

# YOUR GUIDE TO FINANCIAL AID AT VIRGINIA TECH FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

1. **REVIEW** your Financial Aid Notification and this document to learn about the various types of financial aid that you have been offered at Virginia Tech. *Note: You may be notified separately of departmental or institutional scholarships.*
2. **RESPOND** to University Scholarships and Financial Aid for any additional information that is required to finalize your financial aid awards. If our office needs additional information, you will receive an e-mail at the address you provided on the FAFSA. Please understand that this financial aid notification and offer of financial aid is estimated and contingent upon maintaining your eligibility for these awards. If information provided on the FAFSA is changed, your financial aid awards may change.
3. **EVALUATE** the financial resources that you have to attend college, your financial aid responsibilities, and your loan options.
4. **KNOW** what Hokie SPA is. Hokie SPA is Virginia Tech's student information gateway. It allows students to view their academic and financial records. Once you accept admission, you will use it frequently during your time at Virginia Tech. You may find more information about the Hokie SPA at <http://www.iddl.vt.edu/tutorial/hokiespa>
5. **BE AWARE** of dates and deadlines. If you are awarded the Federal Perkins Loan or Federal Work-Study, Virginia Tech requires you to accept the awards by June 1, 2015. If you want to use these programs during the 2015-2016 academic year instructions for accepting loans and FWS may be found on the last page of this document.

## Your Future. Our Commitment. Funds for the Future.

Virginia Tech is committed to assisting families with planning for the cost of education over the next four years.

During your sophomore, junior, and senior years, Virginia Tech will give you a Funds for the Future Grant to help you meet a portion of your cost of tuition if your family falls within certain adjusted gross income ranges and you meet the priority FAFSA filing deadline of March 1. The chart below outlines the income requirements and provides examples of the grant amounts. Virginia Tech is always mindful of the impact of tuition increases on its students and families.

**The Funds for the Future program is another commitment we make to assist students with the cost of tuition.**

Income Group by Adjusted Gross Income	Amount of Tuition Increase Covered by Virginia Tech	Example Tuition Increase Amount	Percent Covered	Example of Funds for the Future Grant for the next year (based on the 2016-2017 FAFSA)
\$0-\$49,999	100%	\$400	100%	\$400
\$50,000-\$74,999	50%	\$400	50%	\$200
\$75,000-\$99,999	25%	\$400	25%	\$100



## Understanding your Financial Aid Notification

Your award notification is divided into sections to simplify the explanation of the costs to attend Virginia Tech and financial aid that you have been offered (both “free money” and loans) that will assist you in funding your education.

Please note: There may be some departmental scholarships or other scholarships that may not have been awarded on your financial aid notification. You will be notified in a separate letter if you receive additional scholarship funds.

### Costs

#### Costs in the 2015-16 year

Estimated Cost of Attendance	\$23,730/yr
Tuition and fees.....	\$ 11,460
Housing and meals .....	8,270
Books and supplies .....	1,130
Transportation .....	1,560
Other education costs .....	1,130

Every institution is required to come up with a Cost of Attendance (also called “budget”) that provides a reasonable estimate of what it will cost to attend college for the academic year (fall/spring semesters). While you may not incur direct costs for transportation or the category called “Other education costs,” you will have costs for all of the other categories. The bill that you pay each semester will not equal the Cost of Attendance. Your financial aid notification has your Cost of Attendance listed based on your state residency status.

### Grants and Scholarships (i.e. money that does not need to be repaid)

#### Grants and scholarships to pay for college

Total Grants and Scholarships (“Gift” Aid; no repayment needed)	\$9,823/yr
Grants and scholarships from your school .....	\$ 1,343
Federal Pell Grant.....	4,780
Grants from your state .....	3,700
Other scholarships you can use .....	0

This section lists the amounts of grants and scholarships you qualify for through Virginia Tech, Federal Student Aid (e.g. the Federal Pell Grant), and the Commonwealth of Virginia, if you are a Virginia resident. Sometimes grants and scholarships are referred to as “free money.”

Grants and scholarships do not need to be repaid as long as you meet the eligibility requirements for the programs. Not all students qualify for grants and scholarships. For all Federal and Virginia Grants, our office is required to use the

information from your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for these awards.

### Net Cost for the Academic Year (i.e. what costs still need to be covered after you are awarded scholarships and grants for the 2015-2016 school year)

#### What will you pay for college

<b>Net Costs</b> (Cost of attendance minus total grants and scholarships)	<b>\$13,907/yr</b>
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The number in this section is the remaining Cost of Attendance amount that is not covered by grants or scholarships (i.e. “free money”).

### Options to Pay Net Costs—Work, Loans, and Other Options

#### Federal Work-Study (FWS)

##### Work options

Work-Study (Federal, state, or institutional)	\$3,000
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If you indicated on the FAFSA that you might be interested in Federal Work-Study (FWS) and qualified for the award, you have the option to pursue a work-study position. You obtain employment by accepting the award on Hokie SPA; finding a work-study position by searching for positions via Hokies4Hire; and, then earn funds in the form of a paycheck. Work-study positions are a great way to earn spending money for college and may provide you with experience that complements your educational endeavors at Virginia Tech.

### Loan Options in Your Name (i.e. you are responsible for paying back the money)

##### Loan options

Federal Perkins Loan .....	\$ 0
Federal Subsidized Loan .....	5,500
Federal Unsubsidized Loan .....	2,000

Maximum amounts shown here. You may choose to accept, reduce or decline these loan amounts via Hokie SPA once you accept your offer of admission and create your Virginia Tech PID.

There are currently 3 Federal Loan Programs from which you may be eligible to borrow to help pay for your education. If you qualify for the programs, your amount will be listed in the Loan options box on your notification. Below is a brief description of each loan but you may find a more detailed descriptions on our website at:  
[http://www.finaid.vt.edu/types\\_of\\_aid/loans/index.html](http://www.finaid.vt.edu/types_of_aid/loans/index.html)



## **Federal Perkins Loan**

The Federal Perkins Loan must be repaid and does not accrue interest while you are enrolled in school at least half-time. Once you leave school, you will have a 9-month grace period, which will allow you to find a job and get settled before beginning repayment. The interest rate on the loan is a fixed rate at 5%. The Federal Perkins Loan program ends on September 30, 2015. The 2015-2016 academic year is the only year you will receive this loan.

## **Federal Direct Subsidized Loan**

The Federal Subsidized Loan must be repaid and does not accrue interest while you are attending school at least half-time. Once you leave school, you will have a 6-month grace period, which will allow you to find a job and get settled before beginning repayment. The amount you are eligible to borrow is determined by your FAFSA and your academic level (e.g. freshman).

## **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan**

The Federal Unsubsidized Loan is very similar to the subsidized loan—with one major exception. Interest will accrue on this loan while you are in school. You may pay the interest or let it accumulate with your principal loan balance. Like the Federal Subsidized Loan, you will have a 6-month grace period and the amount you may borrow is determined by the FAFSA and your academic level.

The interest rate for Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans disbursed between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, is 4.66%. The interest rate is set for the life of the loan. At the time of this mailing, the interest has not been determined for the 2015-2016 academic year. Further, for all Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans disbursed before October 1, 2015, the origination fee is 1.073%.

## **Other Options to Pay for Your Education**

### **Other options**

#### **Remaining Costs**

**\$923/yr**

- Virginia Tech Budget Tuition Plan
- Military and/or National Service benefits
- Parent or Graduate PLUS Loans
- Non-Federal private education loan

## **Virginia Tech's Budget Tuition Plan (BTP)**

Virginia Tech has a budget tuition plan that allows you to divide up the costs of tuition, fees, room, board, lab, course, and software charges, over 4 monthly installments during the semester for which you incur the charges. The Budget Tuition Plan is available for the fall and spring semesters and you

enroll each semester. The plan opens for the fall semester enrollment on July 15 when the first statement is issued. You may find more information on the BTP at the University Bursar's website:

[http://www.bursar.vt.edu/billing\\_payment/budget\\_tuition.php](http://www.bursar.vt.edu/billing_payment/budget_tuition.php)

## **Federal Parent PLUS Loans**

The Federal PLUS Loan (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Student) is a loan that your parents may borrow on your behalf to help pay for your education costs. The loan is in your parent's name and repayment typically begins 60 days after the final disbursement is made on the loan, which is usually in March. For example, loans taken for the 2015-2016 academic year will go into repayment 60 days after the January 2016 disbursement in March 2016. Parents may choose to defer payment on the loan while the student is enrolled at least half-time. Federal PLUS loans require a credit check and the standard repayment timeframe is 10 years. The interest rate for PLUS loans disbursed between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, is 7.21%. At the time of this mailing, the interest has not been determined for the 2015-2016 academic year. Further, for all PLUS loans disbursed before October 1, 2015, the origination fee is 4.292%. You may find more information on our website at:

[http://www.finaid.vt.edu/types\\_of\\_aid/loans/plus-parent/](http://www.finaid.vt.edu/types_of_aid/loans/plus-parent/)

## **Military and/or National Service Benefits**

Virginia Tech will not know if you are eligible for these types of benefits. However, if you are a veteran or participated in AmeriCorps, you may research if you have these benefits available to you to assist you with paying for your education.

## **Non-Federal Private Education Loans**

There are some private lenders who offer loans to students to help pay for their education. Some students will borrow a private education loan, in addition to their Federal Loans, to help pay for their education at Virginia Tech. Private loans are not subsidized; cannot be consolidated with Federal Loans after graduation; and, do not offer income-based repayment plans that Federal Loans have. Most students who borrow a private loan will need to have someone who is willing to be a co-borrower (i.e. cosigner) on the loan. While Virginia Tech does not have a preferred lender list, our website lists private lenders through which Virginia Tech students borrowed for the 2014-2015 academic year. Please contact our office with questions and you may find more information on our website at:

[http://www.finaid.vt.edu/types\\_of\\_aid/loans/alternative/](http://www.finaid.vt.edu/types_of_aid/loans/alternative/)



## Checklist Once You Accept Your Admission to Virginia Tech

- ☐ **Would you like someone else to be able to discuss your account with our office or the Office of the Bursar?**

If yes, you must set-up what is called a FERPA Passcode for that individual at Virginia Tech. FERPA, which stands for the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, says that we will not release your financial aid or billing information to anyone, including your parents, without your permission. The FERPA Passcode allows you to set-up a specific code for the person(s) you also want to be able to discuss your account. You may set-up this code by:

- Logging into the Hokie SPA at [www.hokiespa.vt.edu](http://www.hokiespa.vt.edu)
- Selecting the Hokie SPA link
- Selecting "FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Disclosure)"
- Adding to the list anyone you want to be able to discuss your account with our office by assigning them a passcode

- ☐ **Are you interested in using your Federal Work-Study (FWS) award?**

Begin looking for positions at Hokies4Hire through Career Services' website at [www.career.vt.edu](http://www.career.vt.edu). Please remember that you **must** accept your FWS award via Hokie SPA prior to June 1, 2015 if you are planning on finding a job for the 2015-2016 academic year. We will send you reminders about this in late spring about accepting your award. Below are instructions about how to accept your awards.

- ☐ **Do you need to accept your Federal student loans?**

If you would like to accept your Federal Perkins loan (if awarded), Direct Subsidized Loan, and/or Direct Unsubsidized Loan, you **must** accept your loans via Hokie SPA. For the Federal Perkins loan, you **must** accept your award by June 1, 2015. If you do not accept the Perkins award by that deadline, it will be canceled and re-awarded to another student.

**We know this is a lot of information! If you have questions, visit our website at [finaid.vt.edu](http://finaid.vt.edu); e-mail us at [finaid@vt.edu](mailto:finaid@vt.edu); or give us a call at 540-231-5179. We are here to help.**

- ☐ **How Do I Accept My FWS and Federal loan awards?**

After you have accepted the offer of Admissions and set up your Virginia Tech PID, you may accept, reduce, or decline federal work-study or loan funds offered to you via the Hokie SPA. Your VT PID and password are required.

- Log into the Hokie SPA – [www.hokiespa.vt.edu](http://www.hokiespa.vt.edu)
- Choose the Hokie SPA link then select Financial Aid Information > My Award Information > Award Package by Aid Year > then select the 2015-2016 aid year from the drop-down menu
- Under the "Accept Award" tab, select the drop down menu box to accept, reduce, or decline your federal loan or FWS. Then click the "Submit Decision" button
- Once you take any action on your loans or FWS (accept, reduce, or decline), you must contact our office to request any subsequent changes

- ☐ **Do I need to complete other requirements for my Federal loans?**

For both the Federal Perkins and Direct loans (subsidized or unsubsidized), you must complete the requirements for the loans.

**Federal Perkins Loan** – log onto the Hokie SPA ([www.hokiespa.vt.edu](http://www.hokiespa.vt.edu))

- Once on the SPA, choose "Financial Aid Information"
- Choose "My Award Information"
- Choose "Perkins Loan Requirements"
- Select Aid Year **2015-2016** from the drop-down menu
- Follow instructions to complete the needed loan requirements

**Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loan(s)** – log onto [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) (you will need your PIN used to sign your FAFSA). Once you have logged on to the website:

- Complete the Master Promissory Note for the Subsidized/Unsubsidized loan.
- Complete Entrance counseling on the following page.

- ☐ **Do I have outside scholarships that I need to report to Virginia Tech?**

If you receive aid from any source outside of Virginia Tech, you are required to report it on the Scholarship Reporting Form, which is located on our 2015-2016 forms webpage at:

<http://www.finaid.vt.edu/forms/forms-complete-list-1516.html>



# Virginia Tech Financial Aid Notification



## Costs in the 2015-16 year

### Estimated Cost of Attendance

/yr

Tuition and fees.....\$  
Housing and meals.....  
Books and supplies.....  
Transportation.....  
Other education costs.....

## Grants and scholarships to pay for college

### Total Grants and Scholarships ("Gift" Aid; no repayment needed)

/yr

Grants and scholarships from your school.....\$  
Federal Pell Grant.....  
Grants from your state.....  
Other scholarships you can use.....

## What will you pay for college

### Net Costs

(Cost of attendance minus total grants and scholarships)

/yr

## Options to pay net costs

### Work options

Work-Study (Federal, state, or institutional)

### Loan options

Federal Perkins Loan.....\$  
Federal Subsidized Loan.....  
Federal Unsubsidized Loan .....

Maximum amounts shown here. You may choose to accept, reduce, or decline these loan amounts via Hokie SPA once you accept your offer of admission and create your Virginia Tech PID.

### Other options

Remaining Costs

/yr

- Virginia Tech Budget Tuition Plan
- Parent PLUS Loans

- Military and/or National Service benefits
- Non-Federal private education loan

### Graduation Rate

Percentage of full-time students who graduate within 6 years



82.5%

LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH



### Loan Default Rate

Percentage of borrowers entering repayment and defaulting on their loan

2.6%

This institution

13.7%

National

### Median Borrowing

Students who borrow at Virginia Tech typically take out \$23,633 in Federal loans for their undergraduate study. The Federal loan payment over 10 years for this amount is approximately \$271.97 per month. Your borrowing may be different.



### Repaying your loans

To learn about loan repayment choices and work out your Federal Loan monthly payment, go to:  
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/understand/plans>

### For more information and next steps:

VT University Scholarships and Financial Aid  
200 Student Services Bldg.  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
Telephone: 540-231-5179  
Email: [finaid@vt.edu](mailto:finaid@vt.edu)  
Website: [finaid.vt.edu](http://finaid.vt.edu)

The official Financial Aid Shopping sheet, a consumer tool designed by the U.S. Department of Education to better assist students and their families in understanding the costs for the upcoming academic year is available by logging into the Hokie SPA.

Please note that the median borrowing number listed is from the 2014-2015 academic year. The 2015-2016 median borrowing figure will be available on the official Financial Aid Shopping Sheet available on Hokie SPA.





# Prepare for excellence at Virginia Tech

## UPCOMING FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES:

**Scholarship Application:**  
**Feb. 15, 2015**

**FAFSA Priority:**  
**March 1, 2015**