

A young man with dark hair, wearing a blue denim shirt and jeans, is sitting on a concrete ledge outdoors. He is leaning against a tree trunk and looking down at a laptop computer that is open on his lap. The background is a lush green landscape with trees and foliage, slightly out of focus. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the title and subtitle text.

# **Paying for Education After High School**

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation | Spring 2024

# Advertised college price

Cost —1 yr full-time

All years

Most expensive college

\$82,300

\$329,200

University of Vermont

\$36,000

\$144,000

Vermont State University

\$27,900

\$111,600

Community College of VT

\$13,800

\$27,600  
(2 years)

Vermont trade school

\$35,000

\$35,000  
(6 months)

# Net price

---


$$\begin{array}{rcl} & \text{Cost of attendance} & \\ (\textit{minus}) - & \text{Gift aid you receive} & \\ & \text{(grants \& scholarships)} & \\ \hline (\textit{equals}) = & \text{What you need to pay} & \end{array}$$

# Average net price

	Cost —1 yr full-time	Net price
Most expensive college	\$82,300	\$27,700
University of Vermont	\$36,000	\$21,800
Vermont State University	\$27,900	\$16,800
Community College of VT	\$13,800	\$11,100
Vermont trade school	\$35,000	\$19,800



# College Scorecard



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
College Scorecard

**FIND THE RIGHT FIT.**  
Find out about colleges: their programs, costs, admissions, results, and more.

**CUSTOM SEARCH**      **NAME SEARCH**      **SHOW ME OPTIONS**

# Type of financial aid

---



# **“But I’m planning on attending a trade school – is there any aid for me?”**

---

<https://www.vsac.org/plan/adult-learners/financial-aid>

- VT Advancement Grant
- Registered apprenticeships
- Program/provider funds
- Scholarships\*
- VT Trades Forgivable Loan Scholarship
- Employer contributions\*
- Veterans Administration\*
- HireAbility VT\*
- Dept of Labor — WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)\*

\*May also be available for degree programs

# Financial aid applications

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Vermont grant application
- College/School financial aid forms
  - CSS Profile
- Vermont Advancement Grant Application
- Scholarship applications
- Loan applications





# How & when to apply

---

## File your FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- **Required** for Federal and State aid.
- Available October 1, 2024.
- Use 2025–2026 version (the year student will attend college).
- Check college deadlines.
- **Student and parent must create account (FSA ID) a few days before beginning the FAFSA.**
- Add colleges later if student applies early and then decides on more schools.



# How & when to apply

## File your Vermont grant application

- Open to all Vermont residents on October 1, 2024
- Use 2025–2026 version (the year student will attend college).
- Required for state grant aid.
- Apply early, check status online, and complete “To Do” list.
- Can fill out forms online, upload documents.
- **Students must create MyVSAC account before applying.**



**Take the Vermont grant with you —**  
to in-state & out-of-state colleges

# Determining financial need

---

What is the SAI (Student Aid Index) and how is it determined?

The SAI is a starting point — **not** what you have to pay.

- Income
- Assets
- Family Size
- Age of Older Parent

# Maximizing financial aid

---

- Do well in school.
- Challenge yourself.
- Increase school & community involvement.
- Communicate special circumstances to financial aid offices and VSAC.
- Research scholarships.
- **Apply** for scholarships and **complete** applications.



# Ways to reduce costs

---

- Look farther (in state, other states, Canada).
- Dual enrollment
- Early college
- Advanced Placement
- NEBHE
- Start at a school that costs less, then transfer.
- Consider attending local and commuting.
- Consider service.



# Ways to pay

---

## Past income

- Savings
- College savings plan

## Present income



- Payment plans
- Tax credits
- Scholarships

## Future income

- Parent PLUS loan
- Additional student loans
- Private loans
- Other borrowing options

# Next steps — junior year

- Think about your goals and research careers/education/training opportunities.
- Online college/trade school searches.
- College Scorecard to gather net price information.
- College Net Price calculators for specific net price information
- Family discussions about choosing and paying.
- Research scholarships.
- Create a free, college and scholarship-appropriate email address.



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING

## Junior Year Planning Checklist

For Students & Parents

**September**

For many families, planning for life after high school can seem overwhelming.

For more than 50 years, we've been helping students go to college. We're here to help you too.

This step-by-step checklist will help you know what to do and when to do it.

- ☐ **Review your courses and grades with a school counselor** to be sure you're on track for graduation and college admissions requirements. Are you taking challenging math and science, plus a foreign language?
  - Talk about work-based learning and job shadow opportunities.
  - Consider taking a dual enrollment course in the spring or enrolling in early college senior year.
- ☐ **Register for the October PSAT.** Top scorers of this SAT prep test may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Find free practice quizzes and videos at [kaptest.com/study/psat](https://kaptest.com/study/psat).
- ☐ **Attend college fairs & career fairs.** The NEACAC (New England Association of College Admission Counseling) college fairs are this month. Go to [neacac.org](https://neacac.org) for the schedule and locations closest to you. Start developing a list of schools that interest you.

**October**

- ☐ **Take the PSAT this month**, even if you already took it last year (only junior-year scores are used for the National Merit Scholarship competition). Visit [kaptest.com/study/psat](https://kaptest.com/study/psat) for free practice quizzes and videos.
- ☐ **Visit colleges.** You don't need to go far. Vermont has 15+ schools you can visit just to get a feel for different college campuses. Choose a few and visit during school breaks or on a Saturday, or attend an Open House event.




**November**

- ☐ **Check in.** How is the year going so far? If you need help with study strategies, test-taking skills, or organization, talk to your teachers now so you won't fall behind.

TOLL FREE  
800-642-3177

ONLINE  
[vsac.org](https://vsac.org)



EMAIL  
[info@vsac.org](mailto:info@vsac.org)

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation 10 East Allen Street PO Box 2000 Winooski, VT 05404

# Next steps — senior year

- Research forms and deadlines required by colleges. Meet earliest deadline.
- Create Federal Aid Accounts—FSA ID—1 student & at least 1 parent.
- Create MyVSAC account for student.
- Gather family financial aid info to file applications.
- File the FAFSA and VT grant applications.
- File VSAC's Unified Scholarship Application & apply for other scholarships.



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING

## Senior Year Planning Checklist

For Students & Parents

For many families, planning for life after high school can seem overwhelming.

For more than 50 years, we've been helping students go to college. We're here to help you too.

This step-by-step checklist will help you know what to do and when to do it.

**August**

- ☐ **Research colleges & identify schools** or training programs you may want to consider. At [vsac.org/compareprograms](https://vsac.org/compareprograms), download VSAC's comparison chart to start building a wish list of schools.
- ☐ **Explore college costs** at [collegenavigator.gov](https://collegenavigator.gov) once you've started your college list. Find info on tuition and fees, housing, admission, graduation rates, campus safety, and more.
- ☐ **Get a head start on your college admissions essay.** At [commonapp.org](https://commonapp.org), find essay prompts for the Common Application; and for essay-writing tips, visit [vsac.org/essay](https://vsac.org/essay).




**September**

- ☐ **Meet with your school counselor** to talk about your college options.
  - Review college admissions and financial aid applications.
  - Develop a résumé and talk about doing a job shadow.
- ☐ **Register for standardized tests** (SAT, ACT), if required, at [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org) and [act.org](https://act.org).
- ☐ **Attend college fairs & career fairs.** The NEACAC (New England Association of College Admission Counseling) college fairs are this month. At [neacac.org](https://neacac.org) you'll find a schedule so you can plan to attend the one closest to you.
- ☐ **Work on the Common Application** at [commonapp.org](https://commonapp.org). Add schools to your "My Colleges" list and review the supplements to identify additional info you may need to send.
- ☐ **Ask for recommendation letters.** For suggestions, visit [vsac.org/recommendations](https://vsac.org/recommendations).
- ☐ **Create a file folder** for each college you're applying to. Look at websites for virtual tours and chats.
- ☐ **Prepare for financial aid and FAFSA.** Financial aid is money that a student receives to help pay for college or career training, including grants and scholarships (that don't have to be paid back), work-study, and loans. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used by colleges, universities, and VSAC to provide financial aid. Learn about it at [vsac.org/afsa-first](https://vsac.org/afsa-first).
  - Gather documents to apply, for a list, visit [fafsa.ed.gov/helpbefore003.htm](https://fafsa.ed.gov/helpbefore003.htm).
  - Create FSA IDs at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov). The student and one parent will each need their own ID to sign the FAFSA electronically.
  - Print out our checklist at [vsac.org/finaidchecklist](https://vsac.org/finaidchecklist) to keep you on track through the entire financial aid application process.
- ☐ **Know your deadlines for admissions and financial aid.** At college websites:
  - check whether you need to submit the CSS Profile or other financial aid applications.
  - identify financial aid application deadlines.

TOLL FREE  
800-642-3177

ONLINE  
[vsac.org](https://vsac.org)

EMAIL  
[info@vsac.org](mailto:info@vsac.org)

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation 10 East Allen Street PO Box 2000 Winooski, VT 05404

# VSAC resources

---

VSAC website: [vsac.org/pay-resources](https://vsac.org/pay-resources)

College & Career Pathways workshop  
resources:

[vsac.org/ccp](https://vsac.org/ccp)



# Let's play . . .

---





## Follow us

**Follow us for more great info, events, resources, and information.**

**facebook**

[facebook.com/VermontStudentAssistanceCorporation](https://facebook.com/VermontStudentAssistanceCorporation)



**@VSAC**



**@802vsac**



**YouTube**

**Search for Vermont Student Assistance Corporation**