



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA

The Veterans Research Symposium

AN ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE SHOWCASING THE WORK OF
STUDENT VETERANS AT ARIZONA AND BEYOND

LOGAN PEARCE, JARED MALES

loganpearce1@arizona.edu, jrmales@arizona.edu



THE SUCCESS OF VETERAN STEM MAJORS

Veteran students are well prepared for STEM research careers, but:

1. This is often not fully appreciated by these students
2. This is not reflected in the academic outcomes of veterans

Skills learned in the service can map to skills needed in STEM research

Table 2: The Veteran Population at UA

Level	Category	Total		
		35801		
Undergraduate	All-majors	Veteran	1315	3.7%
		Total	13441	
	STEM	Veteran	479	3.6%
		Total	13441	
Graduate	All-majors	Veteran	584	7.1%
		Total	8232	
	STEM	Veteran	168	5.2%
		Total	3231	
Faculty	All-fields*	Veteran	77	2.4%
		Total	3212	

*Vet. status is not available in finer detail.



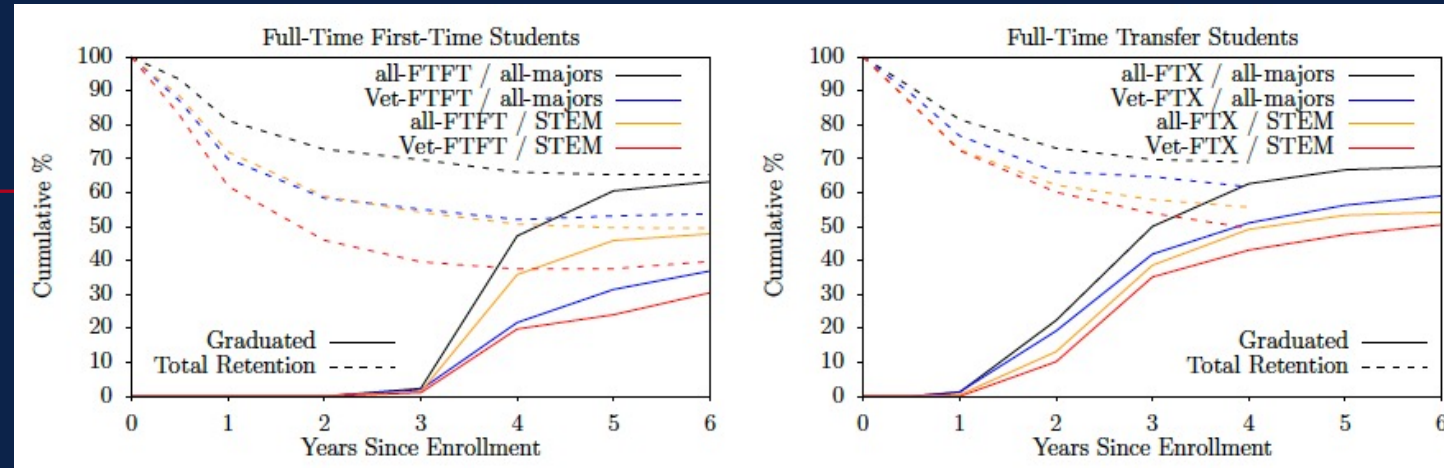
VETS LAG POPULATION IN REPRESENTATION AT UA

- Veterans are 7% of the US population over 18
- Veterans are 3.7% of UA undergrads and 3.6% of STEM majors

VETS RETENTION LAGS PEERS AT UA



- Veterans drop out a higher rate compared to all students.
- Only 31% of FTFT veteran STEM majors graduate within 6 years compared to 63% of all undergraduates



Source: UA Analytics as of 2020

Getting veterans involved in STEM research while in undergrad can increase retention by:

- Helping them see past barriers in pursuing STEM such as difficult classes
 - Fostering community in academia by becoming members of research groups, mitigating a perception of otherness due to age and life-stage differences with peers
 - Fostering a sense of purpose by contributing meaningfully to active research areas
- Utilizing skills from their service in a new way, or uncovering new skills

The Veterans Research Symposium

A 1-2 day cross-discipline event featuring veterans at UA and beyond on the cutting edge of STEM research.

Speaking slots will prioritize undergraduate veteran STEM researchers, but will also showcase research by graduate students, post-docs, and faculty.

The entire academic community will be invited to attend. Attendance by first year ASEMS-V students will be strongly encouraged.

An off-campus keynote speaker will be invited.

The Veterans Research Symposium

An annual research conference showcasing the work of veterans at Arizona and beyond.



VISIBILITY

A high-profile veterans-in-STEM event will increase the visibility of veteran researchers and showcase the impact of veterans in STEM



COMMUNITY

Connecting veterans in STEM across disciplines fosters community among veterans in academia and their supporters



AWARENESS

Showcasing the skills and achievements of veterans in STEM research encourages recruitment of more veterans into research.



Funding and Organization Needs

- Travel and expenses for keynote speaker(s)
- Coffee, lunch, snacks throughout the day
- Coordination with university entities to organize room reservation, food, AV materials, event promotion, etc.