



VSAC and State Updates

Vermont Student Assistance
Corporation

September 2026



VSAC services

- Vermont grant program
 - Full-time*
 - Part-time*
 - Advancement grants*
 - 802Opportunity
 - Freedom & Unity
 - Microgrants
- VSAC-assisted scholarships program
- VSAC student and parent loans
- Education loan coaches
- VT529 (Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan)
- Whole-school aspiration partnerships
- Student/adult counseling
 - Talent Search
 - GEAR UP
 - Education Opportunity Center
- VSAC Resource Center (VRC)
- College/training access information services
 - Toll-free phone access
 - One-on-one appointments
 - Career and College Pathways
 - Managing College Costs Events
 - Financial Aid Application/Forms Nights

*Pathway application process continues for students who are not U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens

Learn more at vsac.org

Workforce Development Funding



The State of Vermont offers several tuition benefit programs to encourage students to enter the Vermont workforce in specific high-demand fields.

These unique benefit programs:

- Require awarded students to sign an agreement committing to specific work obligations when they accept the funding
- Are typically interest-free (the Tuition Benefit Agreement will provide the interest rate, if applicable)
- Do not require payment while the student is enrolled in the applicable degree or training program
- Are “forgiven” — the benefit does not have to be paid back when the student meets the work obligations outlined in the agreement they signed
- Must be repaid if the student doesn’t complete the program, doesn’t receive their license, or doesn’t work in their field in Vermont following licensure

Pop Quiz!!



True or False: VSAC administered tuition benefit programs require an awarded student to sign an agreement before any funds can be disbursed.

Pop Quiz!!



True or False: VSAC administered tuition benefit programs require an awarded student to sign an agreement before any funds can be disbursed.

Answer: TRUE

VT Rural Health Transformation Tuition Benefit Program



- Max award equals UVM's in-state tuition or the tuition of a higher-cost VTSU program if the student is enrolled in one
- Available for students seeking an undergraduate or graduate degrees in specific health-related fields
- Vermont residents (priority given) or non-residents
- Students commit to working in Vermont, as a healthcare professional in a healthcare setting, serving a rural community for 5 years following completion of their degree and receipt of their license (if applicable)
- Benefit is forgiven if the student fulfills the work requirement

vsac.org/ruralhealth

VT Trades Tuition Benefit Program



- Up to full tuition (maximum \$23,000) for qualified recipients enrolled in an industry-recognized training or certification program that leads to initial employment, or career advancement, in a sector deemed high demand in Vermont.
- Up to \$2,000 for exam fees and licensing fees
- Vermont residents or non-residents
- Benefit is forgiven if student works full-time in eligible field for one year following licensure or certification for each year of funding received

vsac.org/trades

Freedom and Unity!



- VSAC and Vermont State University (VTSU) continue to work together to offer Freedom & Unity, an opportunity for Vermont students with a family income of \$85,000 or less to attend VTSU tuition free. **Freedom & Unity builds upon VTSU's Free Tuition promise.**
- Vermont residents of any age who do not have a bachelor's degree are eligible for tuition support at VTSU based on their family income.
- General tuition after federal, state, institutional grants
- Other costs, such as specific program tuition, mandatory fees, textbooks, computers, materials, or other fees are not covered and will be the responsibility of the student.

Pop Quiz!!



True or False: The new Rural Health Transformation Tuition Benefit Program requires the student to work in Vermont, as a healthcare professional in a healthcare setting, serving a rural community, for 1 year for each year of funding they receive.

Pop Quiz!!



True or False: The new Rural Health Transformation Tuition Benefit Program requires the student to work in Vermont, as a healthcare professional in a healthcare setting, serving a rural community, for 1 year for each year of funding they receive.

ANSWER: False



Questions

Dual enrollment/early college stipend

Stipend of \$150 to offset cost of books, fees, transportation.

Who's eligible?

- High school students enrolled in a dual enrollment course through voucher
 - Free and Reduced-Price Lunch eligible (economically disadvantaged)
 - Verified costs for books, fees, and/or transportation
- High school students enrolled in early college
 - Must file both a FAFSA and a Vermont grant application.
 - Must be eligible for a Vermont grant

FAFSA Completion Tool

Available through your high school's MyVSAC account at www.vvac.org

FAFSA/VT Grant Completion Status

Totals	Number of Students	FAFSA Processed	Grant App Received
>	0	0	0

Main Menu

- [Step by Step Instructions](#)
- [Help with CSV files](#)
- [Download CSV Template](#)
- [Upload Student Roster](#)
- [View Student Roster](#)
- [Add A Student](#)
- [Matching Criteria](#)

Filters:

Show All Students

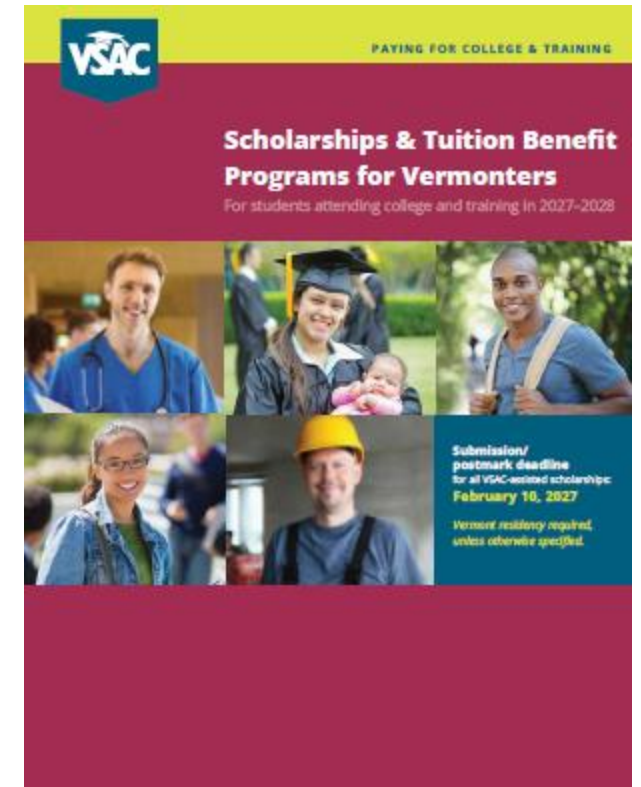
Students without FAFSA

Students without VT Grant Application

Learn more at <https://www.vvac.org/financial-aid-resources>

VSAC Assisted Scholarships

- Scholarships and Tuition Benefit Programs for Vermonters booklet for 2027-2028 will be available October 1st
- Order online at <https://publications.vsac.org/free-vsac-publications/>
- VSAC Scholarship Deadline – **February 10, 2027**
- Unified Scholarship Application (USA) – available October 1st
- Students can begin submitting any required documents on/after October 1st



Scholarship Document Uploader

Colchester High School - Submit Documents

VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORP.

Graduating High School Seniors

Previously Graduated Students

PLEASE NOTE: VSAC is aware of an issue where previously uploaded documents are not displaying in the yellow 'Submitted Scholarship Documents' box. We are working on a solution. In the meantime, after uploading a document, look for a confirmation that the document was successfully uploaded, in the pink box that displays above the student's name. Students can also verify receipt of their required documents through their MyVSAC account.

Submit Documents for Graduating High School Seniors

To appear on this list, the student must have:

- Completed a Unified Scholarship Application (USA) online for the upcoming school year;
- Listed your school as the school from which they will graduate on their USA; and
- Indicated they are currently a high school senior and expect to receive their diploma by the end of the current school year on their USA.

Please note:

- The lists are refreshed for the next academic year each fall when the Unified Scholarship Application (USA) becomes available.
- Students will appear on this list twice if they have submitted more than one online USA.
- Students appearing in underlined text, have uploaded documents.
 - Click on the student's name to view a list of the documents uploaded.
- VSAC will process each document as the document type selected.
 - For example: If you upload a letter under the label "Letter Non-Relative" and it is actually a Community service letter the student's application will reflect receipt of the Non-Relative letter and any scholarship that required the Community service letter will be considered incomplete.
- Applicants should refer to the scholarship description for which documents are required to complete their Unified Scholarship Application. Do not send more than one of each type of recommendation letter unless it is specifically required by the scholarship (see each scholarship description).
- Transcripts must include students name, the name of the school, and the terms for which the transcript reflects.
- Documents should be labeled with document name, applicant full name, and last four digits of their social security number.

Available through
your high school's
MyVSAC account
at www.vsac.org

Pop Quiz!!



True or False: Schools (and students) can submit required documents using a student's preferred name, but they should also include the student's legal name on the document, too.

Pop Quiz!!



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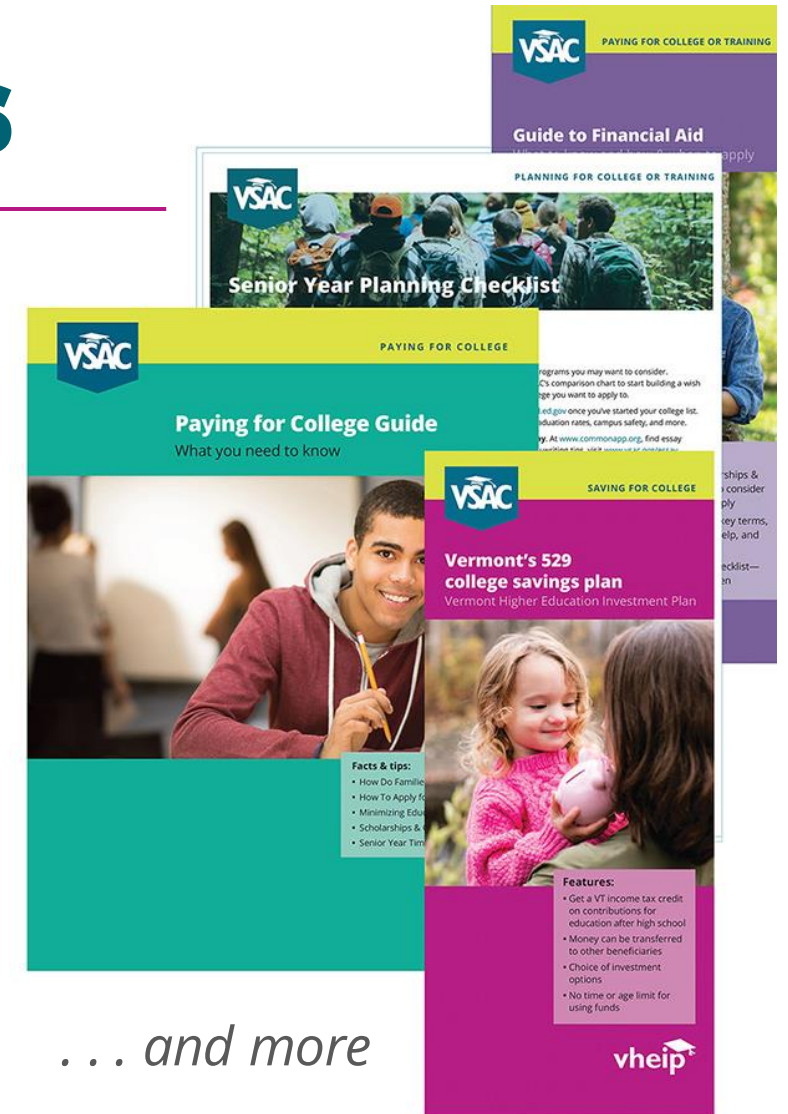
ANSWER: TRUE!

VSAC publications orders

Online order platform

- Request printed pieces for your families.
- Download digital versions for your website.
- Track pre-order or shipping status.
- Receive order reminders from VSAC.

publications.vsac.org



... and more



Questions

Vermont Transfer Guarantee

Current Participating Institutions:

Champlain College, Champlain College Online, Norwich, St. Michael's, Vermont State University (VTSU)

Eligibility

- An associate degree from the Community College of Vermont
- A GPA of 2.0, 2.5 or 3.0 (guaranteed admission based on GPA varies by college)

Features

- No application fee
- Guaranteed admission
- Guaranteed transfer of credits
- Junior status upon enrollment
- Scholarship and financial incentives (varies by college)
- Over 200 different bachelor's degree programs are available under the VT Guarantee. To see eligible programs, check out: ccv.edu/vtguarantee



VSAC Senior Survey & Research

Senior Survey results being sent to your school this fall:

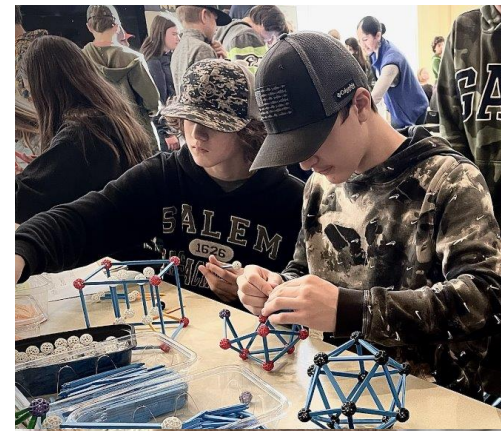
- 2026 Senior Survey Results
- 2024 Senior Survey Follow Up results
- Senior Survey Professional Learning Offerings:
 - 11/6 at VINS, Hartford
 - 11/13 at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury
 - 11/19 at VSAC, Winooski

Registration is on VSAC events calendar: vsac.org/events

Fall Career Exploration Events

October 6 & 7: Middle schools in and around the NEK will be participating in day of hands-on career exploration and STEM identity building at Kingdom Career Connect & the NEK STEM Fair at VTSU Lyndon.

October 16: Middle schools in and around Rutland are invited to a morning of STEM identity building at the Rutland Area STEM Fair at VTSU Castleton.



Vermont Career Connect

Middle school career exploration event:

- **Nov 18, 10-11am:** Virtual career panel focused on Vermont's most promising jobs. Vermont middle schools invited to participate virtually with 7th & 8th grade classrooms.
- Registration opens in mid-October, email telensky@vsac.org to be added to notification list

vsac.org/vermont-career-connect

- career interest survey
- 100+ recorded career interviews
- additional career exploration resources and activities

Pop Quiz!!

If I work in a Vermont High School, how many individualized reports will my school receive this fall from VSAC about my students' responses to the senior survey and related outcomes?



Pop Quiz!!



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Answer: 2

College and Career Pathways

High School Events

- Workshops targeted to 10th and 11th graders (but open to 9th, 12th graders). Tentative 2027 dates:
 - Landmark College: **Thursday, March 11**, 9:15am-1:45pm
 - Saint Michael's College: **Thursday, Mar 18**, 9:15am-1:45pm
 - VTSU Lyndon: **Monday, Apr 5**, 9am-1:30pm in partnership with the NEK College Fair
 - VTSU Castleton: **Wednesday, Apr 7**, 9am-1:50pm in partnership with the Rutland Area Guidance Counselors' College Fair
 - collegepathways@vsac.org

Family Event

- Saturday, Mar 13, 1pm-5pm @ UVM Davis Center and online via Zoom
- 9th-12th grade families - college and career readiness workshops
- All sessions will be offered in-person as well as live streamed and recorded
- More information and link to register will be available at vsac.org/ccp in January

Transition and Career Conference

Goal: Provide tangible tools and best practices regarding transition and career planning.

Friday, May 7, 2027:

- Opportunities for Vermont learners and career seekers through innovative pathways, new initiatives, and collaborations
- Lake Morey Resort
- Contact Cathy Printon: (printon@vsac.org)



Questions

Helping students take the next step

VSAC's Student Services (GEAR UP & Talent Search)

- VSAC counselors in more than 80 Vermont middle schools and high schools, serving 3,000 students annually (+300 in postsecondary).
- Primarily serving modest-income or first-generation students and families.
- **Talent Search:** vsac.org/about/our-outreach-programs/talent-search
- **GEAR UP:** vsac.org/about/our-outreach-programs/gear-up

VSAC Aspirations Partnerships

Personalized consultation with high schools **over 4 years** focused on creating sustainable systems to ensure that **every student graduates with a plan.**

Includes:

- Development of school-specific college and career planning curriculum.
- College and career programming for students and families.
- Professional learning for school staff, defined by school staff.

2026–2027:

- Currently working with Brattleboro Union High School, Springfield High School and Oxbow High School.
- Seeking an additional school partner for upcoming school years. (Contact Ellen Bagnato: bagnato@vsac.org)

VSAC Pre-ETS Support

Workshops for students who have 504 or IEP supports, to prepare students to work more closely with HireAbility Vermont and plan for their futures.

AY 26-27, VSAC is supporting these schools:

- BFA St. Albans
- Burlington High School
- Champlain Valley Union HS
- Lamoille Union High School
- North Country Union High School
- Spaulding High School
- Brattleboro Union High School
- Hartford High School
- Mt. Anthony Union High School
- Rutland High School
- Springfield High School
- Windsor High School

Helping adult students take the next step

VSAC's Adult Services

1:1 counseling of adults outside the public school system who have minimal access to services.

- modest-income or first-generation students without a bachelors degree
- Assists more than 1,700 adults annually.
- About 40% of participants are ages 19–27.

www.vvac.org/plan/adult-learners

Pop Quiz!!



Pre-ETS is VSAC's newest work. This partnership with HireAbility supports students who:

- a) Have 504 or IEP plans to support their success
- b) Are considering studying a trade after high school
- c) Are excellent musicians

Pop Quiz!!



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- a) Have 504 or IEP plans to support their success
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Questions

Thank you!



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