



Our Director, Dr. Barry Simmons

Do you or your friends have difficulties with college expenses? Remember University Scholarships and Financial Aid (USFA) is here to help. We inform students and parents of the wide assortment of financial aid and assistance programs that can be applied towards college expenses. Our staff remains aware of the responsibility of the University's motto, Ut Prosim, "That I May serve", and strives to make the financial aid process as simplistic as possible. If you hear your roommate, classmate or a friend voicing concern about paying for college, please encourage them to visit our website. Although the financial aid process can be complex, we hope our web site will be a valuable tool in researching financial aid options. Visit www.finaid.vt.edu or email our office to make an appointment with a counselor at finaid@vt.edu.

University Scholarships and Financial Aid • 200 Student Services Building
(0222) Blacksburg, VA 24061 • 540/231-5179 • Fax 540/231-9139 • www.finaid.vt.edu

VT FAFSA Priority Deadline will be March 1st 2010

The 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available after January 1st 2010. Virginia Tech's priority deadline is March 1st. This is a change from previous years when the deadline was March 11th. The priority deadline allows students to be considered for the most financial aid. Please remember that if the student and/or parent tax returns are not completed, the **FAFSA can be filed with estimated income numbers** in order to meet the priority deadline. After the tax returns have been filed, the income numbers must be updated on the FAFSA.

December Graduates

Be aware that undergraduate's 2009 Direct Stafford loans for fall semester will be reduced if enrolled in less than 15 credits. This prorating of Stafford loans will only occur if you will not be enrolled during spring semester. Email with your questions: finaid@vt.edu

Graduation Date and the Hokie SPA

To ensure USFA has updated information, please take a moment to make sure your graduation date is listed correctly on the Hokie SPA. If the date needs to be updated, this can be completed on the Hokie SPA by entering the degree menu. Please contact the Registrar's Office with your questions registrar@vt.edu.

Direct Parent PLUS Loan Deferment

If your family is utilizing a Federal Direct Parent PLUS loan for the 2009-2010 academic year, you may be able to request a deferment of your loan payments. This means that during deferment, no loan payments are due but interest does still accrue. To find out more about Direct Parent PLUS loan deferment, the parent borrower should contact Direct Loans at 1-800-848-0979.

Reasonable Academic Progress: Status at the Hokie SPA

Students who have recently filed a FAFSA and have been notified they need to appeal RAP will have 30 days to appeal from the date of that notification. Students on Financial Aid Probation are not required to submit an appeal.

To check your academic progress as it relates to financial aid, log in to the Hokie SPA, click on *Financial Aid Information*, then *Academic Progress*. Your status will be listed in the left hand column and the

aid year in the right hand column. Students may appeal after the deadline, however, there is no guarantee of available funds should a late appeal be approved. Please watch FLASH.MAIL and other notices from USFA for further reminders and information. More information on the Reasonable Academic Progress policy and the appeal form for 2009-2010 can be found here: <http://www.finaid.vt.edu/appeals/rap/>

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate students on assistantships will be able to have their comprehensive fees deducted from their paycheck. The enrollment form is available on Hokie SPA under the University Account menu.

If you are utilizing Direct Loans as a graduate student and your tuition remission and/or out of state waivers have been reduced or removed, please email our office to check the status of your loans finaid@vt.edu.

Contacting USFA

Our staff is ready to help you as needed. To save time, we suggest utilizing email to contact us and we will respond as quickly as possible (usually within 96 hours). When you send us an email, please include your VT ID number in the text, not on the subject line (it begins with 90*****), your question, and a phone number just in case we need to give you a call. Email us at: finaid@vt.edu



Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The FERPA Disclosure allows us to discuss detailed financial aid information about the student to those people the student has designated. University Scholarships and Financial Aid will honor the student's FERPA Release on the Hokie SPA. However, any prior release forms on file with our office will remain valid unless rescinded by the student. Even if you have a FERPA release on file with our office, we strongly encourage you to complete the University FERPA release located on the Hokie SPA under the "FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Disclosure)" link. We must have your permission to discuss any personal financial aid information with anyone other than you. <http://hokiespa.vt.edu>

Noyce Scholarships and Internships

What is Virginia Teach? Virginia Teach represents a partnership between the Department of Mathematics, the School of Education, and the Montgomery County School System to increase the number and quality of new secondary school mathematics teachers. The Robert C. Noyce Scholarship program has been developed to meet these goals. Instructions to apply for the scholarship are at this link with applications being due November 13th 2009:

<http://www.mathed.soe.vt.edu/pages/virginiateach/scholarship.html>

Internship Information:

The Virginia Teach program also offers paid internships for sophomores to intern in area mathematics classrooms. Apply by completing the survey at the link below. The due date for all applications is November 13.

<https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1223299533174>

Fall Census Date

Monday, September 7, 2009 was the fall census date. We have recorded your fall enrollment as of that date. The number of credits that you complete during the fall term will be compared to your enrollment recorded at the census date. Any reduction in enrollment after the census date will factor into the Reasonable Academic Progress (RAP) calculations that are completed at the end of the spring term. You are required to complete 75% of the credit hours for which you are enrolled as of census to maintain reasonable academic progress. In addition to evaluating your cumulative GPA and total number of credits attempted for your academic program, we must determine if you complete 75% of the credits that you attempt for the fall and spring semesters. If you are thinking about dropping a class and receive financial aid, please contact our office for additional information about the Reasonable Academic Progress Policy. Information about Reasonable Academic Progress is also available on our website at <http://www.finaid.vt.edu/appeals/rap/>

Education Abroad

If you plan to study abroad for the spring semester and use financial aid, please make an appointment with a financial aid counselor sometime this fall. Email us at finaid@vt.edu. More information about study abroad can be found at: www.educationabroad.vt.edu

University Bursar

150 Student Services
Building

Phone:
540/231-6277

Fax:
540/231-3238

E-mail:
bursar@vt.edu

Website:
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Student Services
Building

University Scholarships and Financial Aid

200 Student Services
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Phone:
540/231-5179

Fax:
540/231-9139

E-mail:
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Website:
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Bursar's Corner

Refunds and Direct Deposit

If you have not previously enrolled in direct deposit, please do so at your earliest convenience so your excess financial aid refund can be deposited directly to your bank account. Please complete the on-line enrollment form on Hokie SPA. This will allow you to access your funds much faster than having the refund check mailed to your permanent address as listed on Hokie SPA. Refund checks will not be available for pickup at the Customer Service windows.

Students will be notified by email when a refund has been deposited directly to their bank account or when a paper check has been mailed. If you are not participating in direct deposit, please ensure your address is correct on Hokie SPA. Failure to do so will result in a delay in receiving your refund. To request a replacement check, the customer must contact the Bursar's Office. A request to replace a refund check will not be accepted until 14 calendar days after the date the check was originally issued.

Course Request for Spring 2010

Course request opens for Spring 2010 on October 20, 2009 and closes on October 27, 2009. Please make sure all past due charges are paid in full to prevent a hold from being placed on your account. A hold will prevent all future registration and the receipt of transcripts until the account is paid in full.

Opt-Out of Receiving Mailed 1098-T Tax Form

[The 1098-T form informs the student or taxpayer of the possibility of a tax credit for payment of eligible tuition and fees under the guidelines of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.]

Would you like to receive your 1098-T tax information prior to late January and also contribute to the university's effort to decrease paper consumption? If so, you can opt out of receiving a 1098-T form by mail by visiting the University Account Information menu on the Hokie SPA and click on *Opt-Out of Receiving Mailed 1098-T Tax Form*.

If consent is given to opt-out of the paper mailing, a paper form will not be sent for tax year 2009. Instead, you will receive an email notification in mid-January notifying you that the 1098-T is available on Hokie SPA for viewing and printing. The 1098-T tax information is provided to you for informational purposes only. You are not required to submit the 1098-T form with your tax return even if you are filing for the tax credit.

This consent will extend to future tax years while you are a student at Virginia Tech. However, if at any time you wish to return to receiving a paper form, you may return to the Hokie SPA and change your option to have the 1098-T tax form mailed to you.

Budget Tuition Plan (BTP) Participants

If you have a credit balance on your account due to receipt of financial aid and you are also enrolled in the Budget Tuition Plan, you will need to cancel or adjust any remaining debits scheduled for Fall semester before your refund will be processed. Refunds will NOT be processed to students who have remaining memo credits from BTP for Fall semester.

Are Your Addresses and Phone Number(s) Current?

It is important to keep your addresses and phone number(s) current. Please review your information on Hokie SPA (<http://www.hokiespa.vt.edu>) and make sure your information is updated.