

COUNSELOR PACKET (2020-2021)

Compiled by:

The Outreach Office in the
Office of Undergraduate Admission at
the University of Virginia

Dear Colleague,

We would like to take this opportunity to once again extend greetings from the Office of Undergraduate Admission - Outreach Office at the University of Virginia. As you may know, Valerie Gregory, the former Director of Outreach, has retired. We hope to introduce you to our new director in the coming months!

The Outreach Office was created to support the University's commitment to diversity as well as create a community that is reflective of our growing society. Our mission is to (a) welcome students from underrepresented and underserved groups to the University of Virginia, (b) help students compete successfully in the admission process at UVA, and (c) give students general advice about finding a college that will help them reach their potential and achieve their dreams.

UVA continues to have a commitment to access and affordability. Specifically, the University:

- (1) *Accepts students solely on their academic merit*, regardless of their ability to pay
- (2) *Covers 100% of demonstrated financial need.* This means UVA covers the full amount that families are unable to pay, through scholarships, grants, work-study and low interest loans.
- (3) *Limits student debt.* UVA limits loans to an average of \$4,500 per year for in-state students. Low-income, in-state students receive only \$1,000 per year in loans.

For more information, please visit the [financial aid website](#).

The following pages contain a list of scholarship opportunities available to students. You can nominate students for selected scholarship through our [Counselor Nomination Form](#). This packet also contains a chart describing the three application options and financial aid deadlines for this year.

In closing, we would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to share this information with your staff and students. If there is anything we can do to help you during the admission process, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are available to conduct virtual high schools visits, conduct college admission and/or financial aid presentations, arrange for virtual tours, and counsel individuals through the college admission process. We encourage you to visit our [web page](#) for contact information for Outreach team members, and we look forward to working with you as we continue to help students achieve their dreams.

All the best,

The Outreach Team

Office of Undergraduate Admission

University of Virginia

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Scholarships

University Achievement Award

This scholarship program is designed to attract exceptional in-state students to UVA. We are looking for students who will add to the diversity of the University community. We hope this award, covering full tuition and fees and is renewable for four years, will make it easier for these students to attend UVA. **All in-state applicants are automatically considered for this award.** The most competitive applicants will demonstrate through the UVA supplement of the Common Application that they have special talents, unique personal characteristics, and/or pressing needs which will assist us with our objective to recruit and retain a diverse student body. Academic merit, leadership, service and citizenship are primary considerations. A student must also satisfy at least two of the following conditions:

- have a history of overcoming adversity
- be a first-generation college student
- be a member of an underrepresented minority or ethnic group
- be a member of a moderate to low-income family
- reside in a rural or inner-city location
- have been raised in a single parent household

Walter N. Ridley Scholarship

The Ridley Foundation sponsors several scholarships designed to support African American students coming to the University of Virginia. These scholarships cover full tuition and fees and is renewable for four years. Students typically have excelled academically in school, are in the top 15% of their class, and have special talents and/or leadership qualities. The Ridley Scholarships are for *Virginians only* and these applicants are selected through their admission applications. The finalists are brought to Grounds to compete through a selection process with members of the Ridley Foundation. Visit the Ridley Scholarship website [here](#).

Holland Blackburn Scholarship

This scholarship, formally known as the Jerome Holland Scholarship, is administered by the Ridley Foundation through the alumni association. The scholarship is designed to attract academically **talented African-American students** from across the nation to the University of Virginia and is specifically for out-of-state students. Approximately two scholarships are awarded annually, cover full tuition and fees and is renewable for four years. To select new Holland scholars each year, the most outstanding African-American applicants (based on their academic performance, leadership capabilities, and potential as role models for their peers) are invited to Grounds to compete for the scholarship. Nominations from guidance counselors are quite helpful in pointing out particularly strong candidates for this award. In recent years, Holland scholars have averaged 650 or better on

each section of their SATs and are typically in the top 10% of their class. **This scholarship is for out-of-state students only.** Visit the Ridley Scholarship website [here](#).

Jefferson Scholarship

The Alumni Association sponsors this scholarship for any student applying to the University of Virginia. This is a full scholarship and the process begins with a nomination from your school directly to the Jefferson Scholarship Foundation. The nomination deadline is **December 1, 2020**. For more details, visit their web site [here](#).

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund is the largest scholarship-granting organization in the nation. HSF provides financial assistance to outstanding Hispanic students in higher education throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The students represent every region of the country and attend hundreds of institutions of higher education throughout America. Founded in 1975, HSF has awarded over 45,000 scholarships totaling \$60 million. These scholarships require an application and are separate from the University of Virginia. For more information, visit their website at [here](#).

Oliver Lindwood Perry Scholarship

This scholarship is for a student attending the University of Virginia who demonstrates a history of service with Native American communities. Admitted students must submit at least one letter of reference from a Native American tribal leader and complete an application. For more information, email the Outreach Office at adm-out@virginia.edu.

Alumni Scholarships

The alumni association sponsors several scholarships for both incoming and current undergraduate students. Typically, there is an application process for most of their scholarships while others are based on other criteria such as regional areas. For more information, visit their website [here](#).

UVA ALUMNI CAN BE A RESOURCE!

VAAN – Virginia Alumni Admission Network

VAAN now includes Virginia regions: *Richmond, Tidewater and Northern Virginia*. For our out of state counselors and students, VAAN will continue to support our students in 10 domestic cities: *New York, NY, Los Angeles, CA, Miami, FL, Chicago, IL, Philadelphia, PA, Northern New Jersey, St Louis, MO, Atlanta, GA, Baltimore, MD, Connecticut and Massachusetts*. These African American and Hispanic/Latinx alumni volunteers seek to augment the work of the Outreach Office of the Office of Undergraduate Admission through interaction with prospective students. VAAN volunteers attend college fairs, meet with students individually, and are available to help students in their cities/regions learn more about the University of Virginia. Visit the VAAN website is [here](#).

For more information on resources, visit the Outreach resources page [here](#).

Application and Financial Aid Deadlines

	Early Decision (ED)	Early Action (EA)	Regular Decision (RD)
<i>Students should apply for this application deadline if...</i>	...UVA is their top choice. Students should understand that if admitted during ED, they will be required to enroll at UVA unless their financial aid package doesn't provide enough to afford attending.	...they want earlier notification of their admission decision but want to keep their college options open. Since EA isn't binding, they'll be able to compare offers from other schools.	...they're not really interested in early notification, or you want admission officers to see the grades they've earned during the first semester of twelfth grade.
<i>Application Deadline</i>	November 1	November 1	January 1
<i>Financial Aid Priority Deadline</i>	November 15	December 1	February 1

**APPLY FOR
FINANCIAL AID
BEFORE THE
PRIORITY
DEADLINES**

To be considered for all types of need-based aid (i.e. financial aid awarded based on a family's ability to pay for college), students must complete and submit both the 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the 2021-2022 CSS Profile. We strongly encourage students and their families to begin filling out the FAFSA and CSS Profile once they are available on October 1, 2020. If they submit these two applications and any additionally requested documents (such as student and parent W-2s and 1040 tax forms for 2019) before the priority deadlines, then they may receive a preliminary financial aid package around the same time they receive their admission decision.