

# Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program

## Fact Sheet

### General Description and Purpose

The purpose of the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP) is to provide an incentive to financially needy students now attending elementary and secondary school in Virginia to raise their expectations and their academic performance and to consider higher education an achievable objective in their future. The law requires that the awards to undergraduates be proportional to need so that the students with the greatest need receive the largest awards.

### Application Process

This program does not have a separate application; students must complete the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to be considered. The application and awarding processes are administered by the financial aid office at each Virginia public college or university. Contact the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend for application procedures and deadlines.

### Eligibility

While this document does not cover all of the eligibility requirements, the basic criteria are:

- Be admitted into a Virginia public two or four year college or university;
- Be enrolled full-time in an approved degree, certificate, or diploma program;
- Be a domiciliary resident of Virginia as defined by the Code of Virginia §23.1-502;
- Demonstrate financial need as determined by the institution;
- Be a graduate from a Virginia high school or complete a program of home school instruction in accordance with §22.1-254.1 (students who obtain a GED are not eligible);
- Have at least a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent);
- If a home school completer: achieve a SAT verbal and math combined score of at least 980 or ACT Composite score of at least 19; and
- Have complied with federal selective service registration requirements, if applicable.

### Awards

The actual awards will vary by institution; however, those students found to be in the neediest category will receive awards of at least tuition. The maximum award is the cost of tuition, required fees, and a book allowance. Limit of one year of award per class level.

### Renewal

Awards may be renewed for up to three additional years provided that the student:

- Continues to be enrolled full-time in an eligible program on or after the term's census date;
- Continues to be a domiciliary residency in Virginia;
- Continues to demonstrate financial need;
- Maintains a grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent;
- Maintains the satisfactory academic progress; and
- Has advanced class levels upon completion of each full year of award received (VGAP is restricted to no more than one year - 12 months - per class level - FR, SO, JR, SR).