

HOW DO WE PAY FOR NEXT STEPS AT VANDERBILT?

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS 2020-2021

Is the tuition affordable? Yes! Our tuition is much lower than you might think: students enrolled through Next Steps *do not pay full* Vanderbilt undergraduate tuition. Many families get additional support through a combination of sources like Tennessee's educational scholarships, Vocational Rehabilitation, federal financial aid, Vanderbilt tuition assistance, and outside scholarships.

1. **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION-** Active Vocational Rehabilitation clients who receive Transitional Learning Services are currently awarded \$3,000 per semester for 4 semesters. <http://tennessee.gov/humanserv/rehab/vrs.html>.
2. **FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE-** Eligible students can be awarded Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and Federal Work-Study programs, estimated amount up to \$5,000 based on need. Students who are 23+ years old do not need to consider their parent's income. <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities>
3. **STEP UP SCHOLARSHIP-** Students who graduated from a Tennessee high school and have been out of high school for less than 16 months are eligible to receive \$3,500 each year to help cover tuition. <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/article/tennessee-step-up-scholarship>
4. **TN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP-** Students who graduated from a Tennessee high school, and completed Promise program requirements during final year of school are eligible for this award. A last-dollar award that pays tuition costs per semester up to \$2,100 AFTER other gift aid has been applied. Our estimate is up to \$800 per year due to the likelihood that recipients will also have the Step Up Scholarship. Maximum award time is five semesters. <https://www.tnpromise.gov/>
5. **TN RECONNECT GRANT-** Students that are Tennessee residents, have been out of high school for longer than 16 months, have not already earned a higher education degree, and have Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) status of "independent" are eligible for this grant. We estimate this last-dollar award will pay tuition costs per semester up to \$2,100 AFTER other gift aid has been applied. <https://www.tnreconnect.gov/>
6. **TN STUDENT ASSISTANCE AWARD PROGRAM-** (TSAA) was established to provide non-repayable financial assistance to *financially-needy* undergraduate students who are residents of Tennessee. Students must complete FAFSA application early for consideration. Approx. \$4000 per year. Please note that students that receive TSAA would not also get TN Promise of Reconnect. <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college/grant-programs/tennessee-student-assistance-award.html>
7. **INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES-** an option for ECF (Employment and Community First Choices) recipient funds for the reimbursement of college expenses, i.e. tuition, books, transportation, up to \$500 per year. The Managed Care Organization is the responsible party to authorize a service for a member based on their needs and assessment. <https://www.tn.gov/didd/employment-and-community-first-choices.html>
8. **Dependent Tuition Assistance-** Vanderbilt University faculty and staff may also be eligible for the Dependent Tuition Assistance benefit. This [university benefit](#) awards 55% of the cost of tuition to the dependents of eligible employees.
9. **PRIVATE and NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIPS-** Students and families should explore scholarship opportunities through their communities, local agencies, and diagnosis-related organizations. Past students have received \$1,000 and \$2,000 scholarships from their church families, [The Arc](#), [Ruby's Rainbow](#), [Down Syndrome Associations](#), [Williams Syndrome Association](#) and the [Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee](#).

The tuition cost during the 2020-2021 academic year will be: \$21,990

It is important to keep in mind that VR funds are currently available for a total of four semesters and TN Promise is for a total of 5 semesters.

Important- Students enrolled through Next Steps are eligible for the Vandy Plan interest free tuition payment plan, but must get this started in the spring semester for the following academic year.

<https://finance.vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/payments/options-fall.php>

Students enrolled through Next Steps can ride the MTA buses free using their Vanderbilt ID cards to and from campus.

Next Steps at Vanderbilt – For more information please visit our website at www.vu.edu/nextsteps.

If you would like to make an appointment to review this financial assistance information with a staff member, please email Tammy Day, Director, tammy.day@vanderbilt.edu.