



February 7, 2024

VSAC is helping families navigate the challenges of the latest FAFSA-related processing delay.

The FAFSA rollout by the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Office (FSA) has not gone smoothly this year, creating stress for many students and their families.

To help provide some relief from the many challenges families are facing as a result of the latest FAFSA-related processing delays, VSAC is extending the usual deadline to apply for [VSAC-assisted scholarships](#) from February 14 to March 1. This means you have until March 1 to submit your Unified Scholarship Application with accompanying materials. If you are applying for a VSAC-assisted scholarship, you still must file your FAFSA as soon as you are able, if you have not already done so.

Likewise, if you are applying for a Vermont Grant to support your college or university plans, you also need to file your FAFSA as soon as possible if you have not already done so. If you are applying for a grant to attend a training or workforce program, what's called an Advancement Grant, a FAFSA is not required.

VSAC will continue to process scholarship and Vermont grant applications while we wait for the FAFSA data to be transmitted from FSA to us so that we are ready to incorporate your FAFSA information (and consider it on time) when we receive it from FSA. FSA has said that they expect to send the FAFSA data in March.

If you've already filed your FAFSA and need to make changes, log in and make the correction as soon as you receive notification from FSA that your FAFSA has been processed. If you make corrections as soon as FSA notifies you that your FAFSA has been processed, and FSA processes the updates promptly, financial aid provided by your institution and VSAC will be more accurate and dependable.

Rest assured, VSAC will be monitoring the information FSA provides and will be staying in touch with colleges and universities so that we can respond to any changes in the FAFSA timeline and support you and your education goals. VSAC will not allow FSA's data processing delays to jeopardize your scholarship or Vermont grant eligibility, and we continue to work with school counselors and institutions of higher education to help students navigate this process.