



2026 Event Program

Saturday, March 14 | In-Person at UVM & Online via Zoom

Schedule (click on a title for that session's Zoom link)

- 2:00 - 2:15 pm [Welcome](#)
- 2:25 - 3:10 pm Workshops:
- [The College Search: Finding the Right Fit](#)
 - [Navigating the College Search for Students who Learn Differently](#)
 - [Strategies for the SAT & ACT](#)
 - [Supporting Your Teen's Career Search](#)
- 3:20 - 4:05 pm Workshops:
- [Apprenticeship Opportunities](#)
 - [Managing Education & Training Costs](#)
 - [MyFutureVT: Your Guide to Success After High School](#)
 - [Navigating the Admissions Process](#)
- 4:15 - 5:00 pm Workshops:
- [I Wish I Knew That! Programs to Pursue Before You Graduate](#)
 - [Scholarships: Free Money!](#)
 - [Taking a Gap Year: How to Build an Intentional Path to Your Future](#)
 - [Writing the Admissions Essay](#)

Handouts for each workshop can be found at vsac.org/ccp by clicking on the workshop name under the 2026 Family Event Tab. Workshop recordings will be posted to vsac.org/ccp within two weeks following the event.

Technical Support

Tech Support # 802-598-0295



Welcome: 2:00 - 2:15 pm

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-silver>

Join us for a brief welcome and housekeeping items before heading to your first workshop.

Presenters: Patrick Leduc, VSAC Vice President & Chief Operating Officer & Speaker of the House Jill Krowinski, Vermont House of Representatives

Session I Workshop Descriptions: 2:25 - 3:10 pm

The College Search: Finding the Right Fit

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-silver>

Know you want to continue your education after high school, but unsure how to choose a school or training program? This interactive workshop will help you consider what you want from your post-high school experience, share anecdotes from recent grads, and provide strategies and tools to start narrowing down the search to institutions that meet your needs.

Presenter: Matt “Beagle” Bourgault, VSAC Talent Search Director

Audience: Best for 9th-11th grade students alone or with their parents/guardians (less appropriate for parents/guardians alone)

Navigating the College Search for Students who Learn Differently

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-mildred>

This workshop will give neurodiverse students and their families the tools you need to determine fit and prepare for the transition to education after high school. We will discuss what to consider, the questions to ask, the legal landscape, and the wide range of accommodations, supports, and programs that exist in post-secondary education today. The presenter will also share some details about the specific expertise of Landmark College, which specializes in educating neurodiverse high school and college students.

Presenter: Sydney Ruff, Senior Director of Admissions, Landmark College

Audience: Best for 9th-12th grade students and their parents/guardians

Strategies for the SAT & ACT

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-frank>

Want to make yourself a stronger candidate for college admissions and merit-based financial aid by earning a high score? Get “best practice” strategies and free test-prep resources from a professional test prep tutor.

Presenter: Matthew Shagam, Tutor

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students

Supporting Your Teen’s Career Search

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-sugar>

How can you help your child figure out what they want to do, without telling them what to do? This workshop will cover what your high schooler needs from you in their career search, and how to help them identify and explore their career interests.

Presenter: Kathi Terami, Executive Director, Careers CLiC

Audience: Best for the parents/guardians of 9th-12th grade students



Session II Workshop Descriptions: 3:20 - 4:05 pm

Apprenticeship Opportunities

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-mildred>

Enrolling in a registered apprenticeship program is a smart investment in your career. It provides hands-on training, mentorship, and a path to a rewarding career with long-term stability and growth opportunities. Come learn about the opportunities that exist in Vermont, and how to pursue a registered apprenticeship to take the first step toward your dream career.

Presenters: Zach Johnston, Project Coordinator, Vermont State University Apprenticeship Programs & Christopher Laflam, Vermont Department of Labor - Workforce Development

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students and their parents/guardians

Managing Education & Training College Costs

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-silver>

Find out how families cover the cost of education and training after high school. We'll explain the types of financial aid available (grants, scholarships, loans); the basics of financial aid applications; and ways to compare costs before you apply.

Presenter: Kate Rowland, VSAC Outreach Counselor

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students and their parents/guardians

MyFutureVT: Your Guide to Success After High School

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-frank>

Planning for life after high school can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. Come explore MyFutureVT, a free resource for career exploration, education options, and financial planning. Plus, learn about the Vermont Employment Pathfinder, a tool that will help you connect the dots between your skills/interests and education/job opportunities. Gain the confidence and tools to confidently chart your path to success!

Presenter: Tom Cheney, Executive Director, Advance Vermont

Audience: Best for 9th-12th grade students and their parents/guardians

Navigating the Admissions Process

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-sugar>

Overwhelmed by the college admissions process? Hear directly from college admissions counselors about the steps involved in applying, what they look for in students, and resources that can help you make the most of the process.

Presenters: Anna Dechert, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, Dartmouth College & Paul Winters, Associate Director of Admissions, Vermont State University

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students and their parents/guardians



Session III Workshop Descriptions: 4:15 - 5:00 pm

I Wish I Knew That! Programs to Pursue Before You Graduate

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-frank>

Participants will learn about the Flexible Pathways opportunities available to students and how participating in one or more of these programs in high school can help you get a jumpstart on your future.

Presenter: Amy Dodge, Post-Secondary Programs Coordinator, VT Agency of Education (Please note that presenter will be joining virtually)

Audience: Best for 9th-11th grade students and their parents/guardians

Scholarships: Free Money!

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-silver>

Learn how to find and apply for local, state, and national scholarships.

Presenter: Jimmy Clark, VSAC Outreach Counselor

Audience: Best for 11th grade students and their parents/guardians

Taking a Gap Year: How to Build an Intentional Path to Your Future

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-mildred>

The path after high school is not “one size fits all”, especially as students navigate a rapidly changing education and work landscape. An intentional gap year offers time to explore interests, build real-world skills, and learn beyond the formal classroom. A well-planned year can strengthen confidence, independence, and self-knowledge while helping students stay engaged and future-ready, no matter which post-secondary option comes next. This workshop explores the range of gap year opportunities, offers guidance on college deferment or reapplication, shares strategies for financing gap time, and shows how to design a meaningful and fun year that prepares young adults for a future they feel excited about.

Presenter: Julia Rogers, President Emeritus, Gap Year Association

Audience: Best for 10th-12th grade students and their parents/guardians

Writing the Admissions Essay

<https://go.uvm.edu/vsac2026-sugar>

In a world filled with AI, the admissions essay remains the best way to bring your unique voice to your college applications. This session will provide you with strategies to approach this important piece of writing and a better understanding of how it will be reviewed.

Presenter: Carrie Pratt, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, University of Vermont

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students and their parents/guardians

Event Evaluation

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCP26PostEvent>

We value your input on how we can continue to improve the event. Everyone who completes the evaluation by Sunday, March 22 will be entered to win a \$100 VT 529 gift card. You can find the full details at vsac.org/official-rules-ccp-drawings.

Thank you for attending this year's event!

