



FY
22

Testimony before House Health Care Committee

February 11, 2021

Marilyn J. Cargill, VP OF FINANCIAL AID SERVICES, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH
Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

State Workforce Development Scholarships

- Career and Technical Education Adult Training Scholarship
- Vermont Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program
- Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program



Vermont Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program

(Interest-Free and Forgivable)

Eligibility Criteria

- Enroll in:
 - practical nursing certificate program,
 - associate of science degree in nursing program,
 - bachelor of science degree in nursing
- Intend to work in Vermont as a nurse for a minimum of one year following licensure for each year of assistance received
- Enroll at least half time
- Demonstrate financial need
- Demonstrate academic capacity by carrying at least a 2.5 GPA (on a scale of 4.0) in their course of study
- Attend an accredited school approved for federal Title IV funding (Pell grants, federal Direct loans). Preference given to students enrolled in an accredited school within Vermont.



**Vermont Nursing
Workforce
Incentive Loan
Program
(Interest-Free and
Forgivable)**

Conditions for Forgiveness:

- Completion of Degree
- LPN or RN licensure
- Completion of one year of service for each year of scholarship received
- Work as an RN or LPN in Vermont



**Vermont Nursing
Workforce
Incentive Loan
Program
(Interest-Free and
Forgivable)**

- Awarded to date: 69 awards @ \$3,000 = \$207,000
- \$828,957 remaining for the 2021-2022 academic year

Vermont Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program

(Interest-Free and Forgivable)

Degrees Pursued

- Associate's Degrees (8)
- Bachelor's Degrees (12)
- Licensed Practical Nursing Degrees (23)
- Registered Nursing Degrees (26, equivalent to BS)

Participating Institutions

- Castleton University (11)
- Norwich University (3)
- Vermont Technical College (55)

Outcomes of the Nursing Incentive Loan Programs

Vermont Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program								FY'21
Applicants								138
Scholarships Awarded #								69
Scholarships Awarded \$								\$207,000
Scholarships Paid in Service								TBD
Scholarships Reverting to a Loan								TBD
Vermont State Nursing Incentive Loan Program	FY'15	FY'16	FY'17	FY'18	FY'19	FY'20	FY'21	FY'21
Applicants	107	107	117	114	110	127	127	127
Scholarships Awarded #	12	12	8	5	7	6	5	5
Scholarships Awarded \$	\$70,000	\$127,842	\$60,000	\$46,833	\$81,000	\$50,000	\$38,000	\$38,000
Scholarships Paid in Service	8	7	6	2	5	1	TBD	TBD
Scholarships Reverting to a Loan	0	0	0	1	0	1	TBD	TBD



Appendix A

VSAC Services



Creating opportunities for all Vermont students, but especially for those —of any age— who believe that the doors to education and training are closed to them.



VERMONT'S Education Pipeline

Our Class of 2012 Senior Survey findings show that we are losing human capital at every point along the path to higher education.

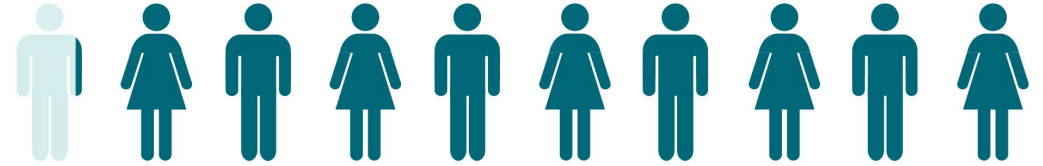
Four years after graduating from high school, 3.4 out of 10 Vermont students have earned a two- or four-year degree.

These numbers, however, vary considerably when we consider gender, first-generation status, academic preparation and geographic region.

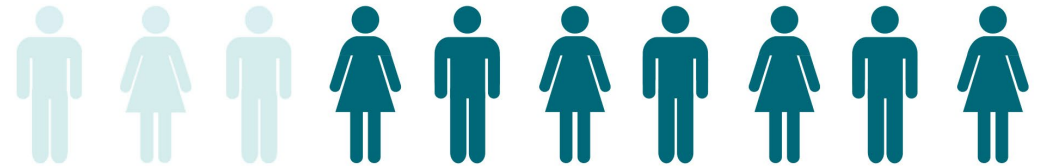
Class of 2012
at high school
graduation



Students who at
some point thought
they would enroll in
the fall of 2012



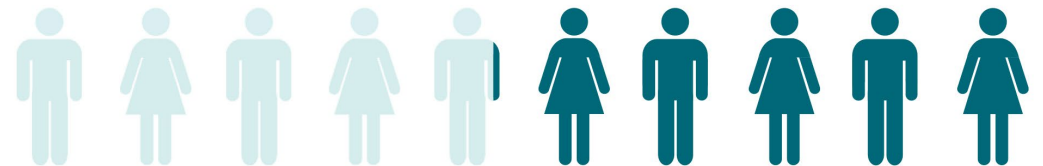
High school
graduates who
planned to enroll
in the fall of 2012



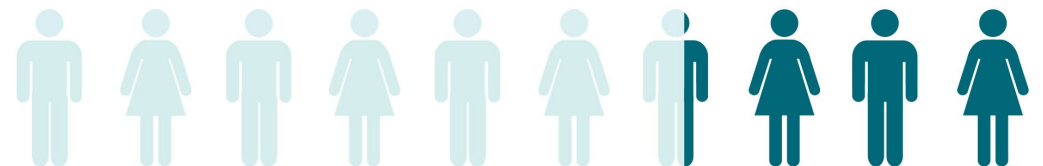
High school
graduates who
enrolled at a 2-
or 4-yr college



First-year college
students who
enrolled for a
second year



Fall 2012 enrollees
who obtained an
associate or
bachelor's degree
in 4 years



VSAC Research: Informing Policy

- [COVID-19 Impact on Students' Higher Education Plans](#)
- [Class of 2012 Report Series](#)
- [Non-Degree Survey](#)
- [VSAC Research Minute](#)
- [FY20 County Facts](#)



Research Brief
August 2020

June College Student Survey During COVID-19

The onset of the COVID-19 epidemic has dramatically altered the higher education landscape, affecting students, their parents, and institutions. National surveys, conducted from March to May, reflected on students' intent for fall 2020 enrollment, reaction to online instruction, as well as the financial toll of the epidemic.¹ Economists were predicting record-breaking unemployment and [estimating that as many as 100,000 Vermonters](#) would apply for unemployment benefits, roughly one out of every three workers in the state. That being the case, it was very likely that parents of current and first-year college students would request appeals on schools' financial aid offers and the state's need-based student financial aid program, both of which are based on reported 2018 income, income earned more than a year before the pandemic. The pandemic's impact on employment rates might presage more families applying for student financial aid.

The Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (VSAC) is an instrumentality of the state, and the agency charged with administering student financial aid. In June (June 17-July 2), VSAC surveyed students who had completed the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (i.e., FAFSA applicants made up of rising high school seniors and returning college students) to answer a few key questions:

- Did students' fall plans change because of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What was the nature of that change?
- What did students say about the effect on their enrollment plans if an institution were to move to virtual learning?

The second aim was to examine adverse economic effects, if any, on students' lives. We looked at these questions through an equity lens: gender, parental educational attainment (i.e., first- or second-generation), family/student income, and race. We have just completed data collection (July 23-August 5) on a second cohort of students to examine changes, if any, over time.

Key Findings

- Most students surveyed in June (whether first year or those returning to college) reported they planned to enroll in the fall of 2020. (Fig.1) There were no differences in plans for fall by gender, parent education, or race. However, independent students (6%) were more likely to report delaying or cancelling enrollment than dependent students (2%).

