

Accessibility Challenges and the Military Connected Community

2023 Inclusive Excellence Symposium—Day 3

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Dean of Students Office

Welcome!

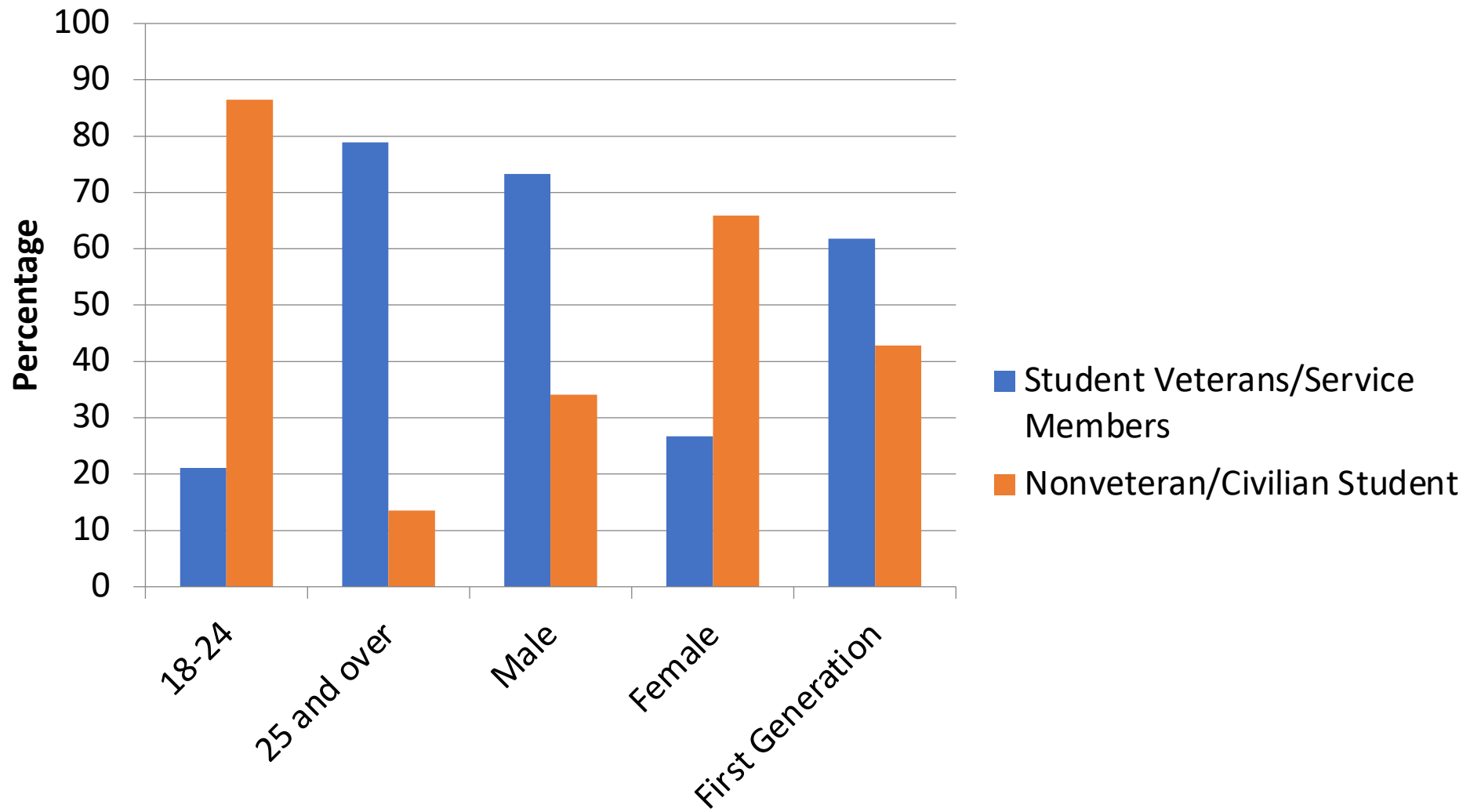


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What does military-connected mean?

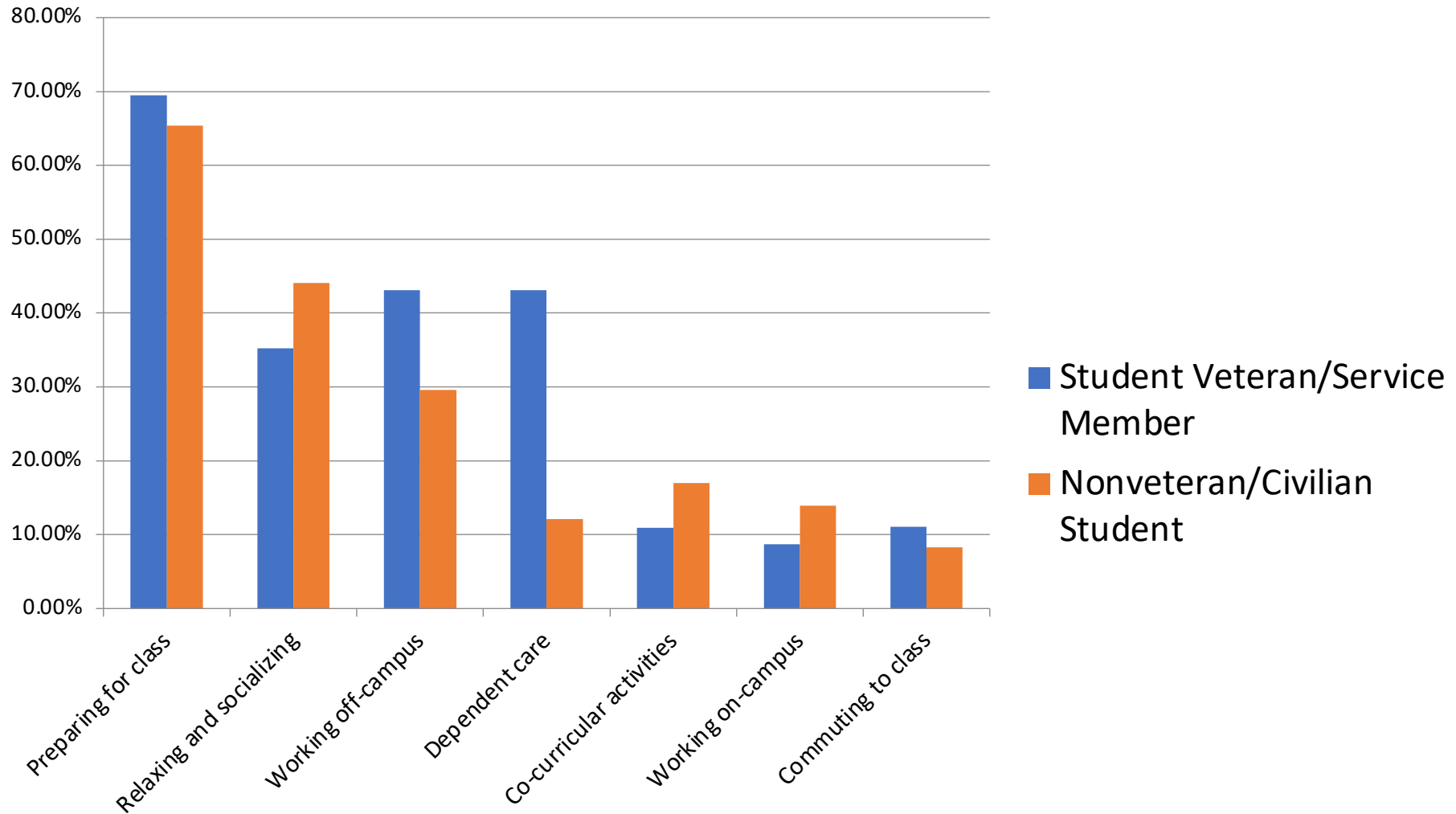
- At Carolina, per UNC System Office regulations, we have two types of military connected students--military students and military affiliated students.
- **Military Students:**
 - Active-Duty members
 - Reservists
 - National Guard and Air National Guard
 - Veterans
- **Military Affiliated Students**
 - Dependent children and spouses
 - ROTC cadets





Student Veteran & Active Duty Demographics





More than 10 hours per week spent on...



Veterans--Unique Challenges

- Challenges are typically social, cultural, and often just practical:
 - Culture shock
 - Age difference
 - Family life (marriage and/or children)
 - Campus community disconnect
 - Misunderstood/judged by professors and students
 - Physical and mental health-related challenges connected to service
 - At-risk population

Campus Physical Accessibility Challenges



Building Access Challenges



Building Access Challenges



Classroom Access Challenges



Classroom Access Challenges



Creating An Inclusive and Accessible Space



ACCESSIBILITY AND THE MILITARY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Accessibility Resources

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The Department of Veterans Affairs



VA Education Benefits

- Paying college tuition (GI Bill)
- Career counseling
- Veteran Readiness and Employment or VR&E (“Voc Rehab”)

Veterans Health Administration

- Largest integrated health care system in the U.S. providing care from 1,298 health care facilities, including 171 medical centers and 1,113 outpatient sites.
- Serves 9 million enrolled Veterans yearly.
- Durham VA Medical Center



The Department of Veterans Affairs



VA Related Challenges

- Long waits for appointments.
- Location
- Delays in obtaining needed documentation
- University deadlines and requirements



Accessibility & Related Services at Carolina



- Carolina Veteran Resource Center
- University Approved Absence Office
- VA benefits
- Student Health Services/CAPS
- The Learning Center
- The Writing Center
- Accessibility Resource Services
- UNC THRIVE Program
- Equal Opportunity & Compliance Office

Carolina Veterans Resource Center

211 Branson St.

- ✓ Provides a welcoming environment to study and meet other military-affiliated students.
- ✓ Multitude of resources and amenities which include:
 - Front Desk Peer Advising
 - Main Lounge:
 - Spacious area to study and relax
 - TVs, printers, refrigerator, microwave, coffee, phone charging stations
 - **Boot Print to Heel Print (BPTHP)**
 - Academic and Career Workshops
 - Social events
 - Wellness Programs
 - **Red, White & Carolina Blue Military Graduation**



Veteran Suicide Hotline

HOW TO CONNECT WITH A RESPONDER

Call

1-800-273-8255

and Press 1

Chat

Connect online



Text

838255


Support for deaf and hard of hearing

1-800-799-4889

This free support is

-  Confidential
-  Available every day, 24/7

And serves

- ★ All Veterans
- ★ All Service members
- ★ National Guard and Reserve
-  Their family members and friends

Having a conversation...





**STUDENT
AFFAIRS**