



### Schools Receiving the Most Post-9/11 GI Bill Tuition and Fee Payments Since 2009

#### Highlights

- Eight of the top 10 recipients of Post-9/11 tuition and fee payments from fiscal years (FY) 2009 through 2017 were for-profit schools. These 8 schools accounted for 20 percent of such payments (\$34.7 billion) to all participating schools since 2009.
- Six of the top 10 schools were being investigated by, sued by, or had reached settlements with [federal or state law enforcement agencies](#) for actions such as misleading advertising and recruiting, and fraudulent loan programs.
- Cumulatively, for-profit schools received 39% of Post-9/11 tuition and fee payments compared to 35% and 26% at public and nonprofit institutions, respectively.
- In FY 2013, however, for-profit schools' share of Post-9/11 revenue began to decline and, by 2017, public institutions received more such revenue than did for-profit schools.

#### Introduction

Which schools received the most revenue since the Post-9/11 GI Bill began enrolling eligible veterans and family members in August 2009? The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently released comprehensive data on Post-9/11 GI Bill tuition and fee payments to schools approved to enroll eligible beneficiaries. The data includes payments to and student enrollment in each participating school for FY 2009 to FY 2017.

The VA data only reports tuition and fee payments for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the sole benefit program that pays tuition and fees to the school and living expense stipends directly to the beneficiary. The three other GI Bill programs—the Montgomery GI Bill, the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance

Program (DEA), and the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)—pay a monthly stipend directly to the beneficiary and can be used for both tuition and living expenses.<sup>1</sup> Because the VA doesn't know the proportion each beneficiary uses to pay tuition versus living expenses, VA focuses on school revenue from the Post-9/11 GI Bill, resulting in an understatement of schools' overall GI Bill revenue.

#### Top Recipients of Post-9/11 Tuition and Fee Payments

Table 1 lists the top 10 recipients of Post-9/11 revenue from fiscal years 2009 through 2017. Eight of the top 10 schools are for-profit, one is public, and one is nonprofit.

Just three for-profit schools—the University of Phoenix (\$1.9 billion), EDMC (\$1.1 billion), and ITT Tech (\$982 million)—received almost 60 percent of the \$6.9 billion paid to the 8 for-profit schools that were among the top 10 recipients of such payments. For-profit schools have an incentive to recruit veterans and eligible family members because of the 90/10 loophole, which excludes their educational benefits from the cap on federal revenue. ITT Tech, which had been sanctioned by the Department of Education and was under investigation by numerous state Attorneys General and federal agencies, closed in September 2016. If ITT Tech were excluded from the count, American Public University System (American Military University), which received \$336.2 million, would be number ten.

Six of the 10 top schools were being investigated by, sued by, or had settled with federal or state law enforcement agencies (indicated by an asterisk after the school's name in table 1).

TABLE 1: Top 10 Recipients of Post-9/11 GI Bill Tuition and Fee Payments, Fiscal Years 2009-2017

Institution	Sector	Total Post-9/11 Revenue
University of Phoenix (Apollo)*	For-profit	\$1,936,128,708
Education Management Corporation (EDMC)*	For-profit <sup>a</sup>	\$1,131,100,076
ITT Tech*	For-profit	\$981,670,090
DeVry University (Aldaleme)*	For-profit	\$928,774,463
Career Education Corporation*	For-profit	\$630,384,872
University of Maryland System <sup>b</sup>	Public	\$496,434,790
Education Corporation of America	For-profit	\$495,610,842
Strayer Education Inc.	For-profit	\$490,445,709
Universal Technical Institute Inc.*	For-profit	\$398,570,667
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Inc.	Nonprofit	\$366,580,569

Source: VA Transparency Project: <http://www.va.gov/transparency/Post-9-11-GI-Bill-Data.xlsx>

<sup>a</sup>In 2017, EDMC was sold to the Dream Center, which operates the schools as nonprofit institutions.

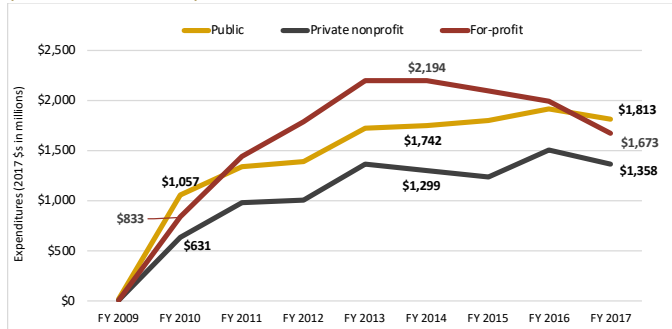
<sup>b</sup>The University of Maryland System, which does not include the state's community colleges, consists of 12 campuses. Seventy-two percent of the Post-9/11 revenue received by the system went to its online division—University of Maryland University College.

\*Indicates that the school was being investigated by or had settled with federal or state law enforcement agencies.

## Post-9/11 Revenue by Institutional Sector

Figure 1 shows the distribution of payments by institutional sector. By about FY 2011, payments to for-profit schools exceeded those to public sector institutions, peaking in FY 2013 and declining afterwards. By 2017, however, Post-9/11 GI Bill payments to public institutions had surpassed those made to for-profit schools. Overall, for-profit schools received 39% of Post-9/11 tuition and fee payments compared to 35% and 26% at public and nonprofit institutions, respectively (figure 2).

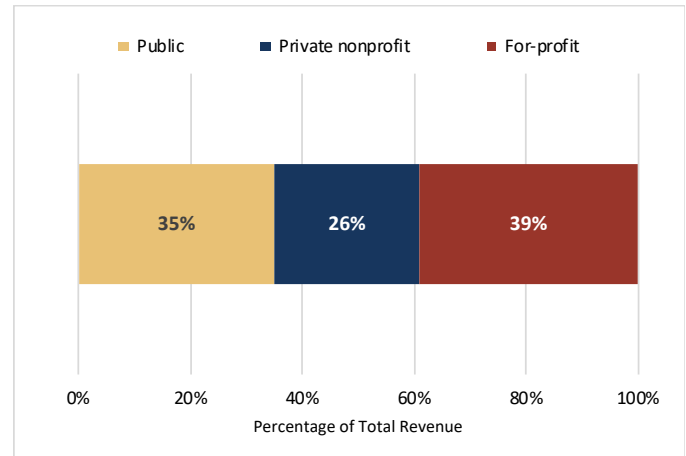
FIGURE 1: Post-9/11 Revenue by Sector, FY 2009 to FY 2017 (Constant Dollars)



Source: VA Transparency Project: <http://www.va.gov/transparency/Post-9-11-GI-Bill-Data.xlsx>

Note: Data were adjusted to reflect 2017 dollars and exclude institutions for which “sector” was listed as unknown.

FIGURE 2: Distribution of Total Post-9/11 Revenue by Sector, FY 2009 to FY 2017



Source: VA Transparency Project:

<http://www.va.gov/transparency/Post-9-11-GI-Bill-Data.xlsx>

Note: Totals exclude institutions for which “sector” was listed as unknown.

## Methodology

This issue brief focuses on cumulative Post-9/11 payments to schools, not enrollment. Enrollment for schools cannot be totaled across years because a beneficiary may have been attending the same school for more than 1 year.

We aggregated tuition and fee payments across the 9 years of data, identifying the top recipients of total revenue from the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Because some institutions operate multiple campuses, we identified and summed the Post-9/11 payments to those campuses. We used the Education Department’s unique identifier (OPEID) to aggregate linked institutions and used IPEDS to identify common ownership or institutions that report as part of a multi-campus organization/system. For example, DeVry (now Adtalem) owns and operates DeVry University, Chamberlin School of Nursing, and Carrington College. The University of Maryland System, which does not include the state’s community colleges, consists of 12 campuses—its multi-state online division and its brick and mortar campuses. For-profit campuses sold between 2009 and 2017 reflect the company that was the owner as of FY 2017.

*VES would like to express its gratitude and support for VA’s efforts to launch the [VA Transparency Project](#). We will continue to analyze these data and report on this important work on behalf of our country’s veterans.*

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<sup>1</sup>According to [CRS](#), a fifth benefit program (Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance) was only used by four beneficiaries in 2016. Disabled veterans who are eligible for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program receive help with job training, employment accommodations, resume development, and job search coaching and may also qualify for educational benefits from the Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bills.