



## FINANCIAL AID FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Mr. Tommy Moore  
Director of Financial Aid  
University Center

The purpose of the student aid program is to help make higher education a reality for persons who would be unable to attend without financial assistance. Financial aid is awarded only to eligible students who have been admitted to the University. Transient students are not eligible for financial aid. The financial aid application and financial statement may be submitted at any time after the applicant has applied for admission.

Financial aid applications are accepted as long as resources permit, and priority is given to those submitted by May 1.

### GRANTS

**Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance.** Vocational Rehabilitation provides assistance to students with physical limitations. Usually, fees are paid for eligible students. Apply through your local office of Vocational Rehabilitation, a division of the Department of Human Resources.

### OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS

**Veterans Financial Aid Services.** The Veterans Affairs Office, a part of the Office of Financial Aid, is located in University Center. A full-time counselor assists all veterans in completing applications for benefits, making adjustments in payments, providing tutorial assistance, updating enrollment certifications, and with other services to assist veterans with their education.

**Veterans Administration Assistance.** Veterans, service personnel, and eligible dependents may qualify to receive benefits through the Veterans Administration. Applications may be made through the VSU Office of Veterans Affairs.

**Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty).** This program of education benefits is for students who enter active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985. The student must, with certain exceptions, serve continuously on active duty for three years of a 3-year enlistment or, for a lesser benefit, two years of an initial active duty obligation of less than three years. A student also may qualify for benefits by initially serving two continuous years on active duty, followed by four years of Selected Reserve service.

**Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve).** This program of education benefits is for Reservists of the armed forces as well as the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. To be eligible for this program, a reservist must have a 6-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve, complete Initial Active Duty for Training, have a high school diploma or its equivalent, and remain in good standing in a drilling Selected Reserve Unit. If a student has a parent who is a military veteran, the student may qualify for help from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Benefits may be awarded for pursuit of associate, bachelor, or graduate degrees at colleges and universities. Details are available in the Office of Veterans Affairs of Valdosta State.

## LOANS

**The Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loan.** This loan allows students enrolled at least half-time to borrow money at low interest for educational expenses. There are two types of Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans: (1) Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans and (2) Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loans. The Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans is need based, and the Federal Government subsidizes and pays the interest on this loan while the student is in school and during the six-month grace period. The unsubsidized loan is not need-based. This loan was created for borrowers who do not qualify for federal interest subsidies. The student either pays the interest while in school and during the six-month grace period or it is added to the balance of the loan.

**VSU Short-Term Loans.** Short-term emergency loans are available from the Office of Business and Finance each semester. Apply to the VSU Office of Student Accounts in the Bursary.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP).** The University participates in the Federal Work-Study Program. Eligible students may work part-time during the academic year. To be placed on FWSP, the student must complete and submit all required financial aid documents to the VSU Office of Financial Aid. Priority is given to those students who have completed financial aid applications by May 1.

**Graduate Assistantships.** The University provides a limited number of graduate assistantships. Interested applicants should apply to the Graduate School. An out-of-state student who holds a graduate assistantship is given a waiver of out-of-state tuition.

**Student Assistant Program.** On-campus jobs, financed by the University, are also available. Each department has its own funds for this program. Inquiries should be made to the Student Payroll Services Office, located in the University Center.

**Other Employment.** The Job Location and Development Program, administered through the Office of Student Employment Services, Powell Hall West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, assists students in obtaining part-time employment off-campus.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**HOPE Teacher Scholarship.** Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education and is a component of the HOPE Scholarship Program. This scholarship provides financial assistance to teachers, counselors, and individuals seeking advanced degrees in critical fields of study in education. Scholarship recipients agree to teach in a Georgia public school at the preschool, elementary, or secondary level after graduation. If a recipient fails to meet this obligation, the scholarship becomes a loan, which must be repaid in cash, with interest. Applications should be available late Spring Semester. To apply, contact the Georgia Student Financial Commission at 770-724-9030 or toll free at 1-800-546-HOPE, or the Valdosta State University HOPE Coordinator in the Office of Financial Aid at 229-333-5935, request a HOPE Teacher Scholarship Application. For the complete HOPE Scholarship Regulations, visit the Georgia Student Finance Commission web site address at [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org).

**Gail Aberson Scholarship.** This endowed scholarship was created to honor the memory of Gail Aberson, to assist teachers at the graduate level in their professional development/certification as Teacher Support Specialists (mentors) and science teachers K-12. The award will provide assistance to teachers from member school systems in the Okefenokee RESA. Qualified recipients may contact the College of Education for application information.

**Louise S. Chastain Scholarship.** This fund was established by Mrs. Chastain for students pursuing a Master of Social Work degree. Preference is given to residents of Thomas County, Georgia. Apply to the Office of Financial Aid by completing a VSU General Scholarship Application.

**Vicky Lynne Foshee Scholarship.** This endowed scholarship was created to honor the memory of Vicky Lynne Foshee, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Foshee. The scholarship is to be awarded to a graduate student enrolled in the Industrial/Organizational Psychology Program. It may be renewed by completing at least 9 hours per semester with a B or better grade point average. Apply to the College of Education.

**Air Force ROTC.** Scholarships are available to students enrolled in ROTC at Valdosta State University and are based on performance, academic achievement and leadership potential. For further information contact the Air Force ROTC, Valdosta State University.

**A. B. "Sonny" Martin Scholarship.** This scholarship is awarded based on recommendations by the College of Education Scholarship Committee. Students must be pursuing a Master of Education Degree. Based on ability and promise. For application and deadline information, contact the College of Education.

**Dorothy Smith Salter Scholarship.** This scholarship is awarded to a graduate of VSU who has been admitted to the Medical College of Georgia Doctor of Medicine degree program and who plans to practice in Georgia. The scholarship covers the full cost of

tuition and fees and is renewable for up to three years, provided the student is making satisfactory progress toward the degree. The scholarship is awarded by the Scholarship Committee of the VSU Alumni Association in consultation with the Pre-Medicine faculty advisor at VSU. Contact the VSU Alumni Office for application information.

**VSU Alumni Association Scholarship.** This scholarship was created to recognize and support graduate students who have demonstrated a significant amount of academic achievement. The scholarship will be awarded at the beginning of each academic year in the form of a grant. The amount of the scholarship is equivalent to one year of in-state tuition, or two consecutive semesters. Application materials are available from the Graduate School.

**Elizabeth Darlene Sikes Scholarship.** This scholarship was established to recognize an outstanding graduate student in communication disorders. Based on continuous community service, good academic standing and financial need. Must provide 2 letters of support. For application and deadline information, contact the College of Education.

**Speech and Hearing Scholarship.** The members of the Valdosta Junior Service League have established this scholarship for a student majoring in communication disorders, who have completed 50 semester hours, has a minimum 2.5 grade point average, has demonstrated financial need (must have a FAFSA application on file with the Office of Financial Aid). Contact the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders for application information.

**Alpha Kappa Delta Scholarship.** This annual endowed scholarship is available to graduates and undergraduates and is based on a combination of academic achievement and financial need. The scholarship was established to promote interest in the study of sociology at Valdosta State University. Recipients are chosen by the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, where application may be made.

**Athletic Scholarships.** For scholarship information regarding a particular sport, contact the VSU Athletic Office.

## **FINANCIAL AID ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

In accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, students must be making satisfactory academic progress, to qualify for and continue to receive Title IV federal financial aid.

Graduate students are expected to maintain the academic standards outlined in the official catalog of Valdosta State University. Students who fail to meet the standards will be placed on academic suspension. Students receiving financial aid who are placed on academic suspension will have their financial aid terminated. Financial aid applicants placed on academic suspension at the end of their last semester of attendance are not eligible for financial aid.

Graduate students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.5 in order to be eligible for financial aid.

## **Monitoring of Satisfactory Progress**

Compliance with the academic requirements will be checked at the end of each semester and at the time the student applies for financial aid. The grade point average of students who apply during the academic year will be checked as of the last semester attended; the limitation on the total hours attempted.

## **Summer Session**

Courses taken during the summer are counted exactly the same as courses taken any other semester.

## **Reinstatement of Aid**

Reinstatement of Financial Aid depends upon availability of financial aid funds at the time of the application for reinstatement and other factors:

Graduate students terminated from aid because of academic suspension may apply for reinstatement of aid any time their cumulative GPA reaches 2.5.

## **Appeals**

Students wishing to appeal may do so by filling out a Satisfactory Progress Petition and presenting it to the Financial Aid Office, along with any supporting documentation. The Financial Aid Office staff may take into consideration illness, death in the immediate family, or any other extenuating circumstances. Students will be notified, in writing, of the decision.

Students wishing to appeal the decision of the Financial Aid Office may do so, by writing to the Student Financial Aid Committee.

## **FINANCIAL AID FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Outstanding students may qualify for a waiver of the out-of-state tuition fees; such a waiver greatly reduces the cost of study at Valdosta State. Interested international applicants should include with their applications a formal statement requesting consideration for a waiver of out-of-state tuition fees.

In addition to the tuition waivers, a limited number of graduate assistantships are available each year. Recipients work a specified number of hours in an academic department or with a faculty member and receive a partial waiver of tuition plus a small amount of money to help them with their living expenses. Students interested in information about graduate assistantships should write directly to: The Graduate School, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA 31698 USA.

## **RULES GOVERNING THE CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS AS RESIDENTS (IN-STATE) AND NON-RESIDENTS (OUT-OF-STATE)**

1. (a) If a person is 18 years of age or older, he or she may register as an in-state student only upon showing that he or she has been a legal resident of Georgia for a period of at least twelve months immediately preceding the date of registration.  
(b) No emancipated minor or person 18 years of age or older shall be deemed to have gained or acquired in-state residence status for fee purposes while attending any educational institution in this state, in the absence of a clear demonstration that he or she has in fact established legal residence in this state.
2. If a person is under 18 years of age, he or she may register as an in-state student only upon a showing that his or her supporting parent or guardian has been a legal resident of Georgia for a period of at least twelve months immediately preceding the date of registration.
3. A full-time employee of the University System and his or her spouse and dependent children may register on the payment of in-state fees even though he or she has not been a legal resident of Georgia for the preceding twelve months.
4. Out-of-state graduate students who hold teaching or research assistantships requiring at least one-third time service may register as students in the institution in which they are employed on payment of in-state fees.
5. Full-time teachers in the public schools of Georgia and their dependent children may enroll as students in the University System institutions on the payment of in-state fees.
6. All aliens shall be classified as out-of-state students provided that an alien who is living in this country under a visa permitting permanent residence shall have the same privilege of qualifying for in-state status for fee purposes as a United States citizen.
7. The president or his authorized representative may waive out-of-state tuition for international students, provided, however, that the number of such waivers in effect at any time does not exceed one percent of the equivalent full-time students enrolled at the institution in the Fall Term immediately preceding the term for which the out-of-state tuition is to be waived. Such waivers are granted for one year only and must be renewed annually.
8. If the parents or legal guardian of a minor change his or her legal residence to another state following a period of legal residence in Georgia the minor may continue to take courses for a period of twelve consecutive months on the payment of in-state fees. After the expiration of the twelve month period, the student may continue registration only upon the payment of fees at the out-of-state rate.
9. In the event that a legal resident of Georgia is appointed as a guardian of a out-of-state (non-resident) minor, such minor will not be permitted to register as an in-state student until the expiration of one year from the date of court appointment, and then only upon proper showing that such appointment was not made to avoid payment of the out-of-state fees.
10. Military personnel on active duty and stationed in the state of Georgia, as well as their dependents, shall be assessed tuition at the same rates as a legal resident of the state. Persons severing military service shall be considered non-residents, un-

less they otherwise qualify for resident status.

11. Permanent legal residents of the Florida counties of Hamilton or Madison, and their dependents shall be assessed tuition at the same rates as a legal resident of the State of Georgia upon the presentation of proof of domicile satisfactory to the institution.

**Please Note:** In order to avoid delay and inconvenience upon arrival for registration, any question concerning residence status should be clarified immediately upon receipt of acceptance of admission or not later than one month prior to the registration date. Questions for clarification should be addressed to Resident Committee, Office of the Registrar, Nevins Hall, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA 31698.

### **Student Responsibilities**

- A. **Student Responsibility to Register Under Proper Classification:** The responsibility of registering under the proper residence classification is that of the students. If there is any question of their right to classification as a legal resident of Georgia, it is their obligation, prior to or at the time of their registration, to raise the question with the administrative officials of the institution in which they are registering and have it officially determined. The burden always rests with the students to submit information and documents necessary to support their contention that they qualify for in-state residency under Regents' regulations.
- B. **Notification Upon Becoming a Non-Resident:** Students who are classified as residents (in-state) must notify the proper administrative officials of their institution immediately of any change (out-of-state) in their residency status.

### **Reclassification of Non-Resident Students**

Those non-resident (out-of-state) students who believe they have met the resident requirements as previously set forth may complete a Petition for Residence Status, which is available in the Registrar's Office, Nevins Hall, and must be completed and supported by the required documentation before an initial review of status can be conducted.

The initial review is conducted by a member of the Registrar, who will rule on the basis of oral evidence and other documentation supporting the petition for in-state resident status. The results of the initial review, if unfavorable, may be appealed to the Residence Status Review Committee and ultimately to the president, if such action is required.

Such petitions and appeals must be completed no later than 60 days following registration for the academic term for which residence status is to be effected. If the petition is granted, reclassification will not be retroactive to prior terms.

Should it be determined that the student has misrepresented or omitted material facts which results in classification or re-classification as a resident student, retroactive charges for out-of-state tuition will be made and must be paid prior to the close of the academic term in which they are levied.



## **AUXILIARY SERVICES**

Mr. Rob Kellner, Director  
103 East Brookwood Place

As a part of the Office of Business and Finance, the Auxiliary Services Division is responsible for providing support services to students, faculty, and staff members of the University. The Division includes the Bookstore, Dining Services, 1 Card Services, Parking and Transportation, Vending, Health Services (financial management) and Housing and Residence Life (financial management). Administrative offices are located at 103 East Brookwood Place. Telephone 229-333-5706; fax 229-333-7419. For information about 1 Card Services, the Bookstore, Dining Services, Health Services, Parking and Transportation, or Housing and Residence Life, see our web page: <<http://services.valdosta.edu>>. Additional information about Health Services or Housing and Residence Life may be found at <<http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/dept/stuaff/>>.

Valdosta State University has been defined by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia as a residential institution: the University must provide on-campus housing and dining service. All undergraduate students who live in residence halls are required to participate in the meal program. The policy is a part of the total “Living-Learning” concept of the University and is supported by an amendment to the Georgia Eighteen-Year-Old Bill which reads, “Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the powers of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to adopt and enforce rules and regulations for the government, control, and management of the University System; nor shall this Act be construed so as to limit the authority of any institution in the University System of Georgia to adopt and enforce rules and regulations governing housing, conduct, discipline, and other related activities of the student body.” By Regents’ Policy, the Auxiliary Services Division is totally self-supporting and receives no State allocations of funds.

### **HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE**

Valdosta State University administers a Freshman Residency Policy which requires that all Freshmen live on campus. To be exempted from this requirement, a student must apply for exemption and meet one of the following criteria: thirty semester hours of earned academic credit and sophomore status, age nineteen by September 30 of the current academic year, or residing with parent(s), spouse, or legal guardian. Exemption forms are available at the Office of Housing and Residence Life, 104 Georgia Avenue. Telephone 229-333-5920.



## Housing Application and Contract

The Housing Application and Contract forms are sent to students after their acceptance to the University. Housing applications may be submitted only after the student has been formally accepted by Valdosta State University. All students applying for campus housing will be required to contract for housing for the academic year. All students who plan to live in campus housing must pay an application fee of \$25.00 when they submit their Housing Application and Contract. Additionally, each student must pay a \$300.00 reservation fee by the deadline established in the Housing Contract. This reservation fee is applied to the student's spring semester fees. The housing contract outlines conditions under which refunds may be made. Occupancy of a room is terminated at the end of each spring semester. Students currently enrolled should obtain an application for housing at the Office of Housing and Residence Life, located at 104 Georgia Avenue.

Refer to the housing contract for specific terms and conditions. Please read the contract carefully: it constitutes a fully binding legal agreement with the University. Any resident desiring release from the contract prior to the conclusion of the academic year must complete a *Request for Release from Contract*, available in Office of Housing and Residence Life.

## Residence Hall Schedule

The rate of \$1,164 per semester for 2002-2003, which includes the House Activity Fee (\$17) and Post Office Box Fee (\$6), is in effect for each of the residence halls operated by the University. This rate is based on dual occupancy. The University reserves the right to require students to accept dual occupancy or, if a private room is available and requested, to pay an additional private room fee. It is the University's option to close any of its residence halls in any given semester or to reassign students to rooms at any time. Rates for future academic years will be posted on our web pages and available on campus once the rates have been established.

## Apartments

Converse Hall apartments are assigned on a point system and are generally available only to students who are at least 19 years of age. Students interested in the apartments must complete an apartment interest card available in the Office of Housing and Residence Life. Prices\* include House Activity Fee (\$17) and Post Office Box fee (\$6).

Efficiencies (one person only) .....	\$1,610
One Bedroom (one person only) .....	\$2,735
(two people, \$1,379 each) .....	\$2,758

Housing charges are assessed on a semester basis and must be paid in full as part of the registration process at the beginning of each semester. Rates include all utilities. Rates for future academic years will be posted on our World-Wide Web pages and available on campus once the rates have been established.

\*All charges are based on approved fees and are subject to change according to Board of Regents Policy.

## DINING SERVICES

Dining Services provides a nutritionally balanced, appealing selection of foods to meet the varying dietary needs, desires, and lifestyles of its customers. The Palms Dining Center, located between Hopper Hall and Langdale Hall on the main campus, houses the administrative offices of Dining Services. All students who live in residence halls are required to purchase a basic meal plan each semester. All students, faculty, and staff may purchase meal plans; individual meals may be purchased at reasonable prices.

Dining Services programs are as follows:

Board Plan A .....	\$1,176
Breakfast, lunch, and dinner 7 days a week	
Board Plan B .....	\$1,145
Any two meals Monday through Sunday	
Board Plan C .....	\$1,262
to a discretionary account.	
A la carte Meal Service (valid at all Dining Services locations)see below	
Available to students officially ranked as sophomores or above;	
minimum deposits are as follows:	
Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors .....	\$600

All charges are based on approved fees and are subject to change according to Board of Regents Policy.

The Loop Pizza Grill, located in the University Union, serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, featuring pizza, salads, burgers, and sandwiches. The University Center Food Court features a variety of fare, including deli sandwiches, salads, selections from the grill, hot book bard, and a “grab and go” Chick-fil-A Express. The Oasis Snack Bar in the Education Center offers hot and cold sandwiches and snacks. Blazer Cakes, in the Palms Dining Center, handles specialty cakes for all occasions. The Nite Owl Convenience Store in located in Langdale Hall.

## BOOKSTORE

The VSU Bookstore, located at 1306 Patterson Street, provides quality products and services to enhance the educational and social experiences of the students, faculty, and staff of the University. In addition to providing all course-related textbooks and materials, the Bookstore offers stationery, limited fraternity and sorority items, imprinted clothing, and software. Graduation announcements and class rings are also available through the Bookstore. The Bookstore sponsors a textbook buy-back service during the first three days of class and at the end of the semester during final examinations.

The average semester cost for all course-related textbooks, materials, and supplies is approximately \$375, depending on the student’s designated area of study. The Bookstore accepts cash, checks, VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and the Campus 1Card. Customers can shop on the web at <[www.vsubookstore.com](http://www.vsubookstore.com)>. Telephone 229-333-5666.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

The Farber Health Center is a 9-bed infirmary located adjacent to Langdale Hall. Staffed by a physician, a physician's assistant, registered nurses, a pharmacist, and a medical technologist, it is open 24 hours a day while the University is in session and provides health care for students who register for four (4) or more credit hours. All students living in campus housing regardless of the number of hours in which they are enrolled are required to pay the Health Fee.

All new students are required to provide evidence of inoculation for mumps, measles, and rubella. The University Health Service recommends additional inoculations for diphtheria, tetanus, polio, influenza, meningitis, and chicken pox.

## **PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION**

All motor vehicles parked on campus must properly display a current parking permit at all times. Parking on campus is by permit only and is a privilege which may be withdrawn for cause at any time. All campus community members (students, faculty, staff, and visitors) are responsible for knowing and obeying parking regulations. Moreover, campus citizens are responsible for their guests and should ensure that they as well are aware of regulations. A parking regulations brochure (available to students, faculty, staff, and visitors) may be obtained at the Parking and Transportation Department. Detailed information about parking lots and instructions is also available on our web pages. Campus parking and traffic regulations are enforced under the authority of Georgia Code, Section 20-3-21. Parking Policies will be in effect and uniformly enforced at all times. Citations will be issued for infractions of parking policies. Fines may be paid at the Departmental Office at 114 Georgia Avenue. Telephone 229-293-PARK.

VSU operates a shuttle bus service. A Blazer Express Shuttle Guide, available at the Parking and Transportation Department, indicates stops, routes, and operating hours. Maps may also be found at each bus stop and on our web pages.

## **“VSU 1Card” SERVICES**

The VSU 1 Card is a multipurpose identification and on-line debit card. The card bears a student's name, student identification number, signature, photograph, bar code, and magnetic strip. All cards are made in the VSU 1Card office on the first floor of Langdale Hall. Everyone must provide a form of photo identification to obtain a VSU 1Card.

The initial VSU 1Card is issued at no charge to the student; however, replacement cards are \$15 each. Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of their card and should treat it as a credit card or driver's license. The VSU 1Card allows students to access their FLEX account for dining, vending, laundry, bookstore and convenience store purchases, parking purchases, payment of student health services not covered by fees, and purchases in the 1Card Office.

The VSU 1Card is also used to access all meal plans, residence hall doors, athletic and student activity events, library materials, and checks-cashing services. Students are required to present their VSU 1Card when taking the Regents' Testing Program. All accounts on the VSU 1Card are for use on the VSU campus only; these accounts are subject to individual contracts and agreements that must be signed by the card bearer to receive these services.