

Stay on track with VSAC

While you're waiting for the presentation to begin,

sign up for:

- important reminders, tips & deadlines
- free college planning resources
- info on grants, scholarships & loans
- links to online applications, and more

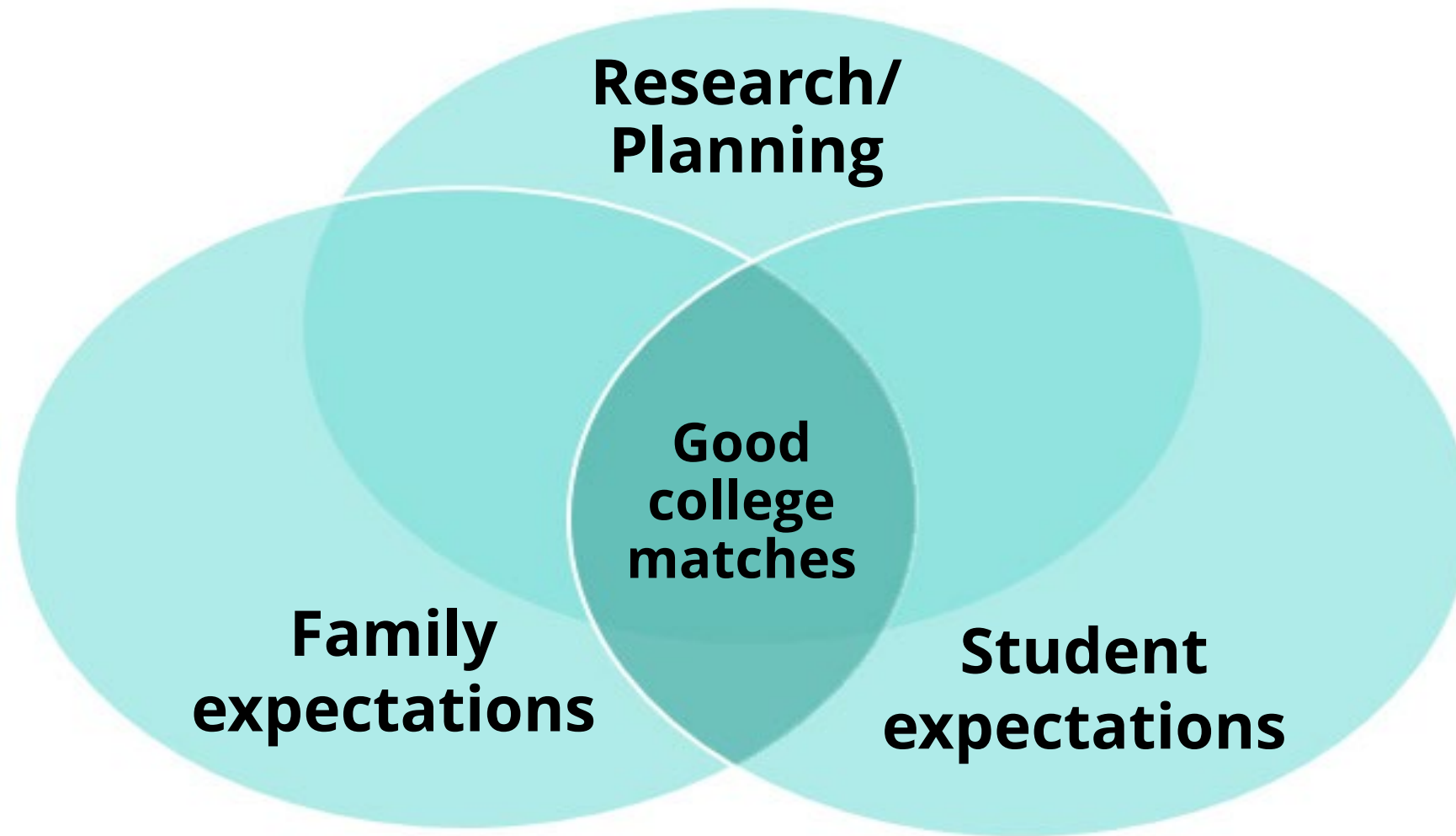
vsac.org/signup

A young man with dark hair, wearing a blue denim shirt and jeans, is sitting cross-legged on a concrete ledge. He is leaning against a tree trunk and looking down at a laptop computer resting on his lap. The background is a lush, green outdoor setting with trees and foliage, suggesting a campus or park environment. The lighting is bright and natural, indicating it is daytime.

Financial Aid & Managing College Costs

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation | Fall 2023

Communication = success



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)

Net price




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



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

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

 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
College Scorecard

[Home](#) [About the Data](#) [Search](#) [Compare:](#)  


FIND THE RIGHT FIT.

Search and compare colleges: their fields of study, costs, admissions, results, and more.

SEARCH SCHOOLS

SEARCH FIELDS OF STUDY

SHOW ME OPTIONS

 Type to search

CUSTOM SEARCH ▼

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



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!**

How & when to apply

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

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

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

- 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.



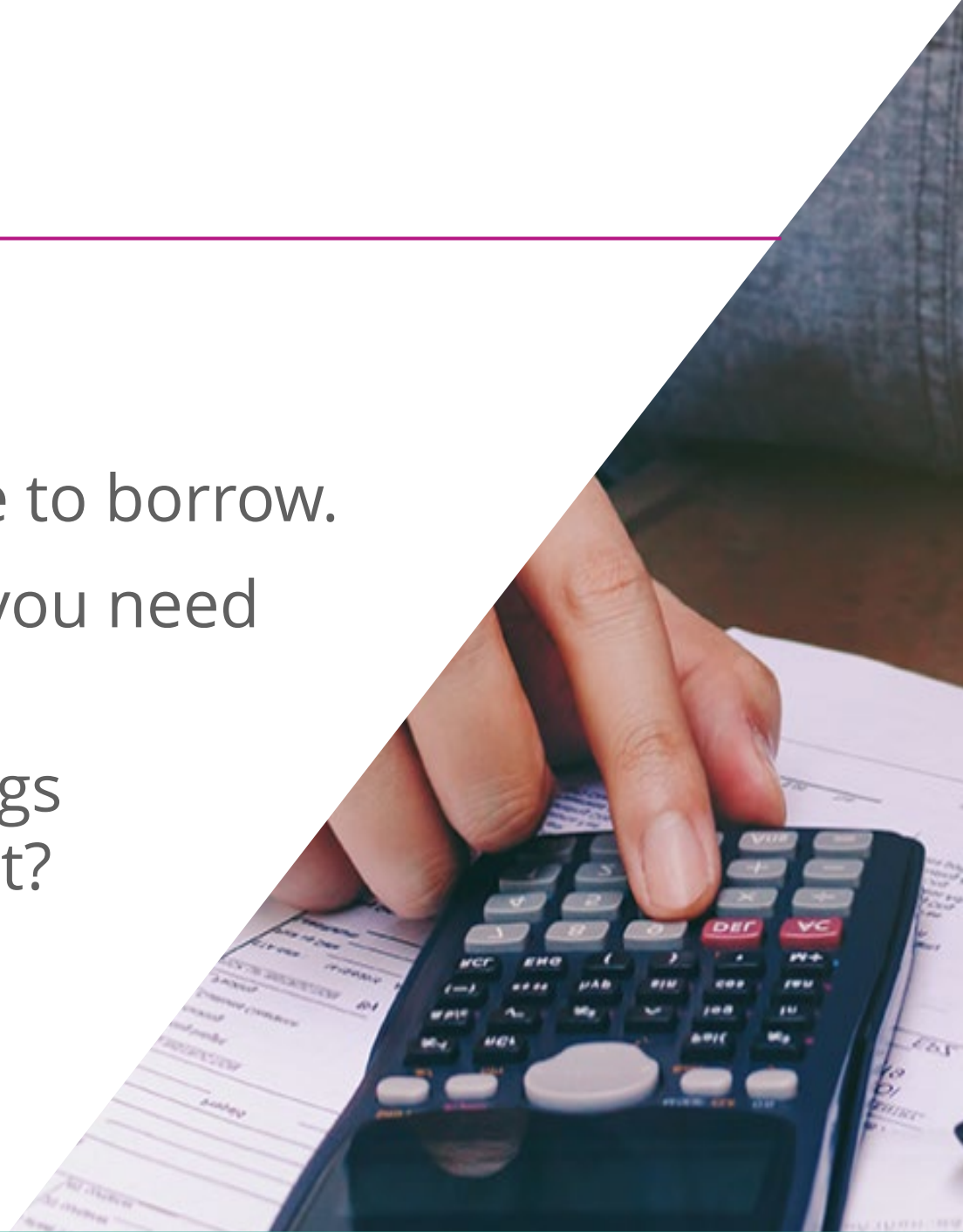
Ways to pay

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

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	Direct loans for students	5.50%*	Accept these first.
Non-federal	VSAC	VT Advantage Student —fixed rate	4.70%–8.16% 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	PLUS loan for parents	8.05%*	Compare these loans.
Non-federal	VSAC	VT Advantage Parent — fixed rate	4.70%–8.49% 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.



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING

Junior Year Planning Checklist

For Students & Parents

September

- ☐ **Review your courses and grades with a school counselor** to be sure you're on track for graduation and college admissions requirements. Are you taking challenging math and science, plus a foreign language?
 - Talk about work-based learning and job shadow opportunities.
 - Consider taking a dual enrollment course in the spring or enrolling in early college senior year.
- ☐ **Register for the October PSAT.** Top scorers of this SAT prep test may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Find free practice quizzes and videos at kaptest.com/study/psat.
- ☐ **Attend college fairs & career fairs.** The NEACAC (New England Association of College Admission Counseling) college fairs are this month. Go to neacac.org for the schedule and locations closest to you. Start developing a list of schools that interest you.

October

- ☐ **Take the PSAT this month,** even if you already took it last year (only junior-year scores are used for the National Merit Scholarship competition). Visit kaptest.com/study/psat for free practice quizzes and videos.
- ☐ **Visit colleges.** You don't need to go far. Vermont has 15+ schools you can visit just to get a feel for different college campuses. Choose a few and visit during school breaks or on a Saturday, or attend an Open House event.

November

- ☐ **Check in.** How is the year going so far? If you need help with study strategies, test-taking skills, or organization, talk to your teachers now so you won't fall behind.

For many families, planning for life after high school can seem overwhelming.




For more than 50 years, we've been helping students go to college. We're here to help you too.

This step-by-step checklist will help you know what to do and when to do it.

TOLL FREE
800-642-3177

ONLINE
vsac.org



EMAIL
info@vsac.org

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation 10 East Allen Street PO Box 2000 Winooski, VT 05404

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.



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE OR TRAINING

Senior Year Planning Checklist

For Students & Parents

For many families, planning for life after high school can seem overwhelming.

For more than 50 years, we've been helping students go to college. We're here to help you too.

This step-by-step checklist will help you know what to do and when to do it.

August

- ☐ **Research colleges & identify schools** or training programs you may want to consider. At vsac.org/compareprograms, download VSAC's comparison chart to start building a wish list of schools.
- ☐ **Explore college costs** at collegenavigator.gov once you've started your college list. Find info on tuition and fees, housing, admission, graduation rates, campus safety, and more.
- ☐ **Get a head start on your college admissions essay.** At commonapp.org, find essay prompts for the Common Application; and for essay-writing tips, visit vsac.org/essay.




September

- ☐ **Meet with your school counselor** to talk about your college options.
 - Review college admissions and financial aid applications.
 - Develop a résumé and talk about doing a job shadow.
- ☐ **Register for standardized tests** (SAT, ACT), if required, at collegeboard.org and act.org.
- ☐ **Attend college fairs & career fairs.** The NEACAC (New England Association of College Admission Counseling) college fairs are this month. At neacac.org you'll find a schedule so you can plan to attend the site closest to you.
- ☐ **Work on the Common Application** at commonapp.org. Add schools to your "My Colleges" list and review the supplements to identify additional info you may need to send.
- ☐ **Ask for recommendation letters.** For suggestions, visit vsac.org/recommendations.
- ☐ **Create a file folder** for each college you're applying to. Look at websites for virtual tours and chats.
- ☐ **Prepare for financial aid and FAFSA.** Financial aid is money that a student receives to help pay for college or career training, including grants and scholarships (that don't have to be paid back), work-study, and loans. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used by colleges, universities, and VSAC to provide financial aid. Learn about it at vsac.org/fafsa-first.
 - Gather documents to apply; for a list, visit fafsa.ed.gov/help/before003.htm.
 - Create FSA IDs at fsaid.ed.gov. The student and one parent will each need their own ID to sign the FAFSA electronically.
 - Print out our checklist at vsac.org/financialchecklist to keep you on track through the entire financial aid application process.
- ☐ **Know your deadlines for admissions and financial aid.** At college websites:
 - check whether you need to submit the CSS Profile or other financial aid applications.
 - identify financial aid application deadlines.

TOLL FREE
800-642-3177

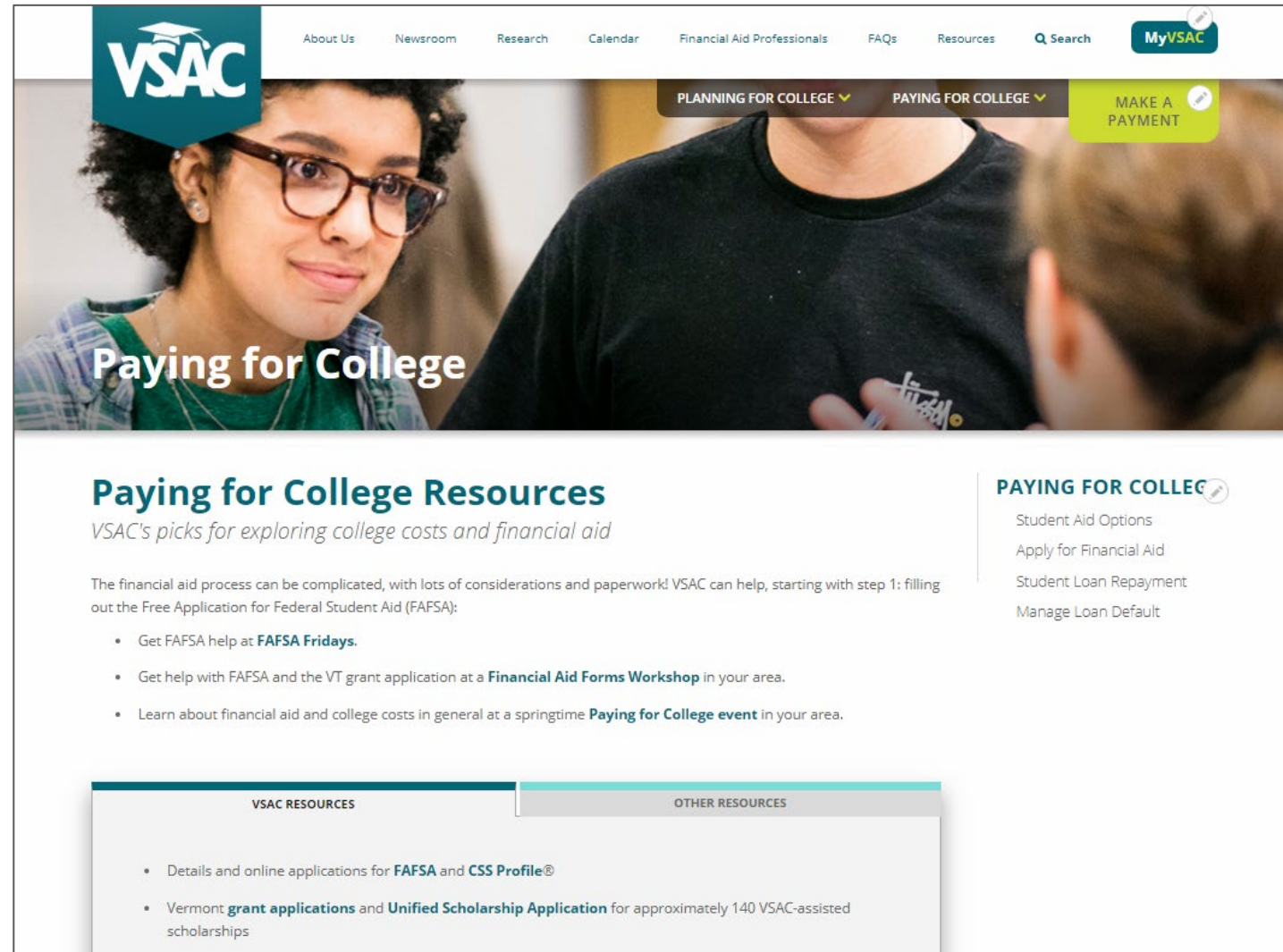
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vsac.org/pay-resources



The screenshot shows the VSAC website's 'Paying for College' resources page. The header includes the VSAC logo, navigation links (About Us, Newsroom, Research, Calendar, Financial Aid Professionals, FAQs, Resources), a search bar, and a 'MyVSAC' button. A secondary navigation bar features 'PLANNING FOR COLLEGE', 'PAYING FOR COLLEGE', and a 'MAKE A PAYMENT' button. The main content area has a large image of a student with the text 'Paying for College' overlaid. Below this is the section 'Paying for College Resources' with a subtitle 'VSAC's picks for exploring college costs and financial aid'. A paragraph explains that the financial aid process can be complicated and that VSAC can help, starting with step 1: filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). A bulleted list provides resources: FAFSA Fridays, Financial Aid Forms Workshops, and springtime Paying for College events. On the right, a sidebar titled 'PAYING FOR COLLEGE' lists links for Student Aid Options, Apply for Financial Aid, Student Loan Repayment, and Manage Loan Default. At the bottom, a 'VSAC RESOURCES' tab is active, showing details for FAFSA and CSS Profile applications, and Vermont grant applications and the Unified Scholarship Application.

VSAC

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

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE | PAYING FOR COLLEGE | MAKE A PAYMENT

Paying for College

Paying for College Resources

VSAC's picks for exploring college costs and financial aid

The financial aid process can be complicated, with lots of considerations and paperwork! VSAC can help, starting with step 1: filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

- Get FAFSA help at **FAFSA Fridays**.
- Get help with FAFSA and the VT grant application at a **Financial Aid Forms Workshop** in your area.
- Learn about financial aid and college costs in general at a springtime **Paying for College event** in your area.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

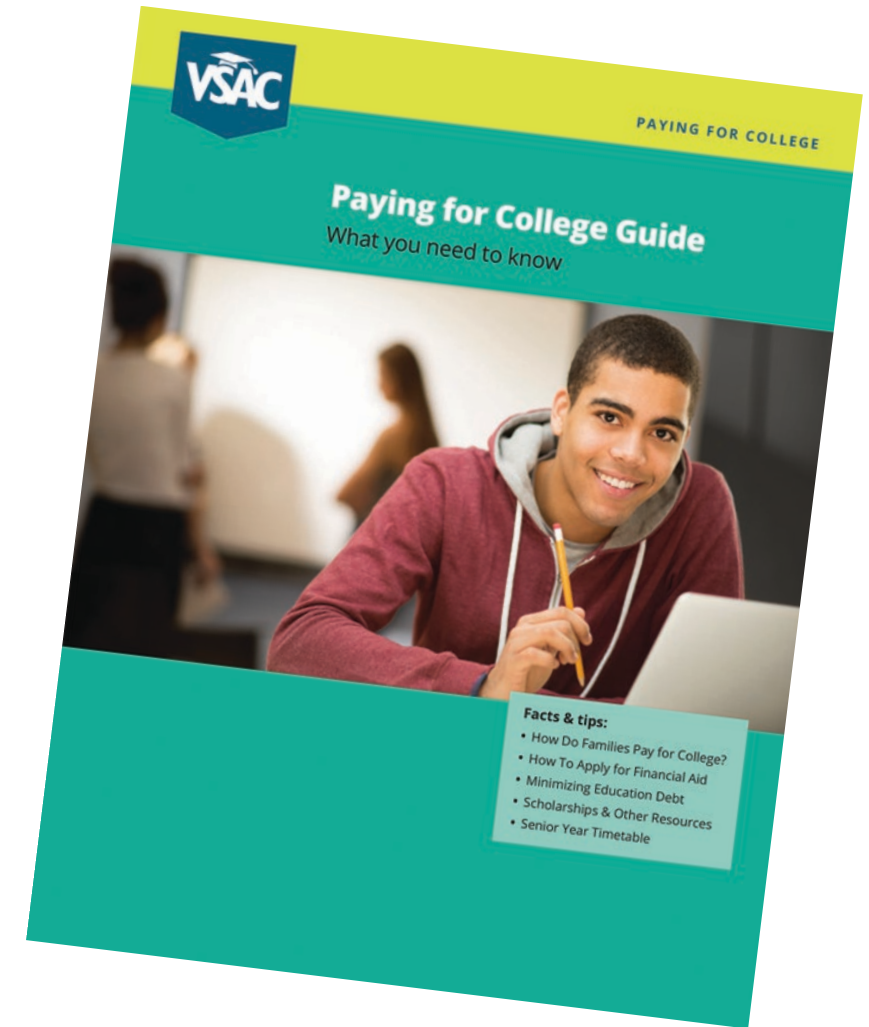
- Student Aid Options
- Apply for Financial Aid
- Student Loan Repayment
- Manage Loan Default

VSAC RESOURCES

- Details and online applications for **FAFSA** and **CSS Profile®**
- Vermont **grant applications** and **Unified Scholarship Application** for approximately 140 VSAC-assisted scholarships

VSAC's paying for college guide

Available at
vsac.org/pay-resources



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:

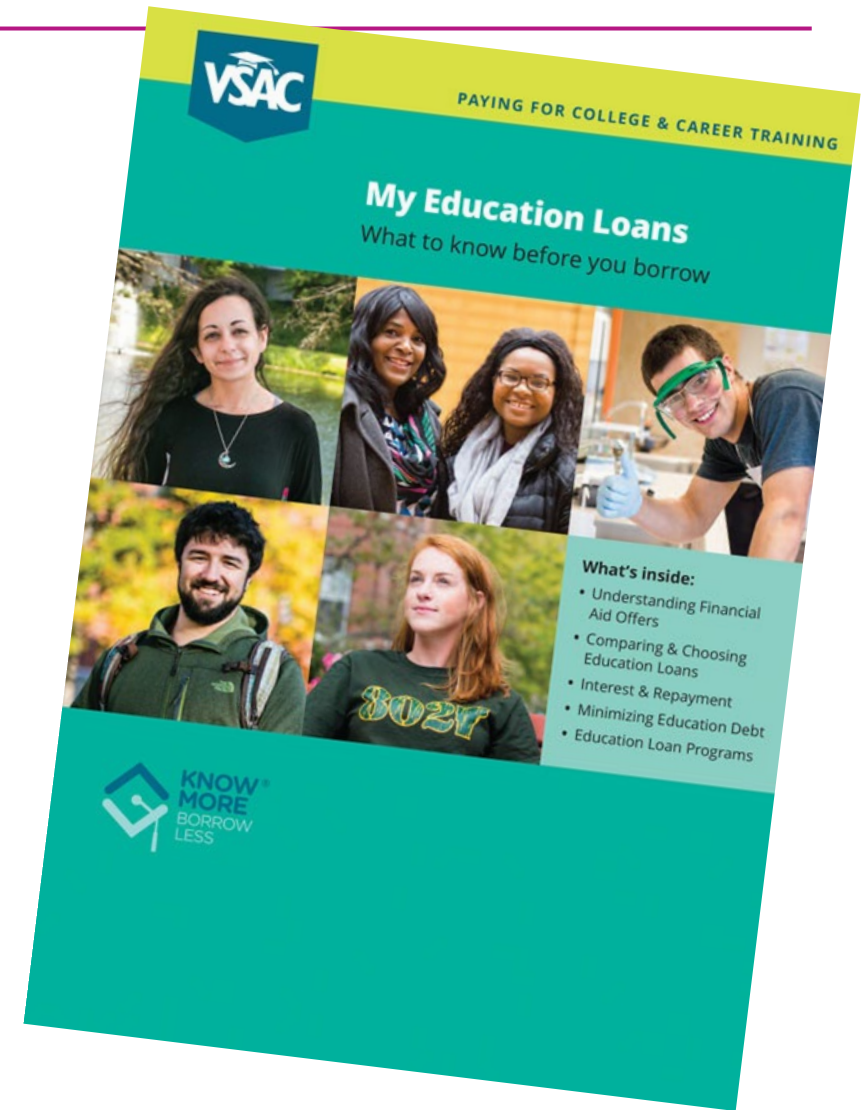
- FAFSA — chatbot assistance while filling out application
- VSAC Virtual and In-Person FSA ID and FAFSA Help – check vsac.org/fafsa this fall for details.
- VSAC Resource Center – Online and in-person FSA ID help (and FAFSA help after the FAFSA opens)

VSAC's education loan guide

With expanded section on ways to minimize education debt

Available at
vsac.org/pay-resources

or order a printed
copy by e-mailing
publications@vsac.org



Follow us

**Follow us for more great info, events,
resources, and information.**

facebook

[facebook.com/VermontStudent
AssistanceCorporation](https://facebook.com/VermontStudentAssistanceCorporation)



@VSAC



@802vsac



YouTube

Search for Vermont Student
Assistance Corporation

Get an FSA ID/Create Account

Note – you can do this on your phone, tablet or computer

- Go to <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- Or just search “create FSA ID” in your browser
- Click “Get Started”



Create an Account

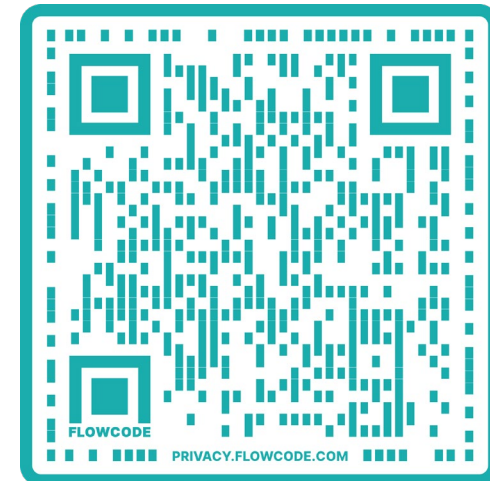
Whether you're a student, parent, or borrower, you'll need to create your own account to manage the student loan journey.

Get Started

Already have an account? [Log In](#)

What You Can Use Your Account For

- Filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form



Get an FSA ID

Enter your personal information

Your name must match what is on your social security card.

Create a Username and Password

- Your **password** cannot have any personally identifying info – name, SSN or DOB.
- If stumped, try things like a house number, last 4 digits of your phone or even jersey number.
- Keep track of this information, but if you forget there is always the “forgot password” option.

Create an Account (FSA ID)

Step 1 of 7

Personal Information

I understand that I'll be required to certify that the information I provide to create an account (FSA ID) is true and correct and that I'm the individual I claim to be.

If I'm not the person I claim to be, I understand that I'm not authorized to proceed that I should exit this form now. If I provide false or misleading information, I understand that I might be subject to a fine, prison time, or both.

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Date of Birth

Month	Day	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Social Security Number

Note: A user can only have one account associated with his or her Social Security number.

Get an FSA ID

Enter your contact information

- Enter your mailing address.
- You must use/have a unique email address – you cannot share an email address for multiple FSA IDs.
- You can also choose to use your mobile number, but you cannot share the same number between multiple FSA IDs.

Enter your language/communication preferences

Get an FSA ID

Create challenge questions and answers

- Questions are available from a drop-down menu.
- These answers will **not** be case-sensitive.
- Only will be used IF username or password are forgotten and cannot access email or phone

Update Challenge Questions

Challenge questions and answers are used to retrieve your username or password if you forget them and to unlock your account.

Note: Answers are not case sensitive.

Challenge Question 1

Question

 ?

Answer

 ?

Challenge Question 2

Question

 ?

Answer

 ?

Challenge Question 3

Question

 ?

Answer

 ?

Challenge Question 4

Question

Get an FSA ID

*Open your email/have your cell phone near you to **confirm email address/mobile number***

*Confirm your email address/mobile number by **entering secure code** sent to you by Federal Student Aid.*

Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾

Loans and Grants ▾

Log out ▾

Two-Step Verification



Enter Secure Code

Enter the secure code we sent in a text message to your mobile phone: *****0381

Enter the secure code below

[Resend code](#)

Having Trouble? [Try a different method.](#)

Submit

Get an FSA ID

- ***Complete sign up process –***
 - *You can add access to an authenticator app to confirm your identity, but **it is not required.***
 - ***Save your backup code.***
- ***You will receive an email from Federal Student Aid regarding the confirmation of your FSA ID.***

Get an FSA ID

- ***Not working? Need additional help?***
 - *Contact the Federal Student Aid Info Center at 800-433-3243*
 - *Sign up for help with VSAC staff at vsac.org/events.*
- *Use your **confirmed FSA ID** to enter and sign the **FAFSA** for 2024-2025 once it becomes available.*