



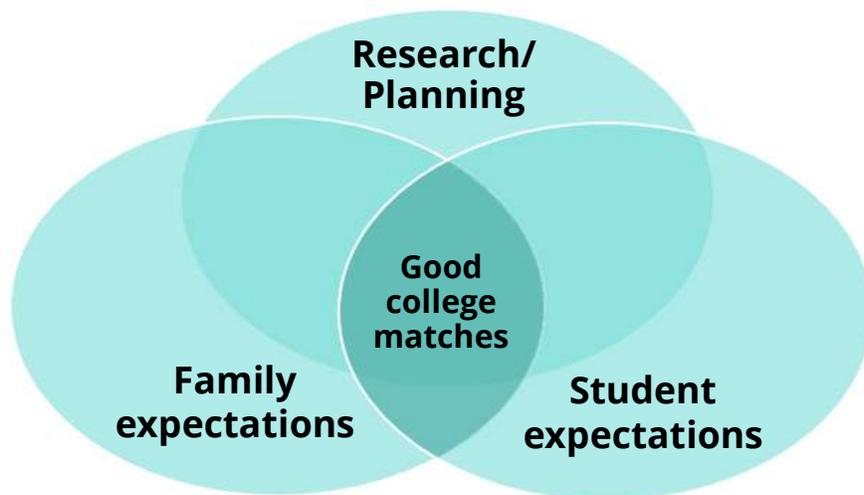
# Financial Aid & Managing College Costs

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation | Fall 2023

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## Communication = success

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## Advertised college price

	One year	All years
Most expensive college	\$82,300	\$329,200
University of VT	\$36,000	\$144,000
Vermont State University	\$27,900	\$111,600
Community College of VT	\$13,800	\$27,600 (2 years)
Vermont trade school	\$35,000	\$35,000 (6 months)



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## Net price



**(minus) —** **Cost of attendance**  
**Gift aid you receive**  
(grants & scholarships)

**(equals) =** **What you need to pay**



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## Average net price

	Cost —1 yr full-time	Net price
Most expensive college	\$82,300	\$27,700
University of VT	\$36,000	\$21,800
Vermont State University	\$27,900	\$16,800
Community College of VT	\$13,800	\$11,100
Vermont trade school	\$35,000	\$19,800



## College Scorecard



## Your role



The family has the primary responsibility to pay for higher education.

Financial aid is meant to *assist* families with paying for college.

- Parents
- Students

## Types of financial aid



## Financial applications to submit

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Vermont grant application
- College financial aid forms
  - CSS Profile
- Scholarship applications
- Loan applications



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## Changes Afoot!

### Beginning for aid applicants - 2024-2025 Academic Year

- **FAFSA** Simplification
  - Fewer questions online
  - Direct transfer of information from IRS to FAFSA.
- Goodbye **EFC**, hello **SAI**
  - New calculation for determining student financial need
- Roles-based form, enter as Parent or Student
- Who is a **Contributor** on the FAFSA? Parent Wizard available on FAFSA.
- **More information still to come – stay connected with VSAC for more information!**



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## How & when to apply

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### File your FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- **Required.**
- Available in December, 2023.
- Use 2024–2025 version (the year student will attend college).
- Check college deadlines.
- Up to 20 colleges can be listed to receive FAFSA information.



## Determining financial need

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### What is the Student Aid Index (SAI) and how is it determined?

**The SAI is the starting point from which financial aid will be determined.**

- Income
- Family size
- Federal Poverty Level for a given year: for 2024-2025 financial aid, 2022 tax figures will be used
- Assets
- Age of older parent for dependent students



## No FAFSA until December?

### What to do in the meantime

- **Create an FSA ID – student and parent**
- **Check deadlines –**
  - CSS Profile for Early Decision?
  - Other college financial aid forms?
- **Apply for Vermont Grant**
- **Research and apply for VSAC-Assisted Scholarships**



## How & when to apply — FSA ID

- Every student applying for federal aid must create an **FSA ID/account**. At least one parent of any dependent student must also create their own **FSA ID/account**.
- Takes time to set up:  
More security = more questions.
- Will also set up Two-Factor Verification to access Federal Aid account information.
- Use non-school email address
- Must be verified in advance of FAFSA.



## How & when to apply

### File your Vermont grant application

- Open to all Vermont residents in October, 2023.
- Use 2024–2025 version (the year student will attend college).
- Required for Vermont grant aid.
- Apply early, check status online, and complete “To Do” list.
- Can fill out forms online, upload documents.
- **Students must create MyVSAC account before applying.**



Take the  
Vermont grant  
with you —  
to in-state &  
out-of-state  
colleges



## Maximizing financial aid



- Do well in school.
- Challenge yourself.
- Increase school and community involvement.
- Communicate special circumstances to financial aid offices and VSAC.
- Research scholarships.
- **Apply** for scholarships.



## Ways to reduce costs

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- Look farther (in state, other states, Canada).
- Dual enrollment
- Early college
- Advanced Placement
- NEBHE
- Start at a school that costs less, then transfer.
- Consider attending local and commuting.
- Consider service.



## Ways to pay

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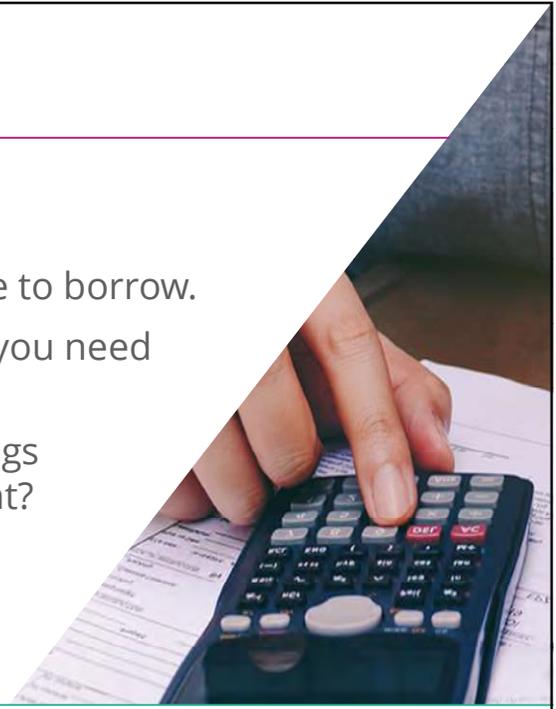
Past income	Present income	Future income
-------------	----------------	---------------

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Savings</li><li>• College savings plan</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Payment plans</li><li>• Tax credits</li><li>• Scholarships</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent PLUS loan</li><li>• Additional student loans</li><li>• Private loans</li><li>• Other borrowing options</li></ul> |
|--|--|---|

## Ways to pay

### Savings

- The more you save, the less you have to borrow.
- What can you add to savings before you need to borrow for college?
- How much can students add to savings through gifts or summer employment?



## Ways to pay

### Federal loans for Dependent students

	Annual eligibility	Cumulative borrowed
Freshman 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

## Student loan options

Federal or non-federal	Available from	Loan type	Interest rate 2023-2024	Accept or compare?
Federal	Your college	<a href="#">Direct loans for students</a>	<b>5.50%*</b>	Accept these first.
Non-federal	VSAC	<a href="#">VSAC Student Loans</a> — fixed rate	<b>4.70%–8.16%</b> APR	Compare these loans.
Non-federal	Nonprofit organizations, banks, credit unions, other private lenders	Alternate loans (often called private loans)	Varies by lender (variable and fixed).	Compare these loans.

\* Each year on July 1, the U.S. Department of Education sets a new rate.



## Parent loan options

Federal or non-federal	Available from	Loan type	Interest rate 2023-2024	Accept or compare?
Federal	Your college	<a href="#">PLUS loan for parents</a>	<b>8.05%*</b>	Compare these loans.
Non-federal	VSAC	<a href="#">VSAC Parent Loans</a> — fixed rate	<b>4.70%–8.49%</b> APR	Compare these loans.
Non-federal	Nonprofit organizations, banks, credit unions, other private lenders	Alternate loans (often called private loans)	Varies by lender (variable and fixed).	Compare these loans.

\* Each year on July 1, the U.S. Department of Education sets a new rate.



# Calculators

## Federal Student Aid Estimator

- SAI Calculator
- Federal Aid estimates

## Mappingyourfuture.org

- Student loan debt/salary wizard



# Next steps for junior year

- Online college searches.
- College Scorecard to gather net price information.
- College Net Price calculators for specific net price information
- Family discussions about choosing and paying.
- Research scholarships.
- Create a free, college and scholarship-appropriate email address.



## Next steps for senior year

- Research forms and deadlines required by colleges. Meet earliest deadline.
- Create Federal Aid accounts — [FSA ID](#), one for student and one (possibly 2) for parent(s).
- Create [MyVSAC](#) account for student.
- Gather family financial info to file applications.
- File the VT grant application and FAFSA.
- File VSAC's Unified Scholarship Application.
- Apply for other scholarships.

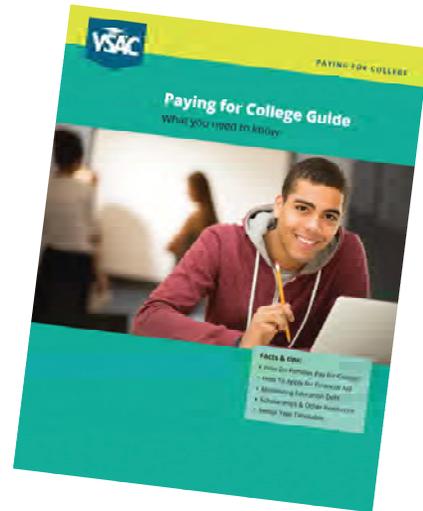


## vsac.org/pay-resources



## VSAC's paying for college guide

Available at  
[vsac.org/pay-resources](https://vsac.org/pay-resources)



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## Financial aid forms help

### Phone:

- FAFSA: 800-4FEDAID (800-433-3243)  
*Mon-Fri, 8:00 am-11:00 pm; Sat-Sun, 11:00 am-5:00 pm*
- FAFSA and VT grant: 833-802-8722  
*Mon-Fri, 8:00 am-4:30 pm*

### Online:

- FAFSA — chatbot assistance while filling out application
- VSAC Virtual and In-Person FSA ID and FAFSA Help – check [vsac.org/fafsa](https://vsac.org/fafsa) this fall for details.



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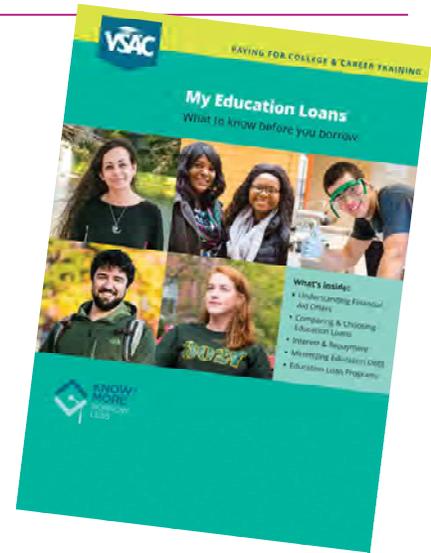
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## VSAC's education loan guide

*With expanded section on ways to minimize education debt*

Available at  
[vsac.org/pay-resources](https://vsac.org/pay-resources)

or order a printed copy by e-mailing  
[publications@vsac.org](mailto:publications@vsac.org)



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## Contact information

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