

VIRGINIA ALTERNATIVE STATE AID (VASA)

The VASA (Virginia Alternative State Aid) application is an alternate option to the Free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Virginians who are nonimmigrant, undocumented, have DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status, meet the Domicile or Tuition Equity Provision Requirements, or are otherwise ineligible to complete the FAFSA are what to be considered for state financial aid are able to complete the VASA.

Getting Started With VASA

- The VASA application is used to collect highly personal information needed to evaluate eligibility for need-based financial aid. This is your personal information, so it needs to be password protected so that only you, and your institution, have access.
- At the initial sign-in, you will be requested to sign up for an account by clicking on "Sign Up."
- Make sure you and your parents have separate email accounts and then protect your password. You will need that password if you have to come back and finish an application later and for future years as a renewal application will be required each year.
- Once you have set up an account, you will be required to reenter the application through an email that the system will send to you. This is to verify your email address and should only take a few moments. Simply click on the web link in the email and you are in!
- After logging in the first time, you will be able to enter the application using only your email address and password.
- If you forget your password, contact SCHEV via email (tuitionequity@schev.edu) and they will send you information through the email address you provided when setting up the account.

What do I need in order to file the VASA Application?

Gather the following information for yourself (and your parents or spouse, if applicable):

- Gather the following information for yourself (and your parents or spouse, if applicable):
- Student and Parent/Spouse email address (must be different)
- Date of birth, phone number, address and other demographic information
- Tax return and other income information from two years prior (if applying for the 2022-23 award year, have information from the 2020 tax year)
- Bank statements, records of untaxed income, and/or records of investments

To get started on your application, visit go.gmu.edu/VASAApplication or scan the QR code below:



CONTACT US

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Frequently Asked Questions

If you need additional support during your application process please do not hesitate to reach out to The Office of Financial Aid, Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC), and/or the First-Gen+ Center.

When do I apply for state aid and what is the deadline for the VASA application?

The VASA Application for the 2022-2023 School year is now open. You can access the application via VASAaap.org. The aid awarded as a result of this application will be applied to the 2022-2023 school year starting in the Fall of 2022. Each Virginia institution determines its own deadline for a student to submit an application for financial aid. Students should follow the same deadline that's provided for filing the FAFSA. A list of the deadlines can be found at: <https://www.schev.edu/financialaiddeadlines>.

The 2022-2023 VASA Application the Mason priority deadline will be May 1st. Please note for future years, the priority deadline will be February 1st.

How is my VASA Application information used once I submit it?

Once you have completed your application, your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be calculated and sent to the Virginia institution(s) you select. Your EFC is an important part of determining your eligibility for need-based financial aid as it assesses your family's ability to pay as compared to other families based on information provided on the VASA application. This is not necessarily what the family is required to pay but it is a factor in determining financial need and need-based assistance.

Do I need to file both the VASA Application and the FAFSA?

If you are a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen (see below), you should file a federal FAFSA to apply for federal and Virginia financial aid each academic year. If you complete both the federal FAFSA and the state application, the institutions will use the results from the federal FAFSA and disregard the state application.

I am undocumented, am I still a legal resident of Virginia?

Yes, if you have filed taxes in VA then you are considered a resident of VA.

Am I considered a dependent or independent student?

INDEPENDENT STUDENT: If you answer **YES** to **ANY** of these questions, then you may be an independent student. You may not be required to provide parental information on your Virginia Alternative State Aid Application.

DEPENDENT STUDENT: If you answer **NO** to **ALL** of these questions, then you may be considered a dependent student and may be required to provide your parents' financial information when completing the VASA application.

1. Will you be 24 or older by Jan. 1 of the school year for which you are applying for financial aid? For example, if you plan to start school in August 2022 for the 2022–23 school year, will you be 24 by Jan. 1, 2022 (i.e., were you born before Jan. 1, 1999)?
2. Are you married or separated but not divorced?
3. Will you be working toward a master's or doctorate degree (such as M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)?
4. Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
5. Do you have dependents (other than children or a spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you?
6. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training?
7. Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?
8. At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a ward or dependent of the court?
9. Are you an emancipated minor or are you in a legal guardianship as determined by a court?
10. Are you an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

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Am I eligible for the Virginia State Aid Application?

The process for being considered for state financial aid requires two separate steps.

- Meet the requirements to be considered a Virginia student.
- Demonstrate financial need and meet the requirements for the specific financial aid program.

To be considered a Virginia student, the student must demonstrate to the institution that the student meets at least one of the following three provisions:

- Commonwealth's domicile requirements;
- Military dependents provision; or
- Tuition equity provision.

Students not meeting at least one of these requirements cannot be considered for most state financial aid programs. Contact your institution's admissions office (at public institutions) or financial aid office (at private institutions) for details

When will I know about financial aid awards?

Virginia is decentralized, so most state and institutional awards will be determined and announced by the institution through its financial aid notification document. Historically, this document has been mailed or emailed to students but more institutions are now using student portals set up for each specific student.

What if I need to correct information on my VASA Application?

If information needs to be corrected, contact your institution's financial aid office. They can decide if a correction is necessary and, if so, make those updates on your behalf.

How do I answer the question about being convicted of a drug offense while receiving student financial aid?

This question is on both the FAFSA and the VASA applications because conviction of a drug offense while receiving student financial aid would disqualify a student from receiving any further federal assistance. As of the 2021-22 award year, the federal government has eliminated this requirement and will remove the question from future FAFSA applications beginning in 2023-24.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has never included this restriction and the question will also be removed from the VASA application in future years. Students should respond honestly but with confidence that the answer, whether "yes" or "no," will not affect their eligibility for state aid. If the student has never received federal student aid, the answer would be "no," regardless of whether there ever was a conviction of any kind.

Do I need to answer the question about meeting the Selective Service requirements?

Yes, almost all male US citizens and male immigrants, who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service. While the federal government has removed this requirement for eligibility for federal student aid, the Commonwealth of Virginia still requires that state aid recipients meet the federal Selective Service requirements.