

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



Dear Students and Parents:

As many Vermonters know, education and training after high school is now vital for those seeking a good-paying job and rewarding career. For most Vermonters, access to financial aid is essential to completing the education programs that will help them reach their career and life goals.

VSAC has published this guide with you in mind. This is an essential workbook that will familiarize you with the types of financial aid available, the applications you need to complete, and tools to keep you on schedule and in control of the process.

There are resource links to help you estimate how much your family will be expected to contribute and to compare college costs and financial aid offers. This guide also describes federal tax benefits

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin".



Paying for College:

for students attending college in 2024–2025

This booklet was produced by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, a nonprofit state agency established by the Vermont Legislature in 1965 to help Vermont students save, plan, and pay for education or training after high school.

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Access these VSAC resources and many more tools & resources

Grants & scholarships for Vermont resident at www.vsac.org/financialaid

- state grants for full-time and part-time degree programs
- state grants for non-degree courses to improve employability or to try a college class
- information on more than 100 scholarships

Education loans for students & parents at www.vsac.org/loans

- for out-of-state students attending Vermont colleges
- for Vermont residents attending eligible colleges in Vermont, across the U.S., or abroad

Financial aid applications & details online at www.vsac.org/applications

- FAFSA
- Vermont grant applications
- Unified Scholarship Application for all VSAC-assisted scholarships

Vermont's 529 college savings plan at www.vsac.org/529

- a Vermont state income tax credit
- federal and state tax-free earnings and withdrawals

Free career & education planning resources

- online tools for career exploration and planning
- college planning events to guide families through the college search, selection, and application process

Understanding the Investment in College

Even with higher tuition and other costs, a college degree is still a very good investment. Education beyond high school can mean:

- more job opportunities
- higher salaries and other financial benefits
- a sense of accomplishment and the satisfaction of personal growth

Still, for most Vermont families cost has become a primary factor in the college search—and one that should be considered long before receiving financial aid offers in the spring of senior year. Many families find that having applied to a particular college, they then had to eliminate that school based on cost, after having been admitted. Taking a few steps early on in your college search may help you avoid having to make a similarly difficult decision.

Step 1: Move the Money Conversation Up Front

Successful college financing involves finding that spot where good planning, parent expectations, and student expectations all intersect. Having conversations about money early on in the college search process will go a long way toward making decisions that will work for everyone involved. For tips on starting the conversation in your family, visit www.vvac.org/plan/paying-for-college/create-financial-plan.

Step 2: Don't Look at "Sticker Price." Research "Net Price" Instead.

When you're looking at schools, your first inclination may be to rule out schools with high tuition, but schools with high tuition often have large endowments that enable them to provide a lot of financial aid in grants and scholarships (types of financial aid that don't have to be paid back). This is why "sticker price" (the total yearly cost of a college—including tuition, books, room, board, and fees) may not accurately tell you whether your family can afford a particular school.

The "net price" will be more helpful. Net price starts with the sticker price and then **subtracts** the financial aid that families like yours might receive. Net price is a more accurate indication of what the student might actually be expected to pay to attend a school.

Every college website has its own net price calculator (NPC), where you can enter information about yourself to receive an estimate of what you might pay after taking grants and scholarships into account.

When looking at colleges, be sure to use each school's net price calculator as part of your search.

Why use net price calculators?

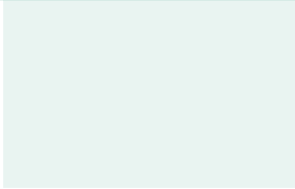
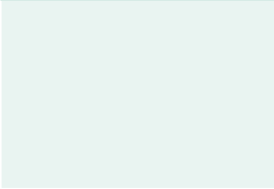
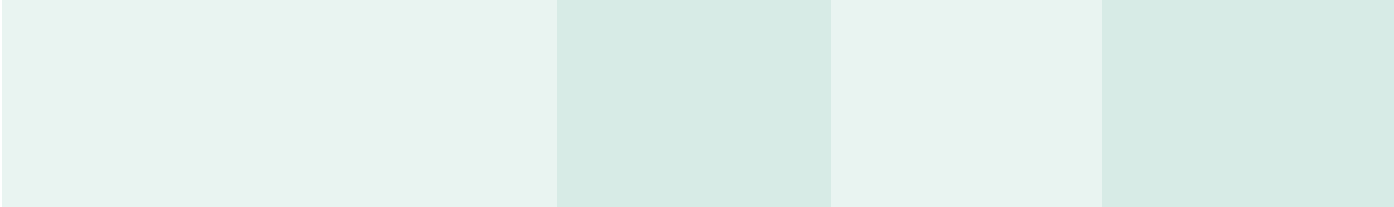
Net price calculators can help you find out what families like yours paid after taking grants and scholarships into account. This can help widen

How Do Families Pay for College?

How do families come up with the money necessary to pay college costs?

Families typically pay for college using a combination of:

- savings—perhaps a savings account intended for college (see page 23). Even small amounts can reduce the need for borrowing. High school isn't too late to start; in fact, parents, students, and grandparents or other relatives can contribute to college savings even while a child is in college.
- current income—often in the form of a tuition payment plan that





Loan Programs

Programs	Who is eligible to apply?	How much can be borrowed?	How are they repaid?	How are they applied for?
Federal Direct PLUS Loan (for parents of undergraduate students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Parent or stepparent* of dependent undergraduate students enrolled or accepted for enrollment at least half time in an eligible program. * If stepparent information is used to calculate expected family contribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Up to cost of education minus financial aid. € Fees are deducted from loan proceeds at time of disbursement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Credit approval required. € Repayment begins following final disbursement. May defer payment while dependent student is enrolled at least half time, and for six months following, upon request. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Follow school procedure to request a federal PLUS loan, and sign and submit a Federal Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note.
Federal Direct PLUS Loan (for graduate & professional students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Graduate and professional students enrolled or accepted for enrollment at least half time in eligible programs. € Must apply for maximum federal Direct unsubsidized loan first. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Up to cost of education minus financial aid. € Fees are deducted from loan proceeds at time of disbursement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Credit approval required. € Repayment begins following final disbursement. May defer payment while enrolled at least half time and for six months following. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Follow school procedure to request a federal PLUS loan, and sign and submit a Federal Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note.

How Do We Apply for Financial Aid?

The most important fact to remember about financial aid is that it is available as a supplement to assist students who would not be able to continue their education without help. The primary responsibility for paying for college lies with the family. Before financial aid is considered, the ability of the parent(s) and the student to pay college costs is evaluated.

Financial aid is available from:

- the federal government
- state government,,Vermont grants and scholarships through VSAC
- your college
- private programs,,usually sponsored by special-interest groups, local businesses, or religious organizations

Since circumstances differ from household to household and since many factors are considered when offering financial aid, some families will be eligible for more need-based aid than other families. In addition, some colleges will provide more need-based aid than others. Some families will not qualify for need-based aid, due to their financial situation.

Step 1: Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The FAFSA is the application for federal financial aid. It's used to determine eligibility for federal grants, work...study programs, and education loans. In addition, schools and VSAC require the FAFSA to determine eligibility for their own aid.

To submit the FAFSA online, you'll first need to set up an account with Federal Student Aid (FSA). At <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch> you can create an FSA ID that has a user name and a password.

Your FSA ID confirms your identity when you access your financial aid information and electronically submit FSA documents. It will also:

- enable you to log into all FSA borrower websites (for example, studentloans.gov, where students can receive loan counseling).
- serve as your electronic signature
- enable you to make online corrections and additions to the FAFSA
- provide you with access to prefilled online forms in future years

Building a financial aid package for college involves applying for multiple kinds of aid from multiple sources. Very few students will be able to pay for college entirely through financial aid. Aid is meant as a way to supplement college expenses. Students should plan on applying for grants, scholarships, and education loans in order to create a package that will adequately cover college costs.



Watch now.

If you're a dependent student, and only the ID "owner" should use their ID. In other words, parents should not use their student's ID; nor should students use their parent's ID.

Once you have your FSA ID, go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov>, log on, and begin the FAFSA.

Note: \$W WKH WLPH \RX DSSO\ WKHUH PD\ EH WZR)\$)
RQH IRU WKH FXUUHQW VFKRRO \HDU DQG RQH IRU
\HDU %H VXUH WR ILOO RXW WKH FRUUHFW IRUP



Step 2: Complete a Vermont grant application.

The Vermont grant, administered by VSAC, is for any Vermont resident obtaining his or her first bachelor's degree and enrolled full time or part time in a degree program (or for someone enrolled as a medical student in the M.D. program at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont or in any doctor of veterinary program). VSAC-assisted scholarships that consider financial need often also require that you complete a Vermont grant application.

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@SWKH D VXUEDÀ€@P0p 0•Àðð0 €p0p°€0`PP€`p0•P

Q&A

When are financial aid applications due?

Deadlines vary by college and by provider (you can find financial aid deadlines on each college website). Make sure you keep track of dates. Our checklist at www.vsac.org/financialaidchecklist will help.

Which year's income is used to determine how much my family will be expected to contribute?

Income from two years prior to the year of application. For example, 2021 income will be considered for the 2022-2023 college year.

If you're attending college . . .		then submit the FAFSA . . .	using tax info from . . .
- X O \	- X Q H	2 F W	- X Q H
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022		' H F 2021- June 30, 2023	2021

Most undergraduate students will be considered dependent students for the purposes of financial aid, meaning that both your income and your parent's income will be considered. However, there are situations in which parent income is not needed.

Must I be accepted for admission before I apply for financial aid?

No. You can apply for financial aid when you apply for admission, but in order to receive financial aid you must be an admitted student.

My family saved enough to pay for my first year of college. Should I still apply for aid?

Yes, because you still may be eligible for financial aid. Contact VSAC and your college to find out what kinds of aid may be available for future years.

To see whether or not you're a dependent student, go to <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency>.

Will I have to fill out the FAFSA every year?

Yes, but it'll be much easier after the first year; after entering the FSA ID you created the first year, some of your data from the previous year will appear on the new form. You can revise the information for the new college year and submit the update online.

Do we need to report home value and debt?

You do not have to report your home value on the FAFSA; however, VSAC may require this information for Vermont grant applications, and your school may ask for it as well.

What if we don't know how much our home is worth?

It's worth the current market value, or the amount it could be sold for today. Make the best estimate you can, based on the current market value of similar houses in your area that have recently been sold.

How Is Our Eligibility Determined?

We've Applied for Financial Aid. Now What?

What Should We Look for in

Starting in February of your senior year in high school, you'll begin to receive financial aid offers from the colleges you've been accepted to (see examples on pages 14...15). Each college will contact you with details regarding its individual offer, which is tailored to your family's particular circumstances.

Compare the various aid packages carefully to determine the one that best meets your needs. Make sure you understand all of the obligations associated with each type of offer. Contact the school or VSAC if you have questions or need clarification.

What to Look For

On the following two pages are sample financial aid offers. They may look different each year. Some schools will send your offer through the mail, while others will provide it online; therefore, not all offers will look exactly like the ones shown. Take your time to review all of your offers, as they're likely to list different combinations of grants and loans.

Look at the final amount you'll have to pay. Most families don't have this amount readily available, so they meet it through tuition payment plans, additional loans for students, or loans for parents.

How to Accept

When you receive your financial aid offer, start by accepting the grants and scholarships you're eligible for, and be sure you understand any conditions and/or requirements for receiving these funds. Then accept the loans with the most comfortable terms, starting with the federal Direct subsidized (if offered) and unsubsidized loans (see pages 16...17).

If you're offered work...study, you won't receive that money up front; you'll have to earn it by working during the school year. Accept this part of the offer if you want to work while you're attending college.

Some colleges offer other loans, which you can decline if the terms aren't favorable. Contact the financial aid office to find out exactly what the terms are and compare them with other financing, such as VSAC loans for students and for parents.

By the Way

- Obtain a breakdown of tuition, room, board, and fees; also ask for estimates for travel, books, and personal expenses for one year of college.
- Know the actual amount (cost of attendance minus financial aid) you'll have to pay for one year of college. Use this amount to estimate your costs for all four years.
- Determine the amount of financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (grants and scholarships).
- Find out whether grants and scholarships will be renewed each year, and know the steps you need to take for renewal.
- Know the amount of work...study you've been offered and the conditions under which you'll have to fulfill work...study obligations.
- Identify the student loans for which you're eligible.
- Research and compare the loans that parents can use to cover education costs (see pages 16...18).
- Know the interest rates, terms, €

Your college may require that you accept or decline your offers. Read all instructions carefully. You may be able to accept some parts of the package by the college deadline and decide later about loan options.

What about a federal PLUS loan?

Some colleges will include a PLUS loan in the financial aid offer; others may not. PLUS loans are federal education loans for parents of dependent students. Each PLUS loan is in one parent's name. The parent, not the student, is obligated for repayment.

If a PLUS loan does appear in your offer, you can choose to take less or you can decline it completely. If it isn't included, you still may be eligible at any time during the year.

Parents, pause before accepting PLUS so you can compare other loan options. Education loans are not created equal, and loans from nonprofit state agencies such as VSAC may offer families better rates than the federal PLUS loan. For help, visit www.vsac.org/compare.

SAMPLE
College Financial Aid Offer
20 ; :-20 ; ; Academic Year

Terry Cloth
Any Old Road
Hometown, VT 05555

111-11-1111
March 15, 20 ; ;

Dear Terry:

We are pleased to offer you the financial aid indicated below. Please accept or decline each offer by circling the A or D after each offer. Please sign, date, and return this notification by May 1.

College grant	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	A	D
Federal Pell grant	1,922	1,923	3,845	A	D
Federal Supp. Ed. Opportunity grant	500	500	1,000	A	D
Federal Work-Study	750	750	1,500	A	D
Estimated Vermont grant	1,400	1,400	2,800	A	D
Estimated Federal Direct Subsidized loan	1,750	1,750	3,500	A	D
Estimated Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan	1,000	1,000	2,000	A	D
Estimated Federal Direct PLUS loan	4,857	4,857	9,714	A	D
	<u>\$12,679</u>	<u>\$12,680</u>	<u>\$25,359</u>		

I have read the enclosed information, and I accept this financial aid package as indicated above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

There may be more favorable loan options available to you. Be sure to research and compare rates and terms.

Financial aid offers may need to be signed and dated by the applicant and returned by a certain deadline. Follow all instructions!

Don't say "YES" to any college until you compare the complete offer with the cost of attendance. Include estimated out-of-pocket expenses (travel, books, personal items), as well as costs for tuition, fees, room, and meal plans.

Your offer may consist of grant, loan, and work-study funds. Read the fine print on the offers and on additional forms that are included! Identify the funds that are gifts and the funds you'll be expected to repay.

How Do We Know Which Loans to Choose?



Some schools will include a PLUS loan in a student's financial aid offer; others won't. Parents, it's your choice whether or not to borrow some or all of the amount offered. Federal PLUS loans have flexible repayment options, such as deferment during periods of hardship, but PLUS loans, unlike federal Direct loans for students, may have higher interest rates than available alternatives.

If, as a parent, you're denied a PLUS loan, your student may receive an additional amount of up to \$5,000 in unsubsidized federal Direct loans for students. If, as a parent, you're denied a PLUS loan, your student may receive an additional amount of up to \$5,000 in unsubsidized federal Direct loans for students.

How Can We

At all stages of the college search and decision process, there are ways that students and families can minimize education debt.



As we noted on page 2, there are two prices for every college degree: the sticker price and the net price. The sticker price is the figure that most schools list in their brochures and on their websites. The net price is that very same number after subtracting scholarships and grants.

Whether you're beginning to build your college list or narrowing down a list you've already made, don't make the mistake of ruling out schools with a high sticker price. Instead, go to [CollegeBoard's Net Price Calculator](#) to research the net price of schools on your list. This will help you make more accurate judgements about schools that may be affordable.



Explore tuition payment

plans; by spreading payments out over the course of the academic year, you may be able to minimize what you need to borrow.

How much can both student and parent economize? Where might you both be able to cut expenses during the college years?

In planning ahead, try to estimate the full cost of attendance for the number of years you'll be in school. Once you have an idea of the total you'll need to borrow, these online tools can help you estimate monthly payments so you can keep your borrowing to a manageable level.

„students and parents can estimate the amount of education debt they can reasonably afford. Ideally, student loan payments should consume no more than 10...15% of a new graduate's starting income.

„students can estimate what they might be able to afford to borrow based on expected future earnings, and learn about the salaries they may need to earn in order to afford their loan payments.



Loans are serious, long-term commitments, and students are obligated to pay back both the principal and interest even if you don't finish school or feel you are using your degree.

Student loans appear on your credit report, and failure to pay on time will have an impact on your ability to borrow money in the future.

Students, spend some time at [Student Loan Hero](#) to learn the basics of education loans and [Student Loan Hero](#) to learn about the ways that capitalization will affect your loans.



It's tempting, and easy in the short term, to borrow the loan you're offered or to borrow the maximum you're allowed to borrow each year, but don't think of loans as free money; you'll need to plan to repay every dollar you borrow, with interest.

This can save you money on payments that may be with you for 10 or 15 years.

A lower interest rate is generally a good thing, but how much does it matter in real dollars, in both the amount you'll pay per month and the total over the entire term of your loan?

You may be surprised. Here are examples that show the different amounts you could expect to pay, based on three possible rates.



	Monthly payment	+	Interest paid over 15 years	=	Total
8%	\$120	+	\$6,402	=	\$7,000
9%	\$137	+	\$9,370	=	\$10,000
10%	\$156	+	\$12,412	=	\$13,000

* If you borrow \$10,000 at 8% interest, you'll pay \$7,000 over 15 years. At 9%, you'll pay \$10,000. At 10%, you'll pay \$13,000.



Aside from borrowing as little as possible and finding the best loan terms you can find, the best way to keep student debt from growing is to try to pay the interest on loans while the student is in school.

On Direct unsubsidized student loans, the interest accumulates even while a student is enrolled in school. This is also true of most education loans, except for federal Direct subsidized loans.

If you don't pay any interest on your education loans while enrolled in school, your interest will capitalize. It will be added to your loan balance once you enter repayment, which will significantly increase your balance. Future interest calculations will be based on this new (and larger) loan balance, which will mean higher interest charges over the repayment period of your loan.



What about Scholarships?

Scholarships are worth applying for, mainly because they're gifts of money that do not need to be repaid. They're provided by any group, any individual, or any organization that wants to offer financial support to students who want to further their education or training.

Students who apply for scholarships must meet specific eligibility requirements and must compete against others who meet these requirements. Even though you'll be competing against other students who apply, don't count yourself out for scholarships!

First of all, even if a scholarship is based on academic achievement, you may not have to be the best student in your class; you simply need to be the best student applying for that scholarship. Likewise, if a scholarship is based on financial need, your need will be compared only to the need of other applicants within that scholarship pool.

Second, scholarships are offered for all sorts of reasons, not just athletics and academics. For example, there are Vermont scholarships for:

-

What Other Resources Should We Consider?


College Investment and Prepaid Tuition Plans

Every state offers at least one of two types of tuition plans—investment plans and prepaid plans. Both programs are known as 529 plans because they are described in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. Both offer attractive federal tax benefits for people who want to save for college. Contributions to 529 plans come from after-tax money, and withdrawals for allowable qualified higher education expenses are exempt from federal income taxes.

97 is Vermont's official 529 plan. As such, it's the only 529 plan that qualifies not only for a Vermont income tax credit on contributions, but also for a Vermont income tax exemption on earnings when withdrawals are used for qualified higher education expenses.

For additional information, call 800-637-5860 or visit www.vt.edu **VD.Fg** **VD.YH**

Savings and investment plans for education expenses

 www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf.

PLAN	SAVINGS AND TAX TREATMENT	RESTRICTIONS
Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan Vermont's 529 program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Annual state income tax credit of up to \$250 per taxpayer/per beneficiary (up to \$500 if married, filing jointly). € Contributions are not tax-deductible, but earnings are tax-deferred. € Withdrawals are tax-free if used for qualified higher education expenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Cannot claim American Opportunity tax credit or lifetime learning credit for same expenses for which a 529 program distribution was used. € State tax benefits are not available for contributions later used to pay for private K...12 school tuition.
Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Contributions of up to \$2,000 per year per child are allowed. € Contributions are not tax-deductible, but earnings are tax-deferred. € Withdrawals are tax-free if used for qualified education expenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Cannot claim American Opportunity tax credit or lifetime learning credit, or tuition and fees deduction, for same expenses for which an ESA distribution was used. € For guidelines, see IRS Publication 970 (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf).

Tax incentives for higher education

INCENTIVE	SAVINGS AND TAX TREATMENT	RESTRICTIONS
American Opportunity credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax credit of up to \$2,500 per student for first four years of college. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally not available to higher middle-income families. Form 1098-T required. • For details, see www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf.
Lifetime learning credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax credit of up to \$2,000 per family for an unlimited number of years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally not available to higher middle-income families. Form 1098-T required. • For details, see www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf.
Education loan interest deduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax deduction up to \$2,500 for interest paid on student or parent education loans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally not available to higher middle-income families. • For details, see www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf.
Education Savings Bond Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest on certain savings bonds may be tax-free if bond is used to pay education expenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally not available to higher middle-income families. • For details, see www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf.

IRA investments that can be used for education expenses



IRA	TAX TREATMENT	RESTRICTIONS
Traditional IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawals for qualified higher education expenses are allowed without 10% penalty, but are taxed as ordinary income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For guidelines, see IRS publications 590 A & B (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p590a.pdf www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p590b.pdf).
Roth IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawals for qualified higher education expenses are allowed without 10% penalty, but earnings are taxed as ordinary income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For guidelines, see IRS publications 590 A & B (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p590a.pdf www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p590b.pdf).

Important Financial Aid Questions

What should we do if we expect our income to decrease?

You should let the college financial aid office and the VSAC Grant Program know that your income will be lower. They may be able to review your eligibility using the lower income.

I have to make a deposit at the school, but I haven't received a financial aid offer yet. What can I do?

If you haven't yet heard about your financial aid and your decision depends on the offer, call the college admissions office to request an extension on your deposit deadline.

I'm a dependent student and my parents are divorced/separated.

Which parent should complete the financial aid application(s)?

, Q GLYRUFH VLWXDWLRQV WKH SDUHQW FRQWULEXWRU RQ WKH VWXGHQW
LV WKH SDUHQW WKDW SURYLGHV WKH PRVW ILQDQFLDO VXSSRUW IRU WKH
VWXGHQW HYHQ LI WKH VWXGHQW GRHV QRW OLYH ZLWK WKHP , I WKDW S
LV UHPDUULHG WKH VWHSSDUHQW V LQIRUPDWLRQ LV UHSRUWHG RQ WKH
WKH

Questions for the Final

Financial Aid Timetable

Summer before senior year

Explore college net price calculators at <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov> to help you finalize your college list.

September

Print out our checklist at www.vvac.org/naidchecklist to keep you on track through the application process.

Gather financial information for financial aid applications.

Check college websites to find out if you need to submit the CSS Profile® or other applications.

Check college websites for financial aid application deadlines.

Need help? Check out the VSAC events in your area or online and plan to attend. Visit www.vvac.org/events for a calendar of events.

October

Go to www.vvac.org/grants to apply for a Vermont grant.

Pick up a VSAC scholarships booklet at your school and begin identifying and applying for scholarships that you're eligible for.

November

Submit the FAFSA at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>

February

Watch for confirmations from colleges, VSAC, and FAFSA, along with requests for further information.

The national deadline for VSAC-assisted scholarships is February 1, 2021.

Submit your Unified Scholarship Application (USA) and supporting documents at www.vvac.org/scholarships before midnight.

Keep looking for scholarships.

Visit www.vvac.org/resources for VSAC's guide to education loans, a must-read for any student planning to borrow to pay for college or training. To receive a printed copy in the mail, order one at <https://publications.vvac.org>.

March–April

Watch for Vermont grant information.

Watch for financial aid offers from colleges.

Look for decisions regarding VSAC-assisted scholarships.

Use VSAC's spreadsheet tool at www.vvac.org/compareoffers to compare college costs and financial aid offers.

May

May 1: College decisions (and deposit) usually due.

Compare loan options at www.vvac.org/loans.

Use this timetable to re-apply for financial aid each year you're in college.

For a more detailed month-by-month planning checklist that covers the admissions and financial aid process, go to www.vvac.org/senioryear.

VSAC can help you pay for college.

VSAC, a Vermont nonprofit, has been helping Vermont students of all ages save, plan, and pay for college or training since 1965. We're committed to helping families make informed decisions about paying for college.

- € [Free financial aid presentations](#) at schools and other locations
- € [State grants](#) for Vermont residents in undergraduate full- or part-time study and those taking non-degree courses or training to improve employability
- € [Scholarships](#) for Vermont residents, more than 100 available
- € [VSAC student and parent loans](#) for Vermont residents attending college in Vermont, across the U.S., or abroad, and for out-of-state students attending Vermont colleges. Compare our rates with the federal PLUS.
- € [Online applications at vsac.org](#) that save you time and reduce errors, FAFSA, Vermont grant, VSAC-assisted scholarships, and CSS Profile®
- € [Financial aid videos, tips, and resources](#) at vsac.org/resources

Contact us

ONLINE: vsac.org
CALL: 800-642-3177
E-MAIL: info@vsac.org
VISIT US: VSAC Resource Center
10 East Allen Street
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Vermont Student Assistance Corporation 10 East Allen Street PO Box 2000 Winooski, VT 05404

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