

There are 158,300 legally blind veterans and 700,000 veterans with low vision, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Approximately 7,000 veterans become blind or visually impaired each year from non-combat related causes.

An estimated 17 percent of all injuries incurred in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are vision-related, according to the Blinded Veterans Association.

70 to 80 percent of working age Americans who are blind or visually impaired are unemployed or underemployed.



**The Hadley School
for the Blind**
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The Hadley School for the Blind Blinded Veterans Initiative

Hadley is pleased to announce its new Blinded Veterans Initiative, officially unveiled on Veterans Day 2011. The goal is to educate and inspire blind or visually impaired veterans to pursue their personal and professional goals and help support their families.

Visually impaired veterans, through Hadley's Adult Continuing Education Program, and their family members, through the Family Education Program, can enroll in the school's 100+ distance education courses.

Core subjects emphasized through this initiative include: Independent Living and Adjusting to Blindness; Employment/Entrepreneurship; Technology; and Braille Literacy.

The Blinded Veterans Initiative complements Hadley's Forsythe Center for Entrepreneurship (FCE), designed to provide individuals who are visually impaired with the knowledge, resources and networking opportunities to advance in their careers or start their own business. A new "Veterans Benefits" module is now available as part of the FCE and this new initiative. This module demystifies the complexity of veteran benefits, including disability compensation, pension, medical care benefits and survivor benefits. Veteran-specific resources will also be added to the curriculum.

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Courses for veterans and their families are tuition-free, thanks to the generous support of Goldman Sachs Gives at the recommendation of Managing Director John William, whose family has long supported the school. The initiative is also supported by Adams Street Partners, LLC.

For more information, visit www.hadley.edu/veterans or contact Hadley's Student Services Department at **800-526-9909** or student_services@hadley.edu.



"Hadley provides lifelong learning opportunities that reinforce and extend the skills veterans learn in the rehabilitation process. Hadley is especially strong in providing accessible resources to help you get back into the workplace."

—Steve Beres, Hadley student, past regional president of the Blinded Veterans Association



"There are many courses and programs about how to get into business, but there was no curriculum on how someone who is blind or visually impaired can make those programs work. The Blinded Veterans Initiative will address those issues that are specific to people who are visually impaired."

—Urban Miyares, founder of the Disabled Businesspersons Association and Hadley's new Veterans Outreach Specialist