



VSAC and State Updates

Vermont Student Assistance
Corporation

October 2025



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

*new Pathway application process 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 forgivable loan programs to encourage students to enter the Vermont workforce in specific high-demand fields.

These unique **interest-free** loans:

- Require awarded students to sign a promissory note committing to specific work obligations when they accept the funding
- Do not require payment while the student is enrolled in the applicable degree or training program
- Are “forgiven” — loan does not have to be paid back when the student meets the work obligations outlined in the promissory note they signed
- Must be repaid if the student doesn’t complete the program, doesn’t receive their license, or doesn’t work in the field in Vermont following licensure



Pop Quiz!!

VT Nursing Forgivable loan

- Up to full tuition for the program, not to exceed UVM's in-state tuition rate
- Available for 1-, 2-, and 4-year and graduate nursing programs
- Vermont residents or non-residents
- Loan is forgiven if the student works full-time in Vermont in the nursing field for one year following licensure for each year of funding received

vsac.org/nursing

VT Trades Forgivable Loan

- 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
- Loan 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) have teamed up to offer Freedom & Unity, an opportunity for Vermont students with a family income of \$65,000 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!!



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



Pop Quiz!!

Funds for training programs

Curtis Credential of Value Program:

- Adults or recent high school grads
- Training programs
- Up to \$3,000
 - Covers tuition and mandatory fees that are not covered by tuition-specific financial aid
- Nominated by VSAC Outreach counselor
- Must also apply for a Vermont grant (degree or Advancement 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

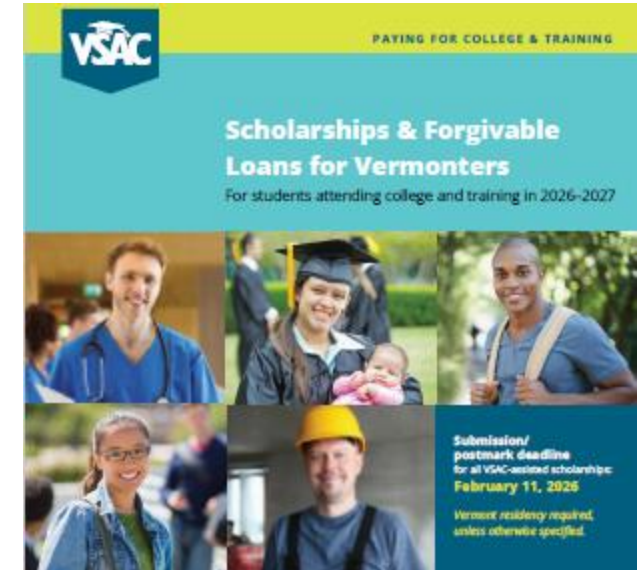
Students without FAFSA

Students without VT Grant Application

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

VSAC Assisted Scholarships

- Scholarships and Forgivable Loans for Vermonters booklet for 2026-2027 is available now
- Order online at <https://publications.vsac.org/free-vsac-publications/>
- VSAC Scholarship Deadline – **February 11, 2026**
- Unified Scholarship Application (USA) – available now
- Students can begin submitting any required documents



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.

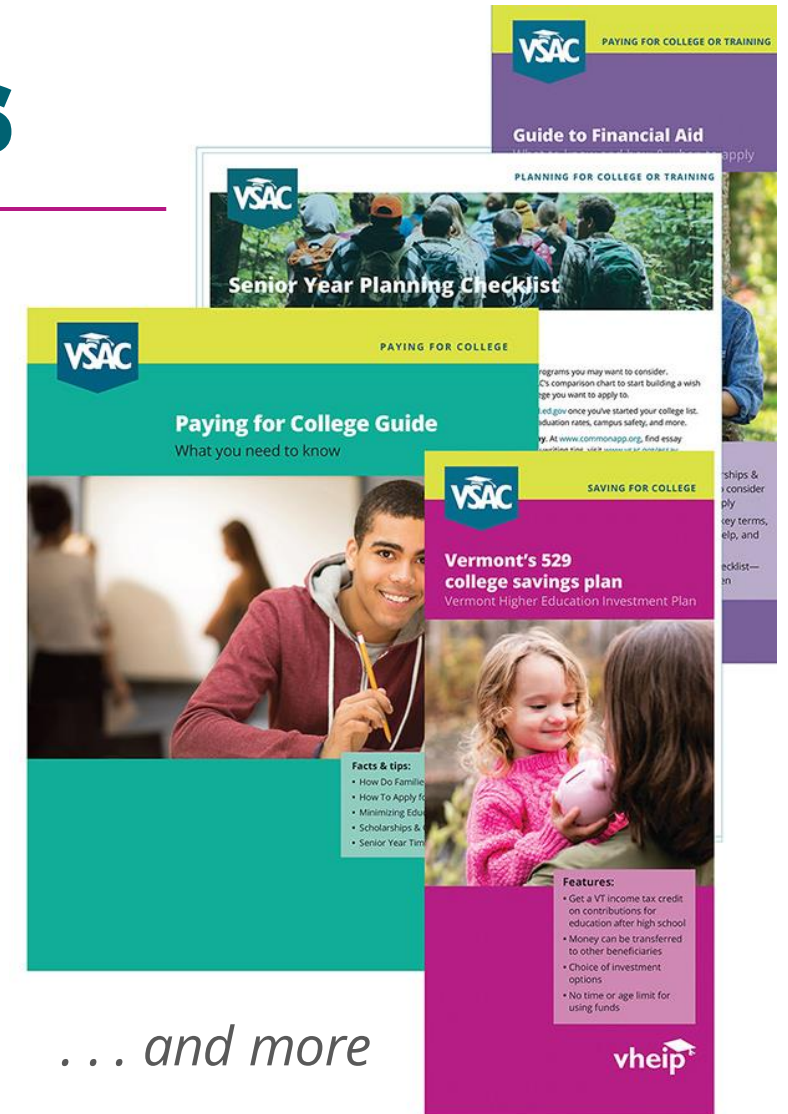
Available through
your high school's
MyVSAC account
at www.vvac.org

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



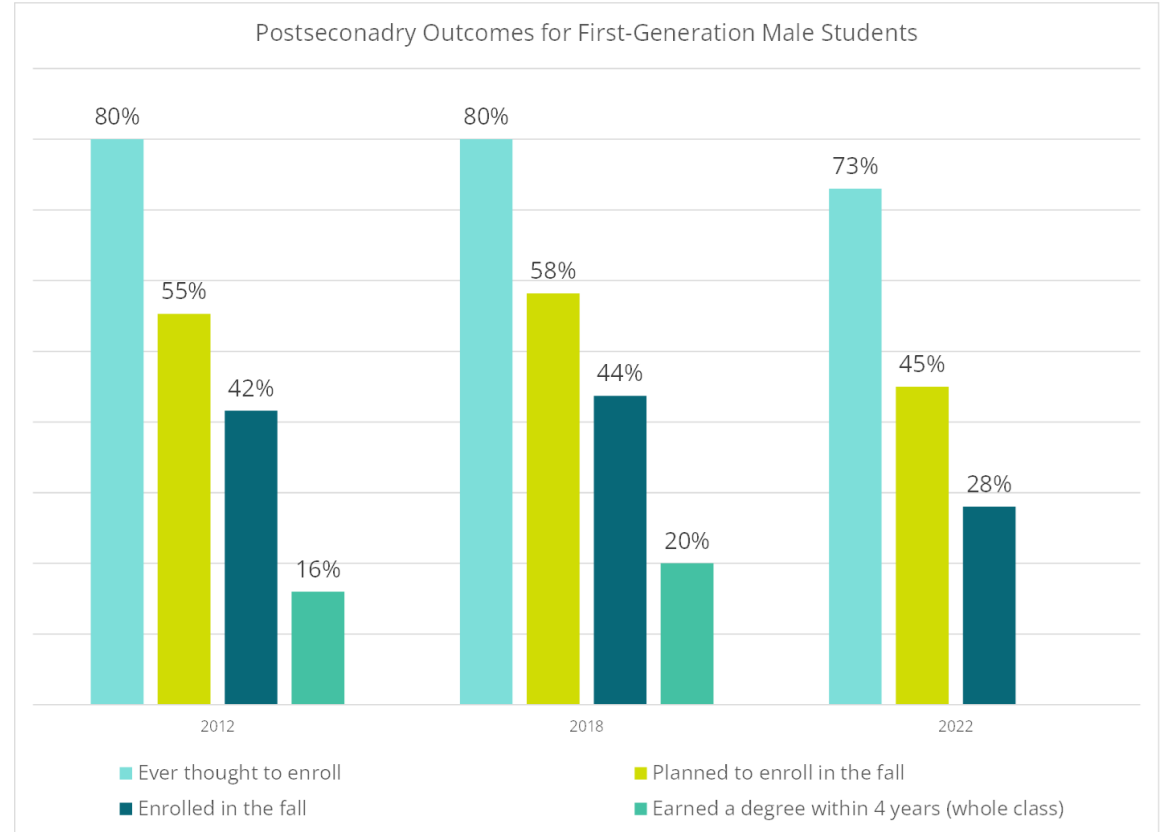
VSAC Senior Survey & Research

Class of 2022 Follow Up School Reports

- Coming to your school soon. Typically sent to Principal and the point of contact who supporting implementing the survey at the school. These show student enrollment patterns for 2024 grads

Spring 2026 is a Senior Survey Year!

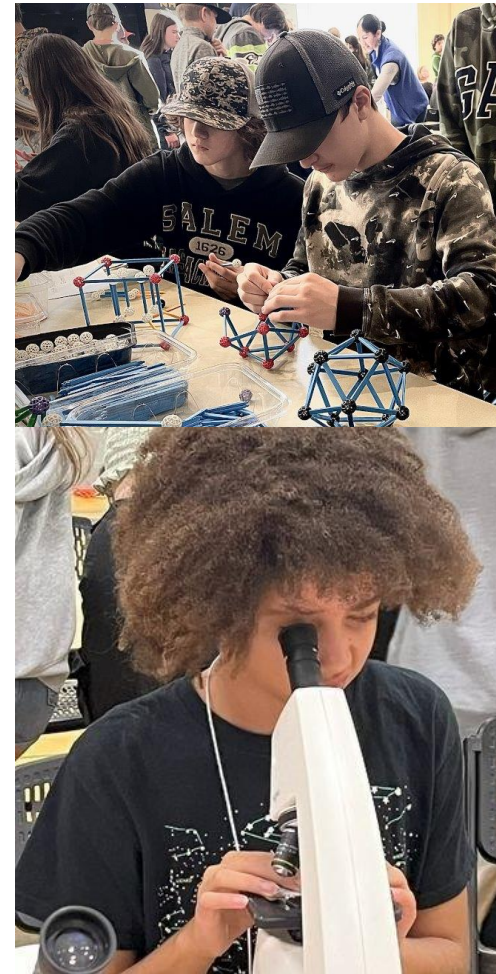
- Look for communications from VSAC about administering your survey. TY!



Fall Career Exploration Events

October 7 & 8: 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. Doubled the number of students served this year!

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 19, 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!!

College and Career Pathways

High School Events

- Workshops targeted to 10th and 11th graders (but open to 9th, 12th graders).
 - Landmark College: **Tuesday March 17**, 9:15am-1:45pm
 - Saint Michael's College: **Thursday, Mar 19**, 9:15am-1:45pm
 - VTSU Lyndon: **Monday, Apr 6**, 9am-1:30pm in partnership with the NEK College Fair
 - VTSU Castleton: **Wednesday, Apr 8**, 9am-1:50pm in partnership with the Rutland Area Guidance Counselors' College Fair
 - collegepathways@vsac.org

Family Event

- Saturday, Mar 14, 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 8, 2025:

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

Essential Math for College & Careers

- Entering 7th year of implementation.
- Designed for high school Juniors and Seniors.
- Data shows positive outcomes:
 - 70% of students reported feeling better about math.
 - 66% of students reported improved confidence in their math ability.
 - 70% of students reported improved math skills
- Now available for **free** on Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative (VTVLC).
- Currently seeking schools to teach this course in AY 26-27.

www.vsac.org/emc2



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 3,500 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

Consultation with high schools over 4 years that focuses on the development of equitable post-high school planning systems. Including:

- 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.

2025–2026:

- Currently working with Harwood Union School, Missisquoi Union School, Brattleboro Union High School, and Oxbow Union 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 25-26, 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
- Twin Valley 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.vsac.org/plan/adult-learners



Pop Quiz!!



Questions

Thank you!



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