

COUNSELOR PACKET (2021-2022)

Compiled by:

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

Dear Colleague,

With so much happening in the world, we sincerely hope you are staying safe and doing well. We would like to take this opportunity to extend greetings once again from the Office of Undergraduate Admission - Outreach Office at the University of Virginia. 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) advance a more inclusive, equitable, and welcoming environment for all students, but especially those from marginalized communities and/or backgrounds historically excluded from and underrepresented at the University, (b) help students successfully complete and submit admission applications and financial aid documents at UVA, (c) give students general advice about finding a college that will help them reach their potential and achieve their dreams, and (d) serve the Commonwealth of Virginia by being a resource to counselors and community based organizations.

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.

The following pages contain a list of scholarship opportunities available to students. You can nominate students for selected scholarships through our [Counselor Nomination Form](#). The deadline for the Counselor Nomination Form is **Friday, January 14, 2022**. This packet also contains information on financial resources, followed by a chart describing the three application options and financial aid deadlines for this year.

In closing, we know that the work you do is critically important to the success of your students. We want you to know that we are here to help in any way we can. 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 and in-person high school visits, conduct college admission and/or financial aid presentations, and counsel individuals through the college admission process. We encourage you to visit the Outreach [web page](#) for contact information and to learn more about resources and support for students. We look forward to working with you as we continue to help students achieve their dreams.

Yours in partnership,



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Scholarships

University Achievement Award

The University Achievement Award was established in the spring of 1985 with the intent of attracting exceptional students from across the Commonwealth of Virginia to the University. The awards, funded by the University of Virginia, are based primarily on academic merit, leadership, diversity, citizenship and/or overcoming adversity. 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.** 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 a historically underrepresented racial or ethnic group
- be a member of a moderate to low-income family
- reside in a rural or urban location
- have been raised in a single parent household

Walter N. Ridley Scholarship

The Ridley Foundation sponsors several scholarships designed to support Black and 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 Black and 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 Black and 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 counselors are quite helpful in pointing out particularly strong candidates for this award. In recent years, Holland scholars 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, 2021**. For more details, visit their web site [here](#).

Walentas Scholarship

The Walentas Scholars Program develops leaders, citizens, and scholars who are pioneers—the first or among the first in their families to earn a bachelor’s degree from a college or university. The scholarship will cover the entire cost of attending the University of Virginia, including tuition and fees, room, board, books, and spending money for a total of eight semesters. Additionally, the scholarship will fund a robust enrichment program designed to enhance the community of leaders and citizens. Selection of recipients will be based on merit alone in the areas of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. The nomination deadline is **December 1, 2021**. 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 Linwood Perry Scholarship

This scholarship is for a student attending the University of Virginia who demonstrates a history of service with Native American and Indigenous 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 outreachteam@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](#).

Financial Resources

Common Application Fee Waivers

UVA wants to make sure that application fees do not pose a barrier for any student who wishes to apply for admission. If a student feels that their financial circumstances might qualify them for an application fee waiver, they can request a fee waiver in the Common App fee waiver section in the profile section. Any of the following indicators of economic need can qualify students for a Common App fee waiver:

- A student has received or is eligible to receive an ACT or SAT testing fee waiver
- A student is enrolled in or eligible to participate in the federal free or reduced price lunch program (FRPL)
- A student's annual family income falls within the Income eligibility guidelines set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service
- A student is enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families (e.g., TRIO programs such as Upward Bound)
- A student's family receives public assistance
- A student lives in federally subsidized public housing, a foster home or is homeless
- A student is a ward of the state or an orphan
- A student can provide a supporting statement from a school official, college access counselor, financial aid officer, or community leader

Travel Grants

We know that the best possible way to learn whether UVA is a good college fit is to visit Grounds. We also know that travel isn't cheap, and some families may need financial assistance to make a visit possible. The University of Virginia is committed to increasing the college going rate of first-generation, low-income, and underserved students. Thus, we have funds available to provide travel grants for students in need. The funds will be used to provide transportation to and from Grounds. For more information, email the Outreach Office at outreachteam@virginia.edu.

Undocumented Students

UVA is dedicated to serving all students, regardless of citizen or immigration status. Virginia-domiciled students with either DACA or undocumented status could be eligible for both state and University financial aid. For more information, please review [financial resources for undocumented students](#). Additionally, undocumented students or students with significant financial need are eligible for enrollment fee waivers. For more information, email the Outreach Office at outreachteam@virginia.edu.

Application and Financial Aid Deadlines

	Early Decision (ED)	Early Action (EA)	Regular Decision (RD)
<i>Students should apply for this application deadline if...</i>	...they know – without a doubt – that UVA is their top choice. They must 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 they 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 3
<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 2022-2023 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the 2022-2023 CSS Profile. We strongly encourage students and their families to begin filling out the FAFSA and CSS Profile as soon as possible. If they submit these two applications and any additionally requested documents (such as student and parent W-2s and 1040 tax forms for 2020) before the priority deadlines, then they may receive a preliminary financial aid package around the same time they receive their admission decision.