federal SEOG <sup>6</sup>	3.8	[1.3–6.2]	1,200	[445–2,001]	11.4	[9.9–12.9]	900	[738–993]	10.2	[9.3–11.0]	1,400	[1,286–1,477]
Non-need-based grant aid												
State grants	3.1	[1.6–4.7]	1,700	[775–2,637]	3.7	[2.6–4.8]	1,600	[1,322–1,968]	7.1	[5.4–8.8]	2,400	[2,065–2,740]
Institutional grants	6.8	[4.5–9.1]	5,400	[4,129–6,605]	13.8	[12.0–15.6]	4,500	[4,039–4,926]	44.3	[41.4–47.3]	8,300	[8,007–8,529]
Loans												
Federal subsidized loans <sup>7</sup>	30.2	[25.1–35.3]	3,600	[3,225–3,967]	50.4	[48.5–52.3]	3,900	[3,777–4,006]	45.9	[44.9–46.8]	4,400	[4,280–4,480]
Total unsubsidized loans	31.1	[26.0–36.2]	5,900	[5,246–6,508]	50.0	[48.2–51.8]	5,900	[5,600–6,157]	48.5	[47.0–50.1]	11,300	[10,927–11,765]

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

<sup>1</sup> Military undergraduates include undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves. All veterans and military servicemembers on active duty are categorized as independent. Military servicemembers in the reserves can be categorized as either independent or dependent based on their other characteristics.

<sup>2</sup> Nonmilitary independent undergraduates include independent undergraduates who were not veterans or military servicemembers. Independent undergraduates are primarily 24 years of age and older and their federal financial aid status is based on their own and/or their spouse's income.

<sup>3</sup> Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates include dependent undergraduates who are not veterans or military servicemembers. Dependent undergraduates are typically under age 24 and their federal financial aid status is based largely on their parents' income.

<sup>4</sup> Total aid is the sum of all types of financial aid received by students in 2007–08 from any source except parents, relatives, or friends. It includes all grants, loans, work-study, veterans' benefits, and any other aid except federal education tax benefits. The financial aid average amounts shown are for those who received the specified type of aid. Therefore, the sum of the average grant amount (for those who received grants) plus the average loan amount (for those who received loans) may be greater than the average total aid amount, which includes students who did not receive any grants as well as students who did not take out any loans.

<sup>5</sup> Nonmilitary undergraduates can sometimes receive veterans' dependent benefits.

<sup>6</sup> Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant.

<sup>7</sup> Includes subsidized Stafford and Perkins loans.

NOTE: See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that 84.7 percent of military undergraduates attending private not-for-profit 4-year institutions received an average amount of \$10,000 in aid in 2007–08.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08).

# National Center for Education Statistics

**Table 5-D. Percentage receiving financial aid and average amount received among undergraduates attending private for-profit institutions, by military status, dependency status, and type of aid: 2007–08**

Financial aid	All military undergraduates <sup>1</sup>				Nonmilitary independent undergraduates <sup>2</sup>				Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates <sup>3</sup>			
	Percent receiving		Average amount received		Percent receiving		Average amount received		Percent receiving		Average amount received	
	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI	Pct.	95% CI	Amt.	95% CI
<b>Total aid<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>97.6</b>	[96.3–99.0]	<b>\$13,500</b>	[11,526–15,481]	<b>96.8</b>	[96.2–97.3]	<b>\$10,200</b>	[9,796–10,535]	<b>94.8</b>	[93.9–95.7]	<b>\$12,100</b>	[11,401–12,862]
Total grants	<b>67.6</b>	[55.8–79.4]	<b>3,700</b>	[3,199–4,135]	<b>74.9</b>	[73.5–76.2]	<b>3,100</b>	[2,933–3,208]	<b>58.1</b>	[54.2–61.9]	<b>3,400</b>	[3,116–3,596]
Total loans	<b>92.2</b>	[89.8–94.6]	<b>8,900</b>	[7,512–10,278]	<b>92.5</b>	[91.9–93.1]	<b>8,000</b>	[7,675–8,302]	<b>89.0</b>	[87.6–90.3]	<b>10,500</b>	[9,863–11,219]
Types of financial aid												
Veterans benefits <sup>5</sup>	<b>31.7</b>	[23.0–40.4]	<b>7,500</b>	[6,275–8,812]	<b>0.8 !</b>	[0.3–1.3]	<b>7,200</b>	[4,801–9,547]	<b>0.4 !</b>	[0.1–0.7]	<b>4,200 !</b>	[984–7,478]
Need-based grant aid												
Federal Pell grant	<b>47.7</b>	[35.9–59.5]	<b>2,600</b>	[2,318–2,833]	<b>67.7</b>	[66.0–69.5]	<b>2,400</b>	[2,331–2,471]	<b>51.6</b>	[48.1–55.1]	<b>2,600</b>	[2,506–2,758]
State grants	<b>4.4 !</b>	[1.4–7.3]	<b>2,200 !</b>	[680–3,670]	<b>5.4</b>	[4.2–6.6]	<b>2,100</b>	[1,749–2,530]	<b>7.6</b>	[5.7–9.5]	<b>2,400</b>	[2,009–2,738]
Institutional grants	<b>2.3</b>	[0.0–6.3]	‡	[†]	<b>3.3</b>	[1.9–4.7]	<b>1,000</b>	[753–1,303]	<b>4.8</b>	[2.1–7.4]	<b>1,400</b>	[916–1,901]
Federal SEOG <sup>6</sup>	<b>10.8</b>	[5.3–16.4]	<b>500</b>	[301–694]	<b>20.1</b>	[16.5–23.7]	<b>400</b>	[328–422]	<b>17.9</b>	[14.9–21.0]	<b>400</b>	[372–503]
Non-need-based grant aid												
State grants	‡	[†]	‡	[†]	‡	[†]	<b>1,800 !</b>	[391–3,145]	‡	[†]	<b>1,700</b>	[784–2,642]
Institutional grants	‡	[†]	‡	[†]	<b>3.4 !</b>	[0.8–6.0]	<b>2,000</b>	[881–3,213]	<b>3.5</b>	[2.2–4.9]	<b>1,700</b>	[931–2,432]
Loans												
Federal subsidized loans <sup>7</sup>	<b>88.2</b>	[85.1–91.3]	<b>3,300</b>	[2,946–3,668]	<b>88.3</b>	[87.7–88.9]	<b>2,900</b>	[2,793–2,943]	<b>80.5</b>	[78.2–82.8]	<b>3,000</b>	[2,937–3,156]
Total unsubsidized loans	<b>91.6</b>	[89.1–94.1]	<b>5,800</b>	[4,517–7,015]	<b>90.0</b>	[89.1–90.9]	<b>5,400</b>	[5,118–5,674]	<b>82.8</b>	[80.6–85.0]	<b>8,400</b>	[7,681–9,052]

† Not applicable.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met.

<sup>1</sup> Military undergraduates include undergraduates who were veterans or military servicemembers on active duty or in the reserves. All veterans and military servicemembers on active duty are categorized as independent. Military servicemembers in the reserves can be categorized as either independent or dependent based on their other characteristics.

<sup>2</sup> Nonmilitary independent undergraduates include independent undergraduates who were not veterans or military servicemembers. Independent undergraduates are primarily 24 years of age and older and their federal financial aid status is based on their own and/or their spouse's income.

<sup>3</sup> Nonmilitary dependent undergraduates include dependent undergraduates who are not veterans or military servicemembers. Dependent undergraduates are typically under age 24 and their federal financial aid status is based largely on their parents' income.

<sup>4</sup> Total aid is the sum of all types of financial aid received by students in 2007–08 from any source except parents, relatives, or friends. It includes all grants, loans, work-study, veterans' benefits, and any other aid except federal education tax benefits. The financial aid average amounts shown are for those who received the specified type of aid. Therefore, the sum of the average grant amount (for those who received grants) plus the average loan amount (for those who received loans) may be greater than the average total aid amount, which includes students who did not receive any grants as well as students who did not take out any loans.

<sup>5</sup> Nonmilitary undergraduates can sometimes receive veterans' dependent benefits.

<sup>6</sup> Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant.

<sup>7</sup> Includes subsidized Stafford and Perkins loans.

NOTE: See the Technical Notes for the definition of 95% CI (confidence interval). This table shows, for example, that 97.6 percent of military undergraduates attending private for-profit institutions received an average amount of \$13,500 in aid in 2007–08.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08).

## Glossary

This glossary includes descriptions of the variables used in the tables of this report, all of which are found in the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08) and the Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:04/06) database. Variables are included in the Data Analysis System (DAS), available to the public online at <http://nces.ed.gov/DAS>. The index below organizes the variables by category. The glossary items are listed in alphabetical order by variable name in the DAS (displayed in bold letters along the right-hand column).

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## Glossary Entries

### **Age as of 12/31/07**

**AGE**  
(NPSAS:08)

Indicates the student's age as of December 31, 2007.

### **Attendance pattern**

**ATTNSTAT**  
(NPSAS:08)

Based on the number of months the student was enrolled full time or part time at all institutions attended during the 2007–08 academic year. “Full-year” is defined as enrollment for 9 or more months during the NPSAS year. Months did not have to be contiguous or at the same institution, and students did not have to be enrolled for a full month in order to be considered enrolled for that month. “Full-time” is usually defined as 12 or more credit-hours. The categories are:

Full-time/full-year	Enrolled full time for 9 or more months.
Full-time/part-year	Enrolled full time, but for less than 9 months.
Part-time/full-year	Enrolled for 9 or more months, but less than 9 months were full time.
Part-time/part-year	Enrolled for less than 9 months, and these were not all full time.

### **Considered campus safety 2003–04**

**CONSIDRA**  
(BPS:04/06)

Indicates whether students reported considering campus safety before choosing to attend their institution. One of a series of variables indicating student-reported considerations. Specifically, students were asked in the interview: “Before choosing [your institution], did you get information about any of the following? (Please check all that apply.)” Answer: Campus safety.

### **Considered graduation rate 2003–04**

**CONSIDRB**  
(BPS:04/06)

Indicates whether students reported considering the graduation rate before choosing to attend their institution. Specifically, students were asked in the interview: “Before choosing [your institution], did you get information about any of the following? (Please check all that apply.)” Answer: Graduation rate.

### **Dependency status**

**DEPEND**  
(NPSAS:08)

Student's dependency status for federal financial aid purposes during the 2007–08 academic year. Students were considered to be financially independent of their parents for federal financial aid purposes in 2007–08 if they were age 24 or older on 12/31/07, or if they met any of the following criteria: were married; had legal dependents; were veterans of the U.S. armed forces or on active duty; were orphans or wards of the court; or were enrolled in a graduate or first-professional degree program (beyond the bachelor's degree) in 2007–08. All other students under 24 were considered to be dependent unless they could document that they were receiving no parental support and were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment.

**Dependency status****DEPEND  
(BPS:04/06)**

Student's dependency status for federal financial aid purposes during the 2003–04 academic year. Students were considered to be financially independent of their parents for federal financial aid purposes in 2003–04 if they were age 24 or older on 12/31/03, or if they met any of the following criteria: were married; had legal dependents; were veterans of the U.S. armed forces or on active duty; were orphans or wards of the court; or were enrolled in a graduate or first-professional degree program (beyond the bachelor's degree) in 2003–04. All other students under 24 were considered to be dependent unless they could document that they were receiving no parental support and were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment.

**Dependency and marital status****DEPEND5B  
(NPSAS:08)**

Student's dependency status including dependents and marital status during the 2007–08 academic year.

Dependent  
 Independent, no dependents, unmarried/separated  
 Independent, no dependents, married  
 Independent, with dependents, unmarried/separated  
 Independent, with dependents, married

**Gender****GENDER  
(NPSAS:08)**

Male  
 Female

**Institutional need-based grants****INSTNEED  
(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of institutional need-based grants received during the 2007–08 academic year. Includes need-based grants that also have a merit component.

**Institutional non-need and merit grants****INSTNOND  
(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of institutional grants and scholarships received during the 2007–08 academic year that are not based on financial need. These grants and scholarships are based entirely on merit or other circumstances that were not related to need.

**Military status in 2007–08****MILTYPE  
(NPSAS:08)**

Student's type of military service or veteran status during the 2007–08 academic year. Based primarily on the student interview. Specifically, students were asked, "Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, or are you currently serving in the Armed Forces either on active duty or in the reserves?"

No military service  
 Active duty  
 Reserves  
 Veteran

**Military status in 2003–04****VETERAN**  
**(BPS:04/06)**

Student's type of military service or veteran status during the 2003–04 academic year. Based primarily on the student interview.

No military service  
Active duty  
Reserves  
Veteran

**Federal Pell grant****PELLAMT**  
**(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of federal Pell grants received at all institutions attended during the 2007–08 academic year. Pell grants are need-based grants awarded to undergraduates who have not yet received a bachelor's degree and students in teaching certificate programs. They are intended as a financial base, to which other financial aid awards can be added. For the 2007–08 academic year, the maximum Pell grant amount was \$4,310 for students who had a federal expected family contribution (EFC) of zero and were enrolled full time for a full academic year. The actual amount of a Pell grant received by the student depends on the EFC and the actual attendance pattern (full-time or part-time, full-year or part-year).

**Consulted published list of colleges****PUBLST04**  
**(BPS:04/06)**

Indicates whether students reported consulting a published list of college rankings before selecting a college. Specifically, students were asked in the interview: "Before selecting a college, did you consult a published list of college rankings?" Answer: Did not choose from a published list/Chose from a published list.

**Race/ethnicity****RACE**  
**(NPSAS:08)**

Student's race/ethnicity with Hispanic or Latino origin as a separate category. Based on the census race categories. All of the race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

White	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
Black	A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
Hispanic	A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
Asian	A person having origins in any of the peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. This includes people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, India, and Vietnam.

**Race/ethnicity—continued****RACE**  
**(NPSAS:08)**

“Other” includes:

American Indian/Alaska Native	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	A person having origins in the Pacific Islands, including Hawaii and Samoa.
More than one race/Other	A person having origins in more than one race or in a race not listed above.

**Reason attended 2004: program/coursework****RAD04A**  
**(BPS:04/06)**

Indicates whether students reported that their specific program of study was a reason for attending their institution. Specifically, students were asked in the interview: “Why did you decide to attend [your institution]? (Please check all that apply.)” Answer: Program of study.

**Reason attended 2004: reputation****RAD04B**  
**(BPS:04/06)**

Indicates whether students reported that the reputation of the program, faculty or school was a reason for attending their institution. Specifically, students were asked in the interview: “Why did you decide to attend [your institution]? (Please check all that apply.)” Answer: Reputation (of program/faculty/school).

**Reason attended 2004: cost****RAD04C**  
**(BPS:04/06)**

Indicates whether students reported cost, affordability, or other financial reasons as a reason for attending their institution. Specifically, students were asked in the interview: “Why did you decide to attend [your institution]? (Please check all that apply.)” Answer: Cost (affordability/other financial reasons).

**Reason attended 2004: location****RAD04D**  
**(BPS:04/06)**

Indicates whether students reported location as a reason for attending their institution. Specifically, students were asked in the interview: “Why did you decide to attend [your institution]? (Please check all that apply.)” Answer: Location.

**Reason attended 2004: personal/family reasons****RAD04E**  
**(BPS:04/06)**

Indicates whether students reported personal/family reasons as a reason for attending their institution. Specifically, students were asked in the interview: “Why did you decide to attend [your institution]? (Please check all that apply.)” Answer: Personal/family reasons.

**Reason attended 2004: other reason****RAD04X**  
**(BPS:04/06)**

Indicates whether students reported other reasons as a reason for attending their institution. Specifically, students were asked in the interview: “Why did you decide to attend [your institution]? (Please check all that apply.)” Answer: Other.

**Institution sector (4 with multiple)****SECTOR4  
(NPSAS: 08)**

Sector of the NPSAS sample institution attended during the 2007–08 academic year, for students who attended only one institution

- Public 4-year
- Private not-for-profit 4-year
- Public 2-year
- Private for-profit
- Attended more than one institution and others

**Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)****SEOGAMT  
(NPSAS:08)**

Amount of Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) received during the 2007–08 academic year. The SEOG is a federal, campus-based grant (administered by each institution) for undergraduates who have not yet received a bachelor's or first-professional degree, and who show exceptional financial need. It is intended to supplement the Pell grant (priority is given to Pell grant recipients). The maximum SEOG was \$4,000 in 2007–08.

**State need-based grants****STATNEED  
(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of state need-based grants received during the 2007–08 academic year. Includes grants based only on need or based on both need and merit.

**State non-need and merit grants****STATNOND  
(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of state grants and scholarships not based on need that were received during the 2007–08 academic year. Includes grants and scholarships based only on academic merit criteria such as high school grades and admission test scores as well as categorical grants restricted to students meeting other criteria that are not based on need. Many states have a variety of small categorical grant programs limited to certain categories of students, most frequently military personnel (National Guard, ROTC), survivors of MIA/POWs and police/firemen, or certain types of state employees.

**Federal subsidized loans (Stafford and Perkins)****SUBLOAN  
(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of federal Title IV subsidized loans received during the 2007–08 academic year. Equal to the sum of Stafford subsidized loans and Perkins loans.

**Total aid amount****TOTAID  
(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of financial aid received by a student in 2007–08 from any source except parents, relatives, or friends. It includes any grants, student loans, work-study, PLUS loans to parents, job training funds, veterans' benefits and Department of Defense programs, and graduate assistantships. It does not include the federal tax benefits.

**Total grants****TOTGRT  
(NPSAS:08)**

Indicates the total amount of all grants and scholarships received by a student in 2007–08. Grants are a type of student financial aid that does not require repayment or employment. It is equal to the sum of all federal grants, state grants, institutional grants, and grants from employers or private sources. These include all need-based grants, merit scholarships, tuition waivers, and employer tuition reimbursements.

**Total loans (including Parent PLUS)****TOTLOAN2  
(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of all student loans received during the 2007–08 academic year. This includes all student loans through federal, state, institutional, or private programs. It includes federal PLUS loans to parents. Loans are a type of student financial aid that advances funds and that are evidenced by a promissory note requiring the recipient to repay the specified amounts under prescribed conditions. They do not include loans from family or friends.

**Undergraduate degree program****UGDEG  
(NPSAS:08)**

Undergraduate student's degree program during the 2007–08 academic year based first on the student interview. If unavailable, institutional records were used. If both were unavailable, federal financial aid application information was used.

Certificate  
Associate's degree  
Bachelor's degree  
No undergraduate degree

**Total unsubsidized loans (all sources)****UNSBLOAN  
(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of all unsubsidized loans from any source received during the 2007–08 academic year, which includes federal unsubsidized Stafford loans, state and institutional loans, private (alternative) loans, and Parent PLUS loans. Also includes a small number of loans offered through the Public Health Service.

**Veterans benefits (GI Bill benefits)****VETBEN  
(NPSAS:08)**

Total amount of all federal veterans' benefits for education received during the 2007–08 academic year. Includes benefits to dependents of veterans.

# Technical Notes

## Confidence Intervals

The 95% confidence interval (CI) is a measure of the margin of error introduced by the survey sample. The definition of the 95% CI is the interval around the sample estimate that, were the sample to be replicated numerous times, is likely to contain the true population parameter 95% of the time. For a random variable with a normal distribution, the 95% CI for a mean is  $\bar{X} \pm t_p * \sigma_{\bar{x}}$ , where  $\bar{X}$  is the sample mean,  $t_p$  is a Student or normal distribution constant for the 95% probability, and  $\sigma_{\bar{x}}$  is the standard error of the mean. In comparing two estimates in the table, if the confidence intervals for the two estimates of the same parameter for different groups do not overlap, the user can assume that the two estimates are significantly different ( $p < .05$ ). For a 95% CI,  $t_p = 1.96$ .

CIs are bound at the minimum and maximum possible values for percentages and at the minimum possible value for amounts. This means that the CIs are bound at zero at the lower bound for both percentages and amounts, and at 100 at the upper bound for percentages. This bounding may result in asymmetrical intervals. Bounding will be apparent for low estimates (i.e., near zero), or high estimates (i.e., near 100 percent).

## Data Analysis System (DAS)

The estimates presented in the report were produced using NPSAS:08 DAS, a web-based software application that enables users to generate tables for most of the postsecondary surveys conducted by NCES. The DAS produces the design-adjusted standard errors necessary for testing the statistical significance of differences in the estimates. The DAS also contains a detailed description of how each variable was created and includes the wording of questions for items coming directly from the interview.

With the DAS, users can replicate or expand on the tables presented in this report. The output from DAS includes the table estimates (e.g., percentages or means), the

proper standard errors,<sup>1</sup> and weighted sample sizes for the estimates. If the number of valid cases is too small (i.e., fewer than 30 cases) to produce a reliable estimate, DAS prints the message “low-N” instead of the estimate.

In addition to tables, DAS users may conduct analyses using weighted least squares regression or logistic regression. Many options are available for output with the regression results. For example, a Winsor filter can be used to eliminate cases with extreme values by deleting a certain percentage of cases from the top and bottom of the range. For a description of all the options available, users should access the DAS website: <http://nces.ed.gov/dasolv2>. If users are new to DAS, the DAS User Help Center provides online tutorials offering step-by-step instructions in how to use all the functions of DAS: <http://nces.ed.gov/dasol/help>.

DAS can be accessed electronically at <http://nces.ed.gov/DAS>. For more information, contact:

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## Dataset Methodology

For an overview of the NPSAS:2008 survey methodology see Appendix B–NPSAS:08 Technical Notes and Methodology of the NPSAS:08 First Look Report, which can be found here: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009166.pdf>.

For an overview of the BPS:04/06 survey methodology used see Appendix B–BPS:04/06 Technical Notes and Methodology of the BPS:04/06 First Look Report, which can be found here: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007169.pdf>.

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<sup>1</sup> NPSAS samples are not simple random samples; therefore, simple random sample techniques for estimating sampling errors cannot be applied to these data. DAS takes into account the complexity of the sampling procedures and calculates standard errors appropriate for such samples. The method for computing sampling errors used by DAS involves approximating the estimator by replication of the sampled population. The procedure used is a bootstrap technique.

For an in-depth report on the methodology of the BPS:04/06 survey see the 2004/06 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:04/06) Methodology Report, which can be found here: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008184.pdf>.

## Quality of Estimates: Unit Response Rates and Bias Analysis

NCES Statistical Standard 4-4-1 states that: “Any survey stage of data collection with a unit or item response rate less than 85 percent must be evaluated for the potential magnitude of nonresponse bias before the data or any analysis using the data may be released.” (U.S. Department of Education [ED] 2003).

The only items included in this set of issue tables that have a response rate of less than 85 percent are TOTAID, TOTGRT, and TOTLOAN2 (defined in the glossary). For a response bias analysis on these variables see Appendix B–NPSAS:08 Technical Notes and Methodology of the NPSAS:08 First Look Report, which can be found here: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009166.pdf>.

## References

U.S. Department of Education. (2003). NCES Statistical Standards (NCES 2003-601). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC. Retrieved March 2, 2005, from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2003/2003601.pdf>.