



FINANCIAL AID FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

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The purpose of the student aid program is to help make higher education a reality for persons who would be unable to attend without financial assistance. Financial aid is awarded only to eligible students who have been admitted to the University. Transient students are not eligible for financial aid. The financial aid application and financial statement may be submitted at any time after the applicant has applied for admission.

Financial aid applications are accepted as long as resources permit, and priority is given to those submitted by May 1.

GRANTS

Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance. Vocational Rehabilitation provides assistance to students with physical limitations. Usually, fees are paid for eligible students, but in cases of substantial need, students may be considered for the Appleby Scholarship. Apply through your local office of Vocational Rehabilitation, a division of the Department of Human Resources.

OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Veterans Financial Aid Services. The Veterans' Affairs Office, a part of the Office of Financial Aid, is located in Powell Hall East. A full-time counselor assists all veterans in completing applications for benefits, making adjustments in payments, providing tutorial assistance, updating enrollment certifications, and with other services to assist veterans with their education

Veterans Administration Assistance. Veterans, service personnel, and eligible dependents may qualify to receive benefits through the Veterans Administration. Applications may be made through the VSU Office of Veterans Affairs.

Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty). This program of education benefits is for students who enter active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985. The student must, with certain exceptions, serve continuously on active duty for three years of a 3-year enlistment or,

for a lesser benefit, two years of an initial active duty obligation of less than three years. A student also may qualify for benefits by initially serving two continuous years on active duty, followed by four years of Selected Reserve service.

Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve). This program of education benefits is for Reservists of the armed forces as well as the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. To be eligible for this program, a reservist must have a 6-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve, complete Initial Active Duty for Training, have a high school diploma or its equivalent, and remain in good standing in a drilling Selected Reserve Unit. If a student has a parent who is a military veteran, the student may qualify for help from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Benefits may be awarded for pursuit of associate, bachelor, or graduate degrees at colleges and universities. Details are available in the Office of Veterans Affairs of Valdosta State.

LOANS

The Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loan. This loan allows students enrolled at least half-time to borrow money at low interest for educational expenses. There are two types of Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans: (1) Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans and (2) Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loans. The Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans is need based, and the Federal Government subsidizes and pays the interest on this loan while the student is in school and during the six-month grace period. The unsubsidized loan is not need-based. This loan was created for borrowers who do not qualify for federal interest subsidies. The student either pays the interest while in school and during the six-month grace period or it is added to the balance of the loan.

VSU Short-Term Loans. Short-term emergency loans are available from the Office of Business and Finance each quarter. Apply to the VSU office of Student Accounts in the Bursary.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP). The University participates in the Federal Work-Study Program. Eligible students may work part-time during the academic year. To be placed on FWSP, the student must complete and submit all required financial aid documents to the VSU Office of Financial Aid. Priority is given to those students who have completed financial aid applications by May 1.

Graduate Assistantships. The University provides a limited number of graduate assistantships. Interested applicants should apply to the Graduate School. An out-of-state student who holds a graduate assistantship is given a waiver of out-of-state tuition.

Student Assistant Program. On-campus jobs, financed by the University, are also available. Each department has its own funds for this program. Inquiries should be made to the Student Payroll Services Office, located in Nevins Hall.

Other Employment. The Job Location and Development Program, administered through the Office of Student Employment Services, Powell Hall West, 2nd Floor, assists students in obtaining part-time employment off-campus.

SCHOLARSHIPS

HOPE Teacher Scholarship. Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education and is a component of the HOPE Scholarship Program. This scholarship provides financial assistance to teachers, counselors, and individuals seeking advanced degrees in critical fields of study in education. Scholarship recipients agree to teach in a Georgia public school at the preschool, elementary, or secondary level after graduation. If a recipient fails to meet this obligation, the scholarship becomes a loan, which must be repaid in cash, with interest. Applications should be available late Spring Semester. To apply, contact the Georgia Student Financial Commission at 770-724-9030 or toll free at 1-800-546-HOPE, or the Valdosta State University HOPE Coordinator in the Office of Financial Aid at 912-333-5935, request a HOPE Teacher Scholarship Application. For the complete HOPE Scholarship Regulations, visit the Georgia Student Finance Commission web site address at www.gsfc.org.

Gail Aberson Scholarship. This endowed scholarship was created to honor the memory of Gail Aberson, to assist teachers at the graduate level in their professional development/certification as Teacher Support Specialists (mentors) and science teachers K-12. The award will provide assistance to teachers from member school systems in the Okefenokee RESA. Qualified recipients may contact the College of Education for application information.

Louise S. Chastain Scholarship. This fund was established by Mrs. Chastain for students pursuing a Masters in Social Work. Preference is given to residents of Thomas County, Georgia. Apply to the Office of Financial Aid by completing a VSU General Scholarship Application.

Vicky Lynne Foshee Scholarship. This endowed scholarship was created to honor the memory of Vicky Lynne Foshee, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Foshee. The scholarship is to be awarded to a graduate student enrolled in the Industrial/Organizational Psychology Program. It may be renewed by completing at least 9 hours per semester with a B or better grade point average. Apply to the Office of Financial Aid by completing a VSU General Scholarship Application.

Air Force ROTC. Scholarships are available to students enrolled in ROTC at Valdosta State University and are based on performance, academic achievement and leadership potential. For further information contact the Air Force ROTC, Valdosta State University.

A. B. "Sonny" Martin Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded based on recommendations by the College of Education Scholarship Committee. Students must be pursuing a Masters of Education Degree. Based on ability and promise. Apply to the Office of Financial Aid by completing a VSU General Scholarship Application.

Dorothy Smith Salter Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a graduate of VSU who has been admitted to the Medical College of Georgia Doctor of Medicine degree program and who plans to practice in Georgia. The scholarship covers the full cost of tuition and fees and is renewable for up to three years, provided the student is making satisfactory progress toward the degree. The scholarship is awarded by the Scholarship Committee of the VSU Alumni Association in consultation with the Pre-Medicine faculty advisor at VSU. Contact the VSU Alumni Office for application information

VSU Alumni Association Scholarship. This scholarship was created to recognize and support graduate students who have demonstrated a significant amount of academic achievement. The scholarship will be awarded at the beginning of each academic year in the form of a grant. The amount of the scholarship is equivalent to one year of in-state tuition, or two consecutive semesters. Application materials are available from the Graduate School.

Speech and Hearing Scholarship. The members of the Valdosta Junior Service League have established this scholarship for a student majoring in Speech and Hearing, who have completed 50 semester hours, has a minimum 2.5 grade point average, has demonstrated financial need (must have a FAFSA application on file with the Office of Financial Aid). Contact the Speech and Hearing Department for application information.

Athletic Scholarships. For scholarship information regarding a particular sport, contact the VSU Athletic Office.

FINANCIAL AID ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, students must be making satisfactory academic progress, both in quality and quantity, to qualify for and continue to receive Title IV federal financial aid. The satisfactory academic progress standards for federal financial aid recipients at Valdosta State University are as follows:

Standards for Graduate Students

Qualitative. All students are expected to maintain the academic standards outlined in the official Bulletin of Valdosta State University. Students who fail to meet these standards will be placed on academic suspension. Students receiving financial aid who are placed on academic suspension will have their financial aid terminated. Financial aid applicants placed on academic suspension at the end of their last semester of attendance are not eligible for financial aid.

Quantitative. In addition to maintaining the specified grade point average, students receiving financial aid must complete their degree in accordance with certain criteria and successfully complete a minimum percentage of credit hours each academic year.

1. At Valdosta State University, the maximum number of hours allowed is 150% of the number of semester hours required to earn the degree. Examples: Graduate students pursuing a degree which requires 30 semester hours may not receive financial aid after they have attempted 45 hours. If the degree requires 36 semester hours, students will be expected to have earned the degree after having attempted no more than 53 hours.
2. Students must successfully complete 67% of the courses for which they register in any academic year. The grades of A, B, C, D, IP, and S count as the successful completion of a course. The grades of F, W, WF, I, U, NR, and V do not count as the successful completion of a course. At the end of each Spring Semester, those students who have not successfully completed 67% of the courses in which they have enrolled will have their financial aid terminated effective the next Fall Semester.
3. Graduate students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.5 in order to be eligible for financial aid.

Monitoring of Satisfactory Progress

Qualitative academic requirements will be checked at the end of each semester at the time the student applies for financial aid. The limitation of total hours attempted and the 67% completion requirements will be checked at the end of the spring semester. The grade point average of students who apply during the academic year will be checked as of the last semester attended; the limitation on the total hours attempted and the 67% completion requirement will be checked at the end of the previous spring semester.

Summer Session

Courses taken during the summer are counted exactly the same as courses taken any other semester.

Repeated Courses, Remedial Courses, Withdrawal, and Incompletes

Students should be careful in repeating courses, as all attempts at a course are counted in the maximum hours allowed to obtain a degree. Students are also reminded that withdrawing from a course does not count as successful completion and does not count in the required 67% completion rate each academic year. Incompletes also do not count as the successful completion of a course, and excessive incompletes can result in the termination of financial aid. Graduate students are not eligible to receive financial aid for any remedial or other courses at the undergraduate level.

Reinstatement of Aid

Reinstatement of Financial Aid depends upon availability of financial aid funds at the time of the application for reinstatement and other factors:

Graduate students terminated from aid because of academic suspension may apply for reinstatement of aid any time their cumulative GPA reaches 2.5. Students terminated for failure to complete 67% of their courses may apply for reinstatement after completing 9 hours at their own expense.

Appeals

Students wishing to appeal may do so by filling out a Satisfactory Progress Petition and presenting it to the Financial Aid Office, along with any supporting documentation. The Financial Aid Office staff may take into consideration illness, death in the immediate family, or any other extenuating circumstances. Students will be notified, in writing, of the decision.

Students wishing to appeal the decision of the Financial Aid Office may do so, by writing to the Student Financial Aid Committee.

Veterans Financial Aid Services

The Office of Veterans Office, a part of the Office of Financial Aid, is located in Powell Hall East. A full-time counselor assists all veterans in completing applications for benefits, making adjustments in payments, providing tutorial assistance, updating enrollment certifications, and with other services to assist veterans with their education. Veterans enrolled in physical education courses can be certified to the Veterans Administration for VA benefits when the courses will be credited toward the completion of their approved educational program. It must be documented that credit cannot be granted for the courses based upon prior military training or experience. Veterans should refer any problems they are having to the Veterans Office for assistance. (333-5935)

FINANCIAL AID FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Outstanding students may qualify for a waiver of the out-of-state tuition fees; such a waiver greatly reduces the cost of study at Valdosta State. Interested international applicants should include with their applications a formal statement requesting consideration for a waiver of out-of-state tuition fees.

In addition to the tuition waivers, a limited number of graduate assistantships are available each year. Recipients work a specified number of hours in an academic department or with a faculty member and receive a partial waiver of tuition plus a small amount of money to help them with their living expenses. Students interested in information about graduate assistantships should write directly to: The Graduate School, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA 31698 USA.

RULES GOVERNING THE CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS AS RESIDENTS (IN-STATE) AND NON-RESIDENTS (OUT-OF-STATE)

1. (a) If a person is 18 years of age or older, he or she may register as an in-state student only upon showing that he or she has been a legal resident of Georgia for a period of at least twelve months immediately preceding the date of registration.
(b) No emancipated minor or person 18 years of age or older shall be deemed to have gained or acquired in-state residence status for fee purposes while attending any educational institution in this state, in the absence of a clear demonstration that he or she has in fact established legal residence in this state.
2. If a person is under 18 years of age, he or she may register as an in-state student only upon a showing that his or her supporting parent or guardian has been a legal resident of Georgia for a period of at least twelve months immediately preceding the date of registration.
3. A full-time employee of the University System and his or her spouse and dependent children may register on the payment of in-state fees even though he or she has not been a legal resident of Georgia for the preceding twelve months.
4. Out-of-state graduate students who hold teaching or research assistantships requiring at least one-third time service may register as students in the institution in which they are employed on payment of in-state fees.
5. Full-time teachers in the public schools of Georgia and their dependent children may enroll as students in the University System institutions on the payment of in-state fees.
6. All aliens shall be classified as out-of-state students provided that an alien who is living in this country under a visa permitting permanent residence shall have the same privilege of qualifying for in-state status for fee purposes as a United States citizen.
7. The president or his authorized representative may waive out-of-state tuition for international students, provided, however, that the number of such waivers in effect at any time does not exceed one percent of the equivalent full-time students enrolled at the institution in the Fall Term immediately preceding the term for which the out-of-state tuition is to be waived. Such waivers are granted for one year only and must be renewed annually.
8. If the parents or legal guardian of a minor change his or her legal residence to another state following a period of legal residence in Georgia the minor may continue to take courses for a period of twelve consecutive months on the payment of in-state fees. After the expiration of the twelve month period, the student may continue registration only upon the payment of fees at the out-of-state rate.
9. In the event that a legal resident of Georgia is appointed as a guardian of a out-of-state (non-resident) minor, such minor will not be permitted to register as an in-state student until the expiration of one year from the date of court appointment, and then only upon proper showing that such appointment was not made to avoid payment of the out-of-state fees.
10. Military personnel on active duty and stationed in the state of Georgia, as well as their dependents, shall be assessed tuition at the same rates as a legal resident of the state. Persons severing military service shall be considered non-residents, unless they otherwise qualify for resident status.

11. Permanent legal residents of the Florida counties of Hamilton or Madison, and their dependents shall be assessed tuition at the same rates as a legal resident of the State of Georgia upon the presentation of proof of domicile satisfactory to the institution.

Please Note: In order to avoid delay and inconvenience upon arrival for registration, any question concerning residence status should be clarified immediately upon receipt of acceptance of admission or not later than one month prior to the registration date. Questions for clarification should be addressed to Resident Committee, Human Resources Department, Ashley Hall, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698.

Student Responsibilities

- A. **Student Responsibility to Register Under Proper Classification:** The responsibility of registering under the proper residence classification is that of the students. If there is any question of their right to classification as a legal resident of Georgia, it is their obligation, prior to or at the time of their registration, to raise the question with the administrative officials of the institution in which they are registering and have it officially determined. The burden always rests with the students to submit information and documents necessary to support their contention that they qualify for in-state residency under Regents' regulations.
- B. **Notification Upon Becoming a Non-Resident:** Students who are classified as residents (in-state) must notify the proper administrative officials of their institution immediately of any change (out-of-state) in their residency status.

Reclassification of Non-Resident Students

Those non-resident (out-of-state) students who believe they have met the resident requirements as previously set forth may complete a Petition for Residence Status, which is available in the Registrar's Office, Nevins Hall, and must be completed and supported by the required documentation before an initial review of status can be conducted.

The initial review is conducted by a member of the Registrar, who will rule on the basis of oral evidence and other documentation supporting the petition for in-state resident status. The results of the initial review, if unfavorable, may be appealed to the Residence Status Review Committee and ultimately to the president, if such action is required.

Such petitions and appeals must be completed no later than 60 days following registration for the academic term for which residence status is to be effected. If the petition is granted, reclassification will not be retroactive to prior terms.

Should it be determined that the student has misrepresented or omitted material facts which results in classification or re-classification as a resident student, retroactive charges for out-of-state tuition will be made and must be paid prior to the close of the academic term in which they are levied.