



Financial Aid 101

Vermont Student
Assistance Corporation

Fall 2026





Session goals

- Applications and programs

Pre College Programs – Dual Enrollment & Early College funding

Federal Student Aid/FAFSA

Vermont grants

VSAC-administered scholarships & tuition benefit programs

Short-term training funding

Education loans

Information resources

Before we dive in...

Applications

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Vermont grant applications
- Institutional aid applications: on postsecondary institution websites and financial aid publications
 - CSS/Financial Aid Profile at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>
- VSAC Unified Scholarship Application (MyVSAC)
- Other scholarship applications
- Loan application(s)





Pre College/Flexible Pathways Funds

Dual Enrollment stipend

- For students in high school taking Dual Enrollment classes
 - Classes **must have additional expenses**, such as travel, books.
 - Students **must be eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch** (FRL) due to family applying for and/or demonstrating financial eligibility.
- **When student applies** for Dual Enrollment voucher, the student:
 - Must say they have additional expenses for the class
 - Must say whether they are income-eligible for FRL
- **When the Dual Enrollment Coordinator fills out** school information, they verify:
 - The student has additional expenses for the class
 - The student is eligible for FRL based on family income information
- The Agency of Education sends a list of eligible students to VSAC.
- VSAC will **mail a paper check for \$150 to the student** at the beginning of the term.

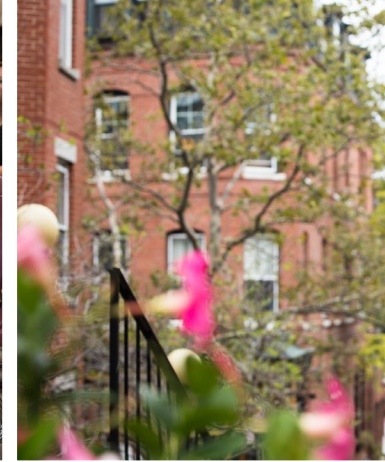
Vermont grant for Early College (EC)

Students are not eligible for Federal Student Aid while still enrolled in high school.

- VT Grant based on financial need compared to college cost of attendance.
- Maximum VT Grant for Early College is \$1000/ \$500 per semester.
- VT Grant is paid to the college each semester after the student's enrollment is confirmed.
- College applies grant toward student bill, then refunds the remainder – if any - to student.
- Student is also eligible for Dual Enrollment Stipend if eligible for EC grant.

File same applications as for Vermont Grant:

- FAFSA - student will need to list a college to submit – can list the EC institution
- VT Grant Application. Answer “Yes” to the question about enrolling in Early College for the 2027-2028 school year.



FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

FAFSA

Why complete?

Required for:

- Federal Student Aid (FSA) programs (including loans)
- Vermont Incentive, Part-Time grant, 802 Opportunity, and Freedom & Unity programs

May be required for:

- Institutional aid
- Scholarships



FAFSA

How to apply

Electronic:

- fafsa.gov
- studentaid.gov

FAFSA Form -> Complete the FAFSA form

Paper:

- Download and print PDF FAFSA at studentaid.gov.

When to apply

- Beginning by October 1, 2026, for the 2027–2028 school year.



Who's eligible for federal aid?

From [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

- Demonstrate financial need (for most programs);
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number (except for students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau);
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program;

Who's eligible for federal aid?

From [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

- Be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for Federal Direct Loan Program funds;
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school;
- Sign the certification statement on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form stating that you're not in default on a federal student loan, you do not owe money on a federal student grant, and you'll only use federal student aid for educational purposes; and
- Show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education.

FAFSA Terms

FAFSA Contributor

- Federal Student Aid term used to describe whose information should be on the FAFSA
- Does NOT mean who is required to pay – just whose information should be given on the form. **Contributor of *information*** to determine federal, institution, and state aid.

Consent

- Contributors on the FAFSA *must* give consent and approval for access to Federal Income Tax information from the IRS for the student to be considered for Federal Student Aid, *even if they do not file*.
 - Without consent and approval, the student will not be eligible for federal financial aid.

**KEEP
CALM
AND
FAFSA
ON**

Poll and Questions

Whose info on FAFSA?

Dependent vs. Independent (2027-2028 school year)

- Were you born before January 1, 2004?
- As of today, are you married?
- At the beginning of the 2027–28 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Are you currently on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you now have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2028?

Whose info on FAFSA?

Dependent vs. Independent (2027-2028 school year)

- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2028?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?

Whose info on FAFSA?

Dependent vs. Independent

Are you an **unaccompanied** youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? Determination verified through:

- your high school or district homeless liaison, or
- the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or
- the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program, or
- a director or designee of a Federal TRiO program or GEAR UP grant

Whose info on FAFSA?

Dependent vs. Independent

- If “no” to all previous questions, the student is considered dependent for Federal Student Aid and must use parental information when applying.
- Students considered dependent whose parents refuse to contribute their information may answer a question on the FAFSA to **only** be considered for Unsubsidized Federal Student Loans
 - Parent refusal to contribute information will **not** qualify a student to be considered independent

Whose info on FAFSA?

Dependent vs. Independent

- Professional judgement from postsecondary institution can still be considered for a student's Unusual Circumstances.
 - Student will answer "Yes," to the FAFSA question, "Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student?"
 - Student can choose to continue to fill out FAFSA without parental information and will receive a provisional SAI (Student Aid Index).
 - Student would need to appeal and send documentation which the college financial aid office will evaluate to determine whether the FAFSA may continue to process.

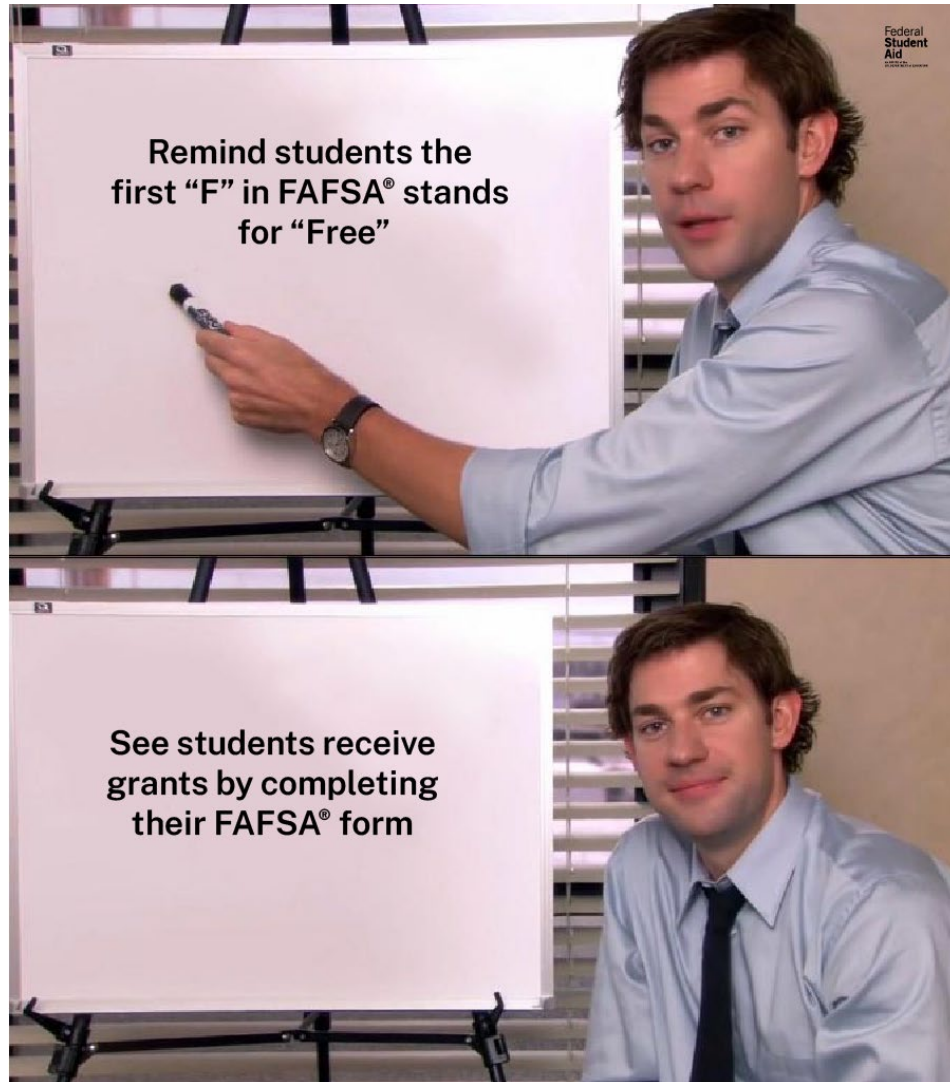
Who is a Contributor?

Dependent Students: Which parent/contributor info is required?

- If biological or adoptive parents live together, both parents' information used, regardless of marital status.
- If parents don't live together, the parent who provided more support to the student in the past year.
 - If 50/50, then consider things like who carries the student on their insurance, who supplies the student with a car, etc?
 - If neither parent provided more support, the parent who has more income and assets' information should be used.
 - If that parent is married, *even if the marriage is recent*, then parent and stepparent.
- [FAFSA Parent Wizard Tool](#) to determine which parent(s) should be a contributor on a student's FAFSA

Independent Students: What contributor info is required?

- If married, student and spouse, *even if marriage is recent*.
- If single, separated/divorced and not remarried, student only.



Poll and Questions

FSA ID/StudentAid.gov account

Used for completing/accessing:

- FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)
- Federal student loan Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note
- TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve documents
- Total amount of aid disbursed on behalf of the student – Pell Grant and federal loans

Students, parents, spouses, borrowers create:

- Unique username & password — “Create Account”
 - **Must** link to unique e-mail address. NOTE: **DO NOT USE** school or work email address
- Set up two-step verification – can use email, cell phone and/or authentication app

FSA ID/StudentAid.gov account

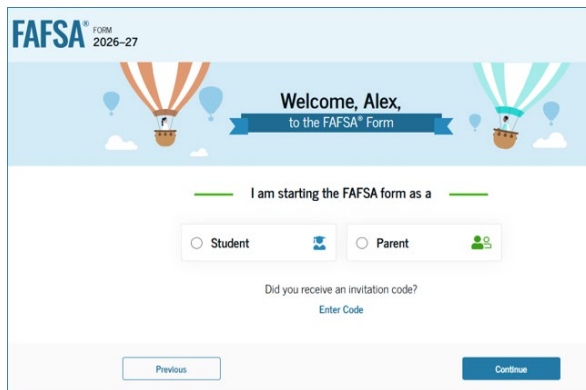
- **General Information/Tips:**

- Have suggestions for “additions” to usernames.
 - Add middle name or initial.
 - Add a year, but not date of birth (2027 or 2031).
 - Include house number or last digits of phone number.
 - YouTube video available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pitb_alQBVc.
- Each FSA ID is unique to one person.
 - Parents/students/spouses cannot share an FSA ID or use the same email address for separate IDs.
 - If a parent has an FSA ID from a previous child attending college or for their own education, the parent will use that same ID they created before. Forgot it? Use “*forgot username*” prompt.
- Parent/spouse contributors may create an FSA ID without a social security number.
- Student/parent must create FSA ID and have account confirmed *before starting or accepting an invitation to contribute to the FAFSA*.

Starting the FAFSA

Roles-based process

- Each contributor enters the FAFSA separately, using their own FSA ID/StudentAid.gov account.
 - If the student begins the FAFSA first, they will invite the parent/spouse contributor using the parent/spouse email address.
 - Parent invites a student with identifying information.
 - **Parent CANNOT begin a FAFSA for a student who doesn't already have their own StudentAid.gov account.**



FAFSA® FORM 2026-27

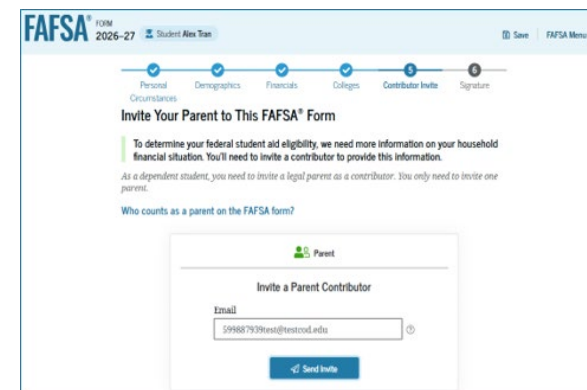
Welcome, Alex,
to the FAFSA® Form

I am starting the FAFSA form as a

☐ Student ☒ Parent

Did you receive an invitation code?
Enter Code

Previous Continue



FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tan

Personal Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA® Form

To determine your federal student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent.

Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

Parent

Invite a Parent Contributor

Email
599887939@usd@testcsod.edu

Send Invite

Prior-Prior year income defined

Attending college from	Submit FAFSA	Use tax info from
July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027	October 1, 2025–June 30, 2027	2024
July 1, 2027–June 30, 2028	October 1, 2026–June 30, 2028	2025
July 1, 2028–June 30, 2029	Oct 1, 2027–June 30, 2029	2026

Determining financial need

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

The Student Aid Index is a starting point for a college to determine financial aid eligibility — **not** what a student/family has to pay.

- Income – student and parent(s) or student and spouse or student – Prior-Prior year income
 - compared to percentage of Federal Poverty Guidelines for Maximum or Minimum Pell
 - Any applicant eligible for other than Maximum Pell will go through SAI calculation
- Family size
- Assets – for some FAFSA filers, assets will not be requested
- You can estimate your aid eligibility on the Federal Student Aid Estimator website: <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>

FAFSA frequent errors

- **Parent & student Social Security numbers**
- **Parent & student date of birth**
- Not giving Consent/Approval for IRS data transfer
- Wrong year application
- Divorced/remarried/unmarried but living together parent information
- Legal guardianship/custody confusion
- IRA/Pension Rollover
- Household size
- Investment (and real estate) net worth
 - including assets not to be listed on FAFSA
 - reporting value only rather than net worth
- Answering question about not wanting aid *other than* an unsubsidized loan
- Free lunch question

FAFSA confirmation

FAFSA acknowledgements

- FAFSA Submission Summary
- Watch confirmation e-mails from the US Department of Education donotreply@studentaid.gov or by mail.
- One confirmation for submitting the FAFSA. One confirmation that FAFSA has been processed.
- Student can log in to their account on fafsa.gov at any time to check status. Can also make corrections, once the FAFSA has processed.

The screenshot displays the FAFSA Submission Summary page for Michelle Allen. The page includes a navigation bar with links for Back, Print FAFSA Submission Summary, and a progress indicator for the next steps. The main content area shows the student's name, application received and processed dates (June 20, 2025), and the data release number (8720). Below this, there are tabs for Eligibility Overview, FAFSA Form Answers, School Information, and Next Steps. The 'Next Steps' tab is active, showing 'Your Estimated Federal Student Aid'. This section lists three types of aid: Federal Pell Grant (N/A), Federal Direct Loans (Up to \$9,500), and Federal Work-Study (You May Be Eligible). A disclaimer states that these are estimates based on full-time enrollment and average cost of attendance. A 'Keep in mind, this is only an estimate' box advises referring to the school's financial aid offer for a final determination. On the right, there is a 'Need to make a correction?' section with instructions on how to revise the form and a 'Make a Correction' button. At the bottom right, there is a 'View All of Your Federal Student Aid In One Place' section with a 'Visit My Aid' button.

< Back Print FAFSA Submission Summary

FAFSA FORM 2026-27 **FAFSA Submission Summary**

Student Michelle Allen Application Received June 20, 2025 Application Processed June 20, 2025 Data Release Number 8720 Viewing: Submission 1

Eligibility Overview FAFSA Form Answers School Information **Next Steps**

Your Estimated Federal Student Aid

Federal Pell Grant
You are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, but you may be eligible for other aid. **N/A**

Federal Direct Loans
A federal direct loan is money lent to you by the government that you must repay with interest. Up to **\$9,500**

Federal Work-Study
Federal Work-Study is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time jobs on or off campus. **You May Be Eligible**

Amounts shown here are only estimates of federal student aid based on full-time enrollment and the average cost of attendance. Your school will determine how much student aid to offer you, which may include additional aid from your school or state.

[Learn more about financial aid](#)

Keep in mind, this is only an estimate
Always refer to your school's financial aid offer for a final determination of financial aid available.

Need to make a correction?
Start a correction to revise your form if you need to update or change information (such as adding an additional school).
Visit the **FAFSA Form Answers** tab to review your responses and make sure all the information you provided is correct.
Make a Correction

View All of Your Federal Student Aid In One Place
View detailed information about your federal student loan and grant aid, including your enrollment history, payment history, and subsidized usage.
Visit My Aid

Special/Unusual circumstances

Special circumstances

- Change in employment status.
- Medical/dental bills paid and not covered by insurance. High medical costs/insurance deductibles.
- Change in parent/student marital status.
- Unusual dependent care expenses.
- Natural disasters — expenses not reimbursed by insurance or FEMA.

Unusual circumstances

- Student unable to obtain parental information due to incarceration, abusive situation, or no relationship with parents and cannot qualify under other self-supporting questions.
- Parents refusing to provide information is NOT an Unusual Circumstance.

Action Step

- Student/parent should send written information to college/trade school financial aid offices as well as Vermont Grant program at VSAC.
- Correspondence sent to Federal Student Aid processor will be disposed of.

FAFSA verification

Process by which the U.S. Department of Education (ED) confirms (through the college financial aid office) that the information provided by students and families on the FAFSA is accurate.

- Students can be selected for verification by ED or by college.
- Items to be verified will vary – additional forms may be needed.
- Federal aid will not be disbursed until verification is complete.



Available federal student aid

Maximum amounts for the major programs for 2026–2027 first year student:

- Federal Pell Grant: \$7,395 max (pro-rated at less than full-time)
- Federal Work-Study: depends on funds available at school
- Direct subsidized and unsubsidized loans
 - \$5,500 total for dependent (maximum \$3,500 subsidized)
 - \$9,500 for independent (maximum \$3,500 subsidized)
- Direct PLUS loan (for parents): Cost of Attendance (COA) minus other aid received or \$20,000, whichever is less

Funds from other programs are available; see [Federal Grant Programs](#) and [Federal Student Loan Programs](#) for details.



Poll and Questions



Vermont grants

Vermont grants administered by VSAC

Types

- Vermont grant
 - Full Time
 - Early College stipend
 - Part Time
- 802 Opportunity (both full and part-time study)
- Freedom & Unity
- Vermont Advancement Grant (non-degree or non-Title IV eligible)
- Microgrants

MyVSAC

It all begins with [MyVSAC](#).

- Account is for the **student**.
- Students use same MyVSAC account when applying for VT grants and VSAC-assisted scholarships for each year of enrollment.
- Contact information must be updated (e-mail & postal addresses) for efficient communication.
- Multi-step process. Student creates account with **a non-school** e-mail address. Link is e-mailed to student to confirm email address and create password.
- Student also needs to set up multi-factor authentication, using either a cell phone number or Okta authentication app.
- Students who lose/forget MyVSAC login should follow prompts to be reminded. **Do not create a new account!**

Vermont grant

Information

Much of the income and asset information for the VT Grant comes from the FAFSA — students who designate their state of residence as VT will have information come to VSAC when the FAFSA processes.

- Income: Same as FAFSA, using 2025 income information for 2027–2028 aid eligibility.
- Asset information: Most asset information comes from the FAFSA; families also need to report the family primary home value and debt

The Vermont Grant is portable, meaning that if a student is eligible, the Grant can be used for study out of state.

Who is eligible for Vermont grant?

- Be a Vermont resident
- Be enrolled in or be enrolling in an undergraduate program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate
- Have financial need as determined by the VSAC Grant Program
- Be maintaining satisfactory academic progress
- Be attending an eligible institution

Who is eligible for Vermont grant?

- Not have received the equivalent of 10 full-time semesters of VT grants
 - Unless you're enrolled in the Doctor of Medicine program at the UVM Larner College of Medicine or
 - Unless you're enrolled in any accredited Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program
- Not have received your bachelor's degree
 - Unless you're enrolled in the Doctor of Medicine program at the UVM Larner College of Medicine or
 - Unless you're enrolled in any accredited Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program
- Not owe a refund to any federal or state grant or scholarship program

Vermont grant link from FAFSA

What Happens Next



Check Your Email

You will receive an email version of this confirmation page at the following email address:
carrieh@gmavt.net.



Track the Status of Your Form

In one to three days, your FAFSA form will be processed and made available to your schools. Check the status of your form by logging in to StudentAid.gov and selecting your FAFSA submission from the "My Activity" section of your account Dashboard.



You Will Receive School Communications

Your selected colleges or career schools will reach out to you if they need more information. Schools will send you financial aid offers after reviewing your information. This may take some time. Once received, you can contact their financial aid offices directly to ask questions about their financial aid offers.



Start Your Application for Vermont (VT) State-Based Aid

[Apply for State Aid](#)

Track and Manage Your FAFSA® Form

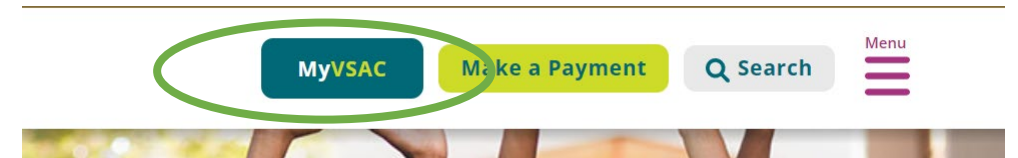
You can check the status of your application in the "My Activity" section of your account Dashboard. We will let you know if we need anything more from you.

[View Status](#)

Vermont grant application

Vermont grant application

- Must be filed and all requested documentation submitted for student to be eligible for Vermont grants.
- The Vermont grant application is also used for 802 Opportunity and part-time Freedom and Unity eligibility
- Application available in October 2026, for 2027–2028.
- Apply at vsac.org by clicking on MyVSAC button.



MyVSAC login



 [Contact Us](#)

[VSAC.ORG](#)

Login to MyVSAC

MyVSAC Username (Email)

[Forgot your username?](#)

MyVSAC Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Log in](#)

[Authorized Payer Login](#)

New to MyVSAC

If you don't already have a MyVSAC account, register now to:

- apply for a grant, scholarship, or loan
- cosign a loan
- access your existing loan or grant information

[Register Now](#)

Are you a new school user?

Register your institution for School Online Services.

[Register Institution](#)

Need Help?

Login issues

[I forgot my username.](#)

[I forgot my password.](#)

Making payments

[Learn more about your payment options.](#)

Additional help

[View our Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

MyVSAC Work with Grants

 [Dashboard](#) [Loan Info & Payments](#) [Grants](#) [Scholarships](#) [My Profile](#) [Message Center](#) [Contact Us](#) [Logout](#) [VSAC.ORG](#)

Welcome

Loans

[Loan Info & Make Payments](#)

View loan details, make a one-time payment, set up recurring payments, view statements, set up notification emails, and more.

Grants

[Work with Grants](#)

Apply for a Vermont Grant, view your To Do List and check on awards.

Scholarships & Forgivable Loans

[Work with Scholarships & Forgivable Loans/ Tuition Benefit Programs](#)

Apply for VSAC-assisted Scholarships or Interest Free Forgivable Loans/Tuition Benefit Programs using the Unified Scholarship Application, view your To Do List and check on awards.

Apply for New Loans

[Start an Application](#)

Start here to apply for an Undergraduate, Graduate, Professional, Parent or Refinance (REFI) loan.

[Check Pending Loan](#)

News & Announcements

VSAC loan borrowers: If you're facing financial hardship, please call us at **800-798-8722** so we can explore which option(s) may be available to you.

Looking for your amount of interest paid in 2025?

- Click on "Loan Info & Make Payments".
- Your 1098-E will be available by January 31st.

Vermont grant

MY INFO

[To-Do List](#)
[Demographic Information](#)
[Financial Information](#)
[Awards & Enrollment](#)

MY APPLICATIONS

[Apply for a Vermont Grant](#)
[Correspondence](#)

MY SCHOOLS

[View/Update Schools](#)

MY OPTIONS

[Contact Us](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Exit/Logoff Lisa Abair](#)

Grants for

Active Year2022-2023

Does your program start before 7/1/27?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Submit

Vermont grant

myVSAC

Dashboard

Loan Info & Payments ▾

Grants

Scholarships

My Profile

Message Center

Contact Us

Logout

VSAC.ORG

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Contact Us

Frequently Asked Questions

Exit/Logoff Carrie Harlow

Grants for

Active Year

2010-2011 ▾

Which grant do you want to apply for?

Complete the **Vermont Grant Application** if you are applying for admission to, or already enrolled in, a program leading to a degree, certificate or diploma and your school requires you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Complete the **Advancement Grant Application** (formerly the Vermont Non-Degree Grant) if you will not be enrolled in a program leading to a degree, certificate or diploma, or your program is not eligible for federal student aid, but will take one or more courses. The Advancement Grant Application for the upcoming academic year (classes that start after July 1) will be available by the end of May.

If you do not see the application you are looking for in the list below, check the Correspondence or Apply for a Vermont Grant page (link on the left) to see if the application has already been submitted or automatically renewed. Any changes to an already submitted or automatically renewed application need to be submitted in writing.

2026-2027 Advancement Grant Application

Apply Now

2026-2027 Vermont Grant Application

Apply Now

Application Help

Complete the Vermont Degree Application if BOTH?

You are applying for admission to, or already are enrolled in, a program leading to a degree, certificate, or diploma.

Your School requires you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for financial aid.

Complete the Advancement Grant Application (formerly the Vermont Non-Degree Grant) if EITHER?

You will take one or more courses but will not be enrolled in a program leading to a degree, certificate, or diploma.

Your program is not eligible for Federal financial aid.

VERMONT GRANT

Communication

Notifications

- Requests for information are electronic: E-mail first.
- Paper letter is mailed if student doesn't log in within 20 days of initial request.
- Many forms can be completed online; tax returns can be uploaded.



802 Opportunity

Details

- For Vermont resident students attending Community College of Vermont (CCV)
- Funded by Vermont legislature, administered by VSAC
- Income guidelines – as reported on FAFSA
- Same eligibility criteria as Vermont Grant, *except*
 - **Income:**
 - For dependent students, parent income < \$100,000
 - For independent students, student (and spouse) income < \$100,000
- Between Pell, Vermont Grant and 802 Opportunity
 - CCV Tuition covered
 - Administrative fee covered
- No additional application required for 802 Opportunity when students have filed the FAFSA and Vermont Grant Applications

Freedom & Unity

Details

- For Vermont resident students attending Vermont State University
- Funded by Vermont legislature, administered by VSAC for part-time enrollment
- Income guidelines – as reported on FAFSA
- Same eligibility criteria as Vermont Grant, *except*
 - **Income:**
 - For dependent students, parent income < \$85,000
 - For independent students, student (and spouse) income < \$85,000
- Between Pell, Vermont Grant and Freedom & Unity
 - VTSU Regular Tuition covered
 - Program-specific Tuition is not covered
- No additional application required for Freedom & Unity when students have filed the FAFSA and Vermont Grant Applications

MicroGrant

For small, unexpected expenses a college student encounters that could potentially create a situation that ends enrollment.

- **Grant range:** \$50 - \$400
- **Eligibility** - student must be:
 - A Vermont Resident
 - Eligible for a Vermont Grant for the current school year
 - Have an emergency expense that will prevent them from continuing their education
 - Nominated by College Aid Office, TRiO or GEAR UP program staff
- **Examples of unexpected expenses:**
 - Laptop/Chromebook repair
 - Food insecurity
 - Car repair (i.e., commuting student needing car to get to school.



Poll and Questions



Short-term training and certificate funding

Advancement Grant

- Available NOW for programs starting **before** June 30, 2027 (2026–27 Academic Year - AY).
- To be eligible, student must be out of high school when program begins.
- Bachelor's degree holders can apply for Advancement Grants.
- Application anticipated for programs starting July 1, 2027, or later (2027–28 AY) in May 2027 .
- For non-degree coursework or short-term training programs or two college classes that either prepare applicant for further coursework/entrance to a degree program or increase employability.
- \$7,500 limit in the 2025–26 AY. Driver Education limit \$1,000. No more than 2 terms of ANY state grant will be disbursed per academic year.
- Individuals can be awarded up to 6 Advancement Grants in their lifetime.

Advancement Grant

- Application accessed through MyVSAC, choosing “Work with Grants”
- FAFSA not required to determine Advancement Grant eligibility.
- Students considered dependent for Advancement Grant purposes will need to have parent(s) complete financial information through a separate form requested by VSAC.
- Prior-prior federal tax returns must be submitted (if filed) to determine income eligibility; can be mailed or uploaded to MyVSAC. For the AY 2026-2027, 2024 income is used to determine need.

MyVSAC Work with Grants/ Advancement Grant screens



 Dashboard Loan Info & Payments **Grants** Scholarships My Profile Message Center Contact Us Logout

VSAC.ORG

MY APPLICATIONS

[Apply for a Vermont Grant](#)

MY OPTIONS

[Contact Us](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Exit/Logoff Adam French](#)

Grants for Adam [REDACTED]

Apply for a Vermont Grant

Which grant do you want to apply for?

Complete the **Vermont Grant Application** if you are applying for admission to, or already enrolled in, a program leading to a degree, certificate or diploma and your school requires you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Complete the **Advancement Grant Application** (formerly the Vermont Non-Degree Grant) if you will not be enrolled in a program leading to a degree, certificate or diploma, or your program is not eligible for federal student aid, but will take one or more courses.

If you do not see the application you are looking for in the list below, check the Correspondence or Apply for a Vermont Grant page (link on the left) to see if the application has already been submitted or automatically renewed. Any changes to an already submitted or automatically renewed application need to be submitted in writing.

2023-2024 Advancement Grant Application

Apply Now

2023-2024 Vermont Grant Application

Apply Now

Application Help

Complete the Vermont Degree Application if BOTH:

- You are applying for admission to, or already are enrolled in, a program leading to a degree, certificate, or diploma.
- Your School requires you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for financial aid.

Complete the Advancement Grant Application (formerly the Vermont Non-Degree Grant) if EITHER:

- You will take one or more courses but will not be enrolled in a program leading to a degree, certificate, or diploma.
- Your program is not eligible for Federal financial aid.

MyVSAC Work with Grants/ Advancement Grant screens

Awards & Enrollment

- > Information for Degree Applicants
- > Information for Advancement Grant Applicants
- > Status of Grant Award

Be sure to refresh the page after making changes to your enrollment to view your eligibility.

▼	School Name Champlain - TAP	Federal School Code		
Term/Course	Enrollment Status	Fund	VSAC Award	Status/(Disbursal Date)
Summer: Champlain College TAP	Enrolled Non-Degree ▼	Non-Degree	7500.00	Disbursed (09/12/2025)

Update Enrollment Status

Cancel Changes



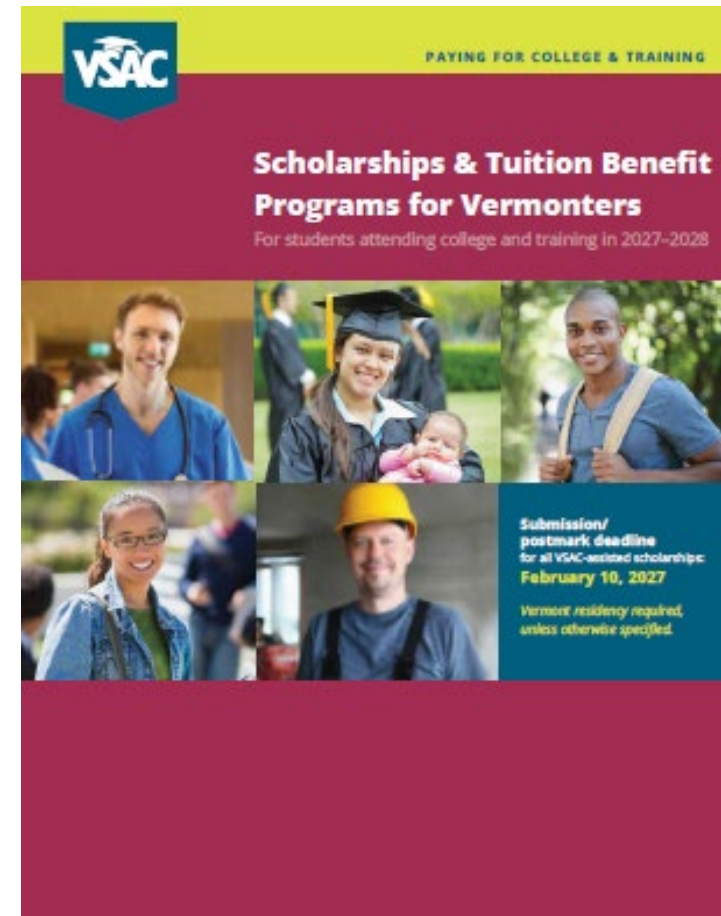
Poll and Questions



VSAC-assisted scholarships and tuition benefit programs

VSAC scholarships booklet

Available online soon
for students attending
college in 2027–2028 -
Expected in schools
October, 2026.



VSAC-assisted scholarships

- Uses one **Unified Scholarship Application (USA)**, for
 - More than 140 VSAC-Administered Scholarships and
 - Four Tuition Benefit programs for workforce development.
- Required documents do not need to be duplicated, i.e., if only one General Essay is required for multiple scholarships, the applicant only needs to send one General Essay.
- Students need to read eligibility requirements and meet all criteria to be considered for the scholarships listed.
- Students can upload documents (essay, recommendations) and see what required items have been received/are still needed.
- Most scholarships based on financial need can use FAFSA information received by VSAC.

How students apply

 [Dashboard](#) [Loan Info & Payments ▾](#) [Grants](#) [Scholarships](#) [My Profile](#) [Message Center](#) [Contact Us](#) [Logout](#) [VSAC.ORG](#)

Welcome

Loans

Loan Info & Make Payments

View loan details, make a one-time payment, set up recurring payments, view statements, set up notification emails, and more.

Apply for New Loans

Start an Application

Start here to apply for an Undergraduate, Graduate, Professional, Parent or Refinance (REFI) loan.

Check Pending Loan

Grants

Work with Grants

Apply for a Vermont Grant, view your To Do List and check on awards.

Scholarships & Forgivable Loans

Work with Scholarships & Forgivable Loans/ Tuition Benefit Programs

Apply for VSAC-assisted Scholarships or Interest Free Forgivable Loans/Tuition Benefit Programs using the Unified Scholarship Application, view your To Do List and check on awards.

News & Announcements

VSAC loan borrowers: If you're facing financial hardship, please call us at **800-798-8722** so we can explore which option(s) may be available to you.

Looking for your amount of interest paid in 2025?

- Click on "Loan Info & Make Payments".
- Your 1098-E will be available by January 31st.

VSAC-assisted scholarships

Best practices

Deadlines

- Don't just meet deadlines; beat them.
- Can check if everything has been received. *Note: Need to allow 1 day for documents to show as uploaded in MyVSAC.*

Organization

- Student's responsibility to keep track of scholarships they applied for and documents that are required on MyVSAC.
- Encourage students to allow time for transcripts and recommendations to be done well and sent — NOT the last minute!
- If the school knows the student will be applying, but hasn't yet, documents can be mailed — so long as postmarked by deadline.

VSAC-assisted scholarships

Best practices

Labels: Communicate with faculty, staff about labeling requirements — and deadlines.

Follow instructions

- Meet minimum word length.
- **Answer the questions** asked.
- Recommendations **MUST** be on letterhead or signed.

Scholarships are competitive

- Most everyone who applies is eligible
- How will students set themselves apart?



Workforce Development funding

State funding for initiatives to address Vermont's workforce shortages.

- **Tuition Benefit Programs** must agree to work in Vermont in their applicable field for a certain amount of time. As long as terms and commitment is met, the student does not need to repay the funds.

- Applied for through **VSAC Scholarships using the Unified Scholarship Application (USA)**

- Current programs:

- Vermont Trades – up to full tuition (max \$23,000)

- Vermont Nurse Faculty

- Vermont Rural Health Transformation Tuition Benefit *

- Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program

* Funding for 2026-2027 no longer available

- Recipients of these awards must sign a Tuition Benefit Agreement, agreeing to the terms of funding and agreeing to repay if terms are not met.

Sources of additional funding

- Registered Apprenticeship
- Program/Provider Funds
- Employer contributions*
- Veterans' Administration*
- HireAbility VT*
- Dept of Labor – WIOA
(Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)*

*May also be available for degree programs

**CHECKED THE DOCUMENTS TAB
FOR FINANCIAL AID**



EVERYTHING SAYS RECEIVED

makeameme.org

Questions



Education loans

Federal Direct loans

- Requires the FAFSA.
- College determines eligibility and originates the loan.
- For students — two types: subsidized and unsubsidized
 - Only undergraduates are eligible for subsidized
 - Based on student financial need
 - Maximums based on year in college
- Entrance Counseling — completed on studentaid.gov
- Master Promissory Note (MPN)
 - Electronic — completed on studentaid.gov
 - Paper — school option or borrower request
- Postsecondary institution will instruct student how to complete

Federal Direct Student loans

cumulative borrowing

Dependent students

	Annual eligibility	Cumulative borrowed
first year	\$5,500	\$5,500
by sophomore year	\$6,500	\$12,000
by junior year	\$7,500	\$19,500
by senior year	\$7,500	\$27,000

Independent students

	Annual eligibility	Cumulative borrowed
first year	\$9,500	\$9,500
by sophomore year	\$10,500	\$20,000
by junior year	\$12,500	\$32,500
by senior year	\$12,500	\$45,000

Federal Direct PLUS Loans

Available for parents of dependent undergraduate students to help pay for college or career schools.

- Commonly called PLUS loan for parents of undergraduate students
- Maximum Parent PLUS loan is the cost of attendance at the college minus aid offered, or \$20,000 – whichever is less – beginning with the **2026-2027** school year.
- Maximum cumulative PLUS borrowing per student is **\$65,000**.
- Credit check and endorser alternative.
- Some colleges will list PLUS eligibility on financial aid notifications.

Federal Direct loans

2026–2027 Direct loan interest rates & origination fees

Loan rates will change annually, based on the Treasury rate.

	Interest rate	Origination fee
Direct subsidized & unsubsidized loan		
Undergraduate	6.52%	1.057%
Graduate/professional degree students (unsubsidized loan only)	8.07%	1.057%
Direct PLUS loan		
Parents of undergraduate students	9.07%	4.228%

Non-federal loans

Available for eligible students who need education financing *beyond* what they can borrow in federal Direct student loans.

How to choose a private loan?

Visit www.vvac.org/learn for:

- VSAC's education loan guide
- loan calculators to compare total costs
- VSAC's Student Loan
- VSAC's Parent Loan



Non-federal loans

Choosing and comparing non-federal loans

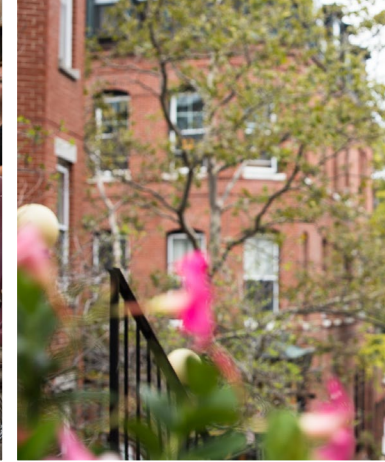
When comparing loans, consider:

- interest rates
 - fixed
 - variable
- fees
- repayment options
- other benefits
 - Interest rate reduction for auto-pay
 - cosigner release





Poll and Questions



Resources

Financial Aid Toolkit



- Federal aid news & updates
- College planning & federal financial aid resources
- Links to tools and resources
- Outreach/social media ideas and more

VSAC.org resources

vsac.org/edpronews

VSAC About Us Newsroom Research Calendar Financial Aid Professionals FAQs Resources Search MyVSAC

SAVE FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING PLAN FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING PAY FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING MAKE A PAYMENT

News & Updates for Education Professionals

VSAC News You Can Use:

- Green Mountain Grad:** The state of Vermont, the Vermont State Colleges System and VSAC are teaming up to provide one tuition-free college class to the graduates of the high school classes of 2020 and 2021. Spread the word with resources in the toolkit.
- ORDER NOW!** Order your bulk publications and planning checklists for the 2021-2022 school year. (Note: All bulk orders placed now will be fulfilled in late August.)

ORDER OUR 2021-2022 PUBLICATIONS

FINANCIAL AID UPDATES	CONTENT FOR YOUR NEWSLETTERS, EMAILS & SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	OUTREACH & RESEARCH NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS	SAVE THESE EVENT DATES	CAREER & COLLEGE PLANNING UPDATES

Vermont grants

Don't let your Vermont students leave money on the table! Eligible students have received from \$1,000 to \$12,800 in Vermont grants for the 2021-2022 academic year. Encourage your students to:

- watch the **VSAC Shows You How to Complete a Vermont Grant Application** for tips and tricks
- apply for the **Vermont grant**. Those who have applied should check their MyVSAC account to be sure they've completed all steps.
- complete the **FAFSA**

VSAC-assisted scholarships update

The VSAC scholarships booklet for students planning to attend college in 2021-2022 is available in print. To receive copies for your students, schools must order bulk quantities at <https://publications.vvac.org/free-vsac-publications>.

Please note: Although the deadline has passed for all VSAC-assisted scholarships, students can still apply for other scholarships. Check pages 27-48 of the booklet for scholarships with deadlines open through July 31.

How VSAC can help with the FAFSA

I Am

Looking for a Loan
An Adult Student
Struggling to Pay My Loan
A High School Student
A Parent
An Employer
Unsure About College
An Education Professional
A Grandparent or Veteran
A Student Experiencing Foster Care

VSAC @VSAC
Making the most of the summer wait! Prepare for more than rainy days by saving in a VT529 account. It can help grow your college savings. <https://vsac.org/529>
8 days ago

VSAC @VSAC
Congratulations Daniel! <https://vsac.org/529>
8 days ago

vsac.org/financial-aid-resources

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SAVE FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING PLAN FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING PAY FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING MAKE A PAYMENT

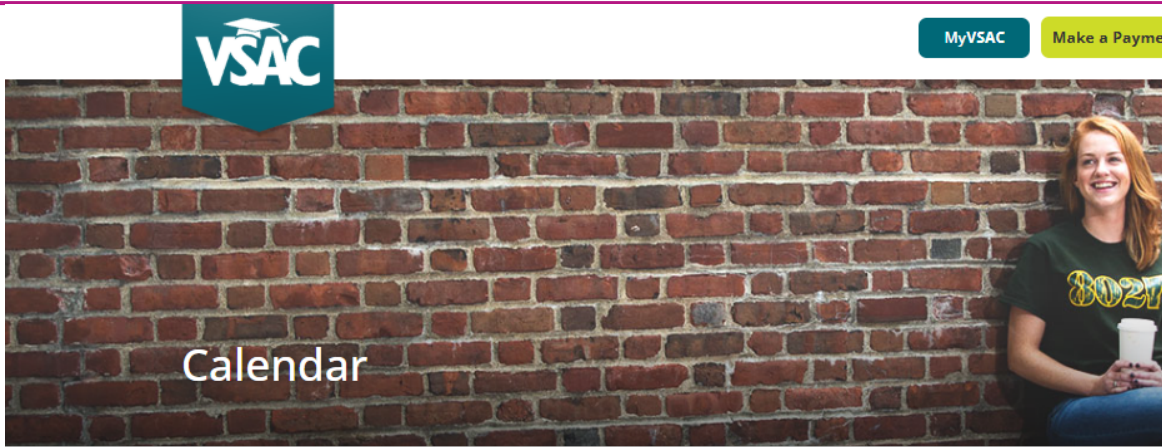
Paying for College

Financial Aid Resources

ORDER 2020-2021 PUBLICATIONS

- Workshop Powerpoints & Videos
- Resources for Families
- FAFSA Resources & Links
- Vermont Grants
- Scholarships
- Education Loans
- Foster Youth & Homeless Youth
- Net Price Calculators
- Contact Information
- Additional Resources

Part 2: Federal and VSAC Updates



VSAC's Annual Financial Aid Training for Education and Agency Professionals: Federal, State, and VSAC Updates

LOCATION: ON ZOOM



Federal, State, and VSAC Updates

This virtual training session will provide important updates about changes to financial aid resources specific to the FAFSA and federal financial aid sources as well as Vermont financial aid and VSAC programs designed to support students and families. Topics will cover: StudentAid.Gov Account (FSA ID) changes, news and updates to state-wide funding programs, dates to hold for upcoming student events, and more!

Register today. When registering, we welcome you to submit questions or comments that you would like us to try to address during this training. After registering, you will receive an email with information about joining the meeting. A recording of this presentation will be available [here](#) within a few days after the event.

Prior to 2024, this training was split into two presentations but has since been combined into one. To help ensure the content is not overwhelming, we moved some ongoing funding source information to our Financial Aid 101 presentation, scheduled for September 18th.

- MORE INFORMATION:
 - Federal Student Aid/FAFSA updates
 - State and VSAC updates
- Tuesday, September 29, 2026
9:00 – 11:00 am
- Find registration link at vsac.org/events.

Contact info

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802-542-2603

- **Stacey King**

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802-542-2269