

Financial Aid Office

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www.vcsu.edu/financialaid/

Valley City State University makes every effort to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants through grants, loans, scholarships, employment, or a combination of these and other student aid programs. It is expected students will meet part of their need from earnings, and parents will contribute in proportion to their financial ability. A student applying for financial aid at Valley City State University is considered for a variety of federal, state, or institutional programs. Applications are evaluated to determine the individual need of the students; and awards are made with careful adherence to federal, state, and institutional guidelines. Complete descriptions of all programs, requirements, and qualifications are available online at www.vcsu.edu/financialaid. Financial assistance from Valley City State University is redetermined annually.

Application Period and Deadline

The application period for 2017-2018 begins after October 1, 2016. To ensure first consideration for available funds, application materials must be received by the Office of Financial Aid by March 15. Application materials received after March 15 will receive full consideration if financial aid funds are available. In order to apply for aid, applicants should first have an ID and password (which serves as an electronic signature) and can be applied for online at studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>). Once the ID and password are obtained, one can apply for financial aid at fafsa.ed.gov (<https://fafsa.ed.gov>).

Eligibility

In order to be considered for federal aid, students must be in a degree-seeking program in which they declare a major/minor. Students not in a degree-seeking program may qualify for alternative loans from private lenders on a case-by-case basis.

Once enrolled all students must be in compliance with Satisfactory Progress as explained in the policies on the VCSU Financial Aid website. Go to www.vcsu.edu/financialaid and click on "Satisfactory Progress Requirements."

Collaborative/Consortium Enrollment

Due to scheduling issues, many students pursuing a degree from VCSU find it convenient at times to take a required course (or courses) from another college/university online. All students enrolling collaboratively or by consortium, must also be enrolled for a minimum of one VCSU course per semester. Students enrolled collaboratively (within the 11 ND state institutions) must complete the enrollment process at www.vcsu.edu/registrar/. Students enrolling by consortium (with institutions outside of the ND public university system) must file the appropriate Consortium Agreement found at www.vcsu.edu/documents/.

Federal Pell Grant

All undergraduate students are eligible to apply for the federally funded Federal Pell Grant which is intended to be the foundation of a financial aid package. Federal Pell grants may be combined with other forms of aid to meet educational costs. Maximum grant awards are based on full-time enrollment, academic standing, and exceptional financial need. Awards will be pro-rated for part-time students.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

These federal grants range from \$200 to \$4,000 and are generally offered to students with the greatest financial need. FSEOG funds are used to supplement student's resources when all other forms of aid have been assigned.

Federal Work-Study Program

Students may be offered part-time employment under the work-study program. On-campus jobs are available in the various administrative, academic, and staff areas.

Federal Teach Grant

Through the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, Congress created the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program that provides grants of up to \$4,000 per year to students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. Students must meet certain academic achievement requirements (generally, scoring above the 75th percentile on a college admissions test or maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25) and must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to serve each year the grant is received. Eligibility requires study in areas of "high-need" teaching.

Federal Perkins Loan

This is a long-term, low-interest loan (5%) available to needy students attending Valley City State University. The amount of the loan is based on the eligibility of the applicant and the funds available at the University.

Federal Direct Loan

Valley City State University students may be eligible to borrow funds through this federal program by demonstrating financial need. The loan program provides long term, low-interest benefits up to \$5,500 per year.



Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loans

Valley City State University students may be eligible to borrow funds through this federal program to help cover the expected family contribution. For dependent students, the combined amounts borrowed under the Federal Direct and Federal Unsubsidized programs cannot exceed the maximum levels listed in the subsidized program.

In accordance with Federal Regulations, Direct loan borrowers must complete a Master Promissory Note "Entrance Counseling" online at <http://www.studentloans.gov> before loan funds may be disbursed for the first semester.

Federal PLUS

The Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) provides loan assistance to the student. The loan rates are slightly higher than those of the Perkins and FSL. Parents may borrow up to the cost of education after other financial aid is subtracted. The PLUS loan (<http://www.studentloans.gov>) application is available online.

Alternative Loans

Some private lenders now make available loans that are very similar to the Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans. A student may borrow up to the budget established for an academic year. This loan is in addition to those funds already awarded either on campus or from outside sources (these amounts may not exceed the budget). A borrower must have a credit history or have a credit-worthy co-signer on the loan(s). For information on lenders please go to: <http://www.vcsu.edu/financialaid/vp.htm?p=296>.

The Valley City State University Foundation

The VCSU Foundation supports Valley City State University students by making a number of scholarships available.

The Foundation involves alumni and friends of the university in activities and private giving that meet the university's needs and advance its welfare. The Foundation supports and coordinates the efforts of the Alumni Association, V-500, Booster Board, and major giving activities.

The VCSU Alumni Association hosts a number of outreach activities for alumni and friends of the University. The association also recognizes alumni for achievements in their careers by honoring them with the Alumni Service, the Certificate of Merit, the Distinguished Alumni, or the Young Alumni Achievement Awards.

Both V-500 and the Booster Board hold membership drives to raise dollars for the V-500 and Century Club Scholarship Programs.

Scholarships

Scholarships are gifts of money that are awarded on the basis of academic performance and potential. The Valley City State University scholarship program is made possible only through the generous donations from alumni and friends. Students must be enrolled full-time at VCSU to be eligible for scholarships and must be enrolled in on-campus courses.

To view available scholarships at VCSU, go to www.vcsu.edu/financialaid/.

International Student Tuition Waiver

Established to attract and retain full-time students who are non-United States citizens and who are not classified as eligible non-citizens for federal financial aid.

Cultural Diversity Waivers

Available for students of a culturally diverse group, who are defined as members of historically under-represented cultural, racial or ethnic heritage groups. Special consideration is given to members of federally recognized American Tribes and Alaskan Natives and Villages and graduates of tribally controlled community colleges in North Dakota.

STARS Program

For students from states that don't have a tuition reduction agreement with North Dakota, Valley City State University has designed the Student Talent and Academic Recognition Scholarship (STARS) program. These scholarships are awarded to freshman and transfer students on the basis of their GPA and ACT/SAT scores. The scholarship amounts range from \$1,750 to \$5,500 per year and are automatically renewed as long as the student remains in good academic standing. Contact the Office of Enrollment Services for details and application forms.

Tuition Waivers

The State of North Dakota provides for waiver of tuition and some fees for dependents of North Dakota veterans missing or killed in action, taken prisoner, or who died from or were totally disabled as a result of military service to the United States. Students must also demonstrate financial need. Student eligibility is established by notifying the Registrar's Office upon receiving verification from the Veterans Administration.

Tuition waivers are available for dependents of North Dakota peace officers and fire fighters who were killed in the line of duty. Students must also demonstrate financial need. Student eligibility is established by providing verification to Enrollment Services in coordination with the Registrar's Office.

North Dakota State Student Incentive Grant

The North Dakota Student Financial Assistance Program provides grants to assist undergraduate students in need of financial assistance. The amount of the grant is determined by State appropriations and the number of applicants. Applicants must be enrolled in a qualified institution of post-secondary education within North Dakota.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The North Dakota State Board for Vocational Rehabilitation through the Department of Human Services operates a program for rehabilitation. Information and application forms are available at regional Human Services offices located at Bismarck, Minot, Fargo, Jamestown, Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Williston, and Dickinson. Vocational Rehabilitation programs may provide financial assistance to eligible clients.

Veterans Benefits

Veterans enrolling at Valley City State University may contact the VA certifying official located in the Registrar's Office to apply for benefit eligibility. (701) 845-7294