VirginiaTech
Invent the Future

University Scholarships and Financial Aid
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Welcome to Virginia Tech University Scholarships and Financial Aid!

One of the most important financial investments you will make in your lifetime is investing in your college education. Our office is here to assist you in understanding the complexities of the financial aid process and to provide information on scholarships, deadlines, and the different types of financial aid available.

Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact us:

- Email: finaid@vt.edu
- Phone: 540-231-5179
- In person: Walk-in assistance available
- Follow us on Facebook (Virginia Tech Scholarships and Financial Aid) and Twitter (@VTFinancialAid)

Important Deadlines
January 15 – Virginia Tech's FAFSA priority deadline
February 15th – General Scholarship Application

What is Financial Aid?

- Money provided to students to help pay for postsecondary education expenses
- Can be used for tuition, fees, room, food, books, and personal expenses
- Consists of scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study

Apply for Financial Aid: Start with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), www.fafsa.ed.gov

- **File by the priority deadline!**
  - VT priority deadline is January 15, 2017 – file by this date to get the most aid
- Create an FSA ID now so you are ready to sign the FAFSA online!
  - www.fsaid.ed.gov
  - One for student
  - One for parent (dependent students)
- Our school code is 003754
- **Use 2015 tax numbers by using the Data Retrieval Tool! Yes, this year uses prior, prior tax information.**
- **Don't wait to see if you are accepted to VT!**
- May be filed at any time during an academic year, but no earlier than the October 1 prior to the academic year for which the student requests aid
  - For the 2017–18 academic year, the FAFSA may be filed beginning October 1, 2016

FAFSA Processing Results

- Once the FAFSA is processed:
  - A student with an FSA ID may view the Student Aid Report (SAR) online at www.fafsa.gov or mailed to the address provided on the FAFSA
  - Data is sent to colleges listed on the FAFSA
  - VT reviews data and may request additional documentation
- VT requests documents by email! Watch the email you used on the Admissions application! **Read your emails and respond to requested information quickly!**

Cost of Attendance

- Estimated costs for the academic year for planning purposes
  - https://www.finaid.vt.edu/apply/cost-of-attendance.html

Award Package

- Consists of all aid offered to the student
- *New students* will be directed to their Guest Access to view Financial Aid
  - Paper award package will also be sent in the mail
- *Returning students* can access their award package through Hokie SPA

Types of Financial Aid

- Scholarships: Money that does not need to be paid back (separate application may be required)
- Grants: Money that does not need to be paid back (usually need-based)
- Loans: Money that must be paid back. Repayment usually starts after graduation or less than full-time enrollment (12 hours undergraduate, 9 hours graduate)
- Work Study: money earned while attending school that does not need to be paid back

Scholarships at Virginia Tech

- Competitive and need based
- Complete the General Scholarship Application through the Scholarship Gateway
  - For 17-18: application opens in mid-November, watch our website for details!
- Check academic department websites at VT for merit based scholarship opportunities

Scholarships - Private Sources

- Start the scholarship search early – fall of senior year
- Don't miss the deadline!
- Free online searches - **do not pay to apply for scholarships**
- http://www.finaid.vt.edu/types_of_aid/University-Scholarships/Outside-Scholarships/Outside_Scholarships.html
- Check with parent(s) employer
  - Many employers sponsor scholarship programs for employees and their dependents
- Other resources to consider:
  - Foundations, businesses, charities, civic groups, community organizations, churches, and your high school guidance office

Institutional Grants

- Funds for the Future – sophomores, juniors, and seniors may be eligible; based on family income
- VT Grants – available to in-state and out-of-state students; based on need; full time enrollment required

Virginia State Aid Programs

- Virginia State Aid Programs are for Virginia residents
  - Commonwealth Grant – based on need
  - VGAP Grant – based on need
  - 2-year College Transfer Grant – Associate's Degree required from 2-year public institution

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter!