State Programs

The Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program (VSFAP) was established to assist students with financial need. VSFAP Funds are used for need-based grants to Virginia resident undergraduates or for assistantships and fellowships to graduate students. As funds are limited, they are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with students meeting the priority FAFSA receipt deadline (February 15 receipt by federal processing agency) being given first consideration. Specific Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements that are more rigorous than those for federal financial aid eligibility consideration apply. Interested students are encouraged to visit the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia web site at http://www.schev.edu/ for detailed information and program regulations and guidelines.

Commonwealth Award. In order to be eligible for a Commonwealth award, a student must be admitted into a Virginia public two or four year college or university, a domiciliary resident of Virginia as defined by the Code of Virginia 23-7.4, demonstrate financial need as determined by the institution (FAFSA required), be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible baccalaureate program, a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, and otherwise eligible for federal financial aid. This is a grant and does not have to be repaid. The actual awards vary by institution and are based on funds available. The awards may not exceed tuition and required fees. Students who have earned fifteen (15) or more credit hours beyond the number of hours required for graduation are disqualified from participation in this program.

Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP). In order to be eligible for a VGAP award, a student must meet all the Commonwealth award requirements, and must also be a graduate of a Virginia high school, with a minimum cumulative high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and must be classified as a dependent student for federal financial aid purposes. A student generally enters the VGAP program as a freshman. Renewal of the VGAP grant is dependent upon several factors, including a minimum 2.0 GPA each semester, completion of a minimum of 12 hours each semester (full-time completion), early FAFSA filing, demonstrated financial need, and continuous full-time enrollment (minimum 12 credit hours per semester) from year to year (summer excluded). As with all other aid programs, audited courses do not count toward full-time enrollment. Participation in the VGAP program is limited to the first four years of attendance (fall/spring enrollment for four consecutive academic years).

Two-Year College Transfer Grant Program. Recipients of this grant must have received an Associate's degree at a Virginia two-year public institution with a cumulative 3.0 GPA. Enroll into Virginia four-year public or private nonprofit college or university by the fall following completion of associate's degree. Enroll into degree program not for religious