



COLLEGE & CAREER PATHWAYS 2024

High school students and parents/guardians, whether you're college-bound, training-bound, or not sure, VSAC's college and career pathways events and resources are for you.

What is College & Career Pathways?

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, families were invited to join us in person at the University of Vermont (UVM) Davis Center or online via Zoom to take part in live workshops, discover free resources, and connect with local experts to help prepare for education or training after high school.

[View the full playlist of workshops from our 2024 event](#), or click on workshop names below to find the recording and resources for that session.

Workshops:

- [The College Search: Finding the Right Fit](#)
- [Money After High School](#)
- [Strategies for the SAT & ACT](#)
- [Supporting Your Teen's Career Search](#)
- [Financial Aid & Managing College Costs](#)
- [I Wish I Knew That! Programs to Pursue Before You Graduate](#)
- [Navigating the Admissions Process](#)
- [Navigating the College Search for Students who Learn Differently](#)
- [College Options for Students with Developmental Disabilities and Autism](#)
- [Exploring Career and Education Pathways with MyFutureVT](#)
- [Scholarships: Free Money!](#)
- [Writing the Admissions Essay](#)

The College Search: Finding the Right Fit

Know you want to continue your education after high school, but unsure how to choose a school or training program? This interactive workshop will help you consider what you want from your post-high school experience, and provide strategies and tools to start narrowing down the search to institutions that meet your needs.

Audience: Best for 9th–11th grade students alone or with their parents/guardians (less appropriate for parents/guardians alone)

Presenter: Sara Vargo, VSAC GEAR UP Assistant Manager

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: College Comparison Chart \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Choose the College That's Right for You \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Making the Most of College Visits \(PDF\)](#)
- [VSAC College Search Resources](#)
- [Finding Colleges That Fit \(PDF\)](#)
- [College Navigator](#)
- [College Scorecard](#)
- [College Board BigFuture](#)
- [Cappex College Search](#)
- [How to Pick the Right School Flow Chart](#)
- [Your Financial Path to Graduation](#)

Money After High School

Geared towards those navigating the transition from high school to their next chapter of life, this session will cover the fundamental life skills you need to take control of your finances. Learn practical strategies for creating a budget you can stick to, find out what makes your credit score, and how to manage debt without being overwhelmed. Your upcoming choices can impact you for years- don't miss this opportunity to learn how to make informed financial decisions and set the foundation for your future.

Audience: Best for 11th & 12th grade students and their parents/guardians

Presenter: Katy Bensen, Money\$sense Financial Education Program Manager, Opportunities Credit Union

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Money After High School booklet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Money\\$sense Financial Education Programs](#)

Strategies for the SAT & ACT

Want to make yourself a stronger candidate for college admissions and merit-based financial aid by earning a high score? Get “best practice” strategies and free test-prep resources from a professional test prep tutor.

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students

Presenter: Matthew Shagam, Tutor (Please note that the presenter will be joining this session virtually)

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Test Tips and Strategies \(PDF\)](#)
- act.org
- collegeboard.com
- [Khan Academy](#)
- [The Ultimate Guide to SAT Grammar, 3rd edition, Erica Meltzer \(book\)](#)
- [The Critical Reader, 2nd edition, Erica Meltzer \(book\)](#)

Supporting Your Teen's Career Search

How can you help your child figure out what they want to do, without telling them what to do? This workshop will cover what your high schooler needs from you in their career search, and how to help them identify and explore their career interests.

Audience: Best for the parents/guardians of 9th–12th grade students

Presenter: Kathi Terami, Executive Director, Careers CLiC

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Careers CLiC](#)
- [Vermont's Most Promising Jobs](#)
- [O*NET Career Interest Profiler](#)
- [Exploring Career Options](#)

Financial Aid & Managing College Costs

Find out how families cover college costs. We'll explain:

- the types of financial aid available (grants, scholarships, loans)
- the basics of financial aid applications
- ways to compare college costs before you apply

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students and their parents/guardians

Presenter: Matt "Beagle" Bourgault, VSAC Talent Search Director

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Financial Aid & Managing College Costs \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: College Financial Aid Checklist \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Questions to Ask the Financial Aid Office \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Financial Aid Vocabulary \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Workforce Development Funding - Teaching](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Workforce Development Funding - Nursing \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Workforce Development Funding - Skilled Trades \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handouts: Vermont Grant and Advancement Grant brochures \(PDFs\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: How to Create an FSA ID \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Five ACTIONS for Financial Aid \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: My Education Loans: What to know before you borrow \(PDF\)](#)
- [Understanding FAFSA & Financial Aid](#) (available in 10 languages)
- [Types of Financial Aid](#)

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Financial Aid & Managing College Costs

Resources (cont'd):

- [The Financial Aid Process](#)
- [Paying for College Resources](#)
- [VSAC's Paying for College Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [FAFSA Filing Guide](#)
- [Federal Student Aid](#)
- [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#)
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau [tool for comparing financial aid offers](#)
- [NEBHE Tuition Break](#)
- [Student loan debt/salary wizard](#)
- [Workforce Development Funding](#)
- [Vermont Grants](#)

I Wish I Knew That! Programs to Pursue Before You Graduate

Participants will learn about the Flexible Pathways opportunities available to students and how participating in one or more of these programs in high school can help you get a jumpstart on your future.

Audience: Best for 9th–11th grade students and their parents/guardian

Presenter: Amy Dodge, Post-Secondary Programs Coordinator, Vermont Agency of Education (Please note that the presenter will be joining this session virtually)

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Career and Technical Education Toolkit Talking Points \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Dual Enrollment Toolkit Talking Points \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Early College Toolkit Talking Points \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Virtual and Blended Learning Toolkit Talking Points \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Work Based Learning Toolkit Talking Points \(PDF\)](#)
- [Vermont Flexible Pathways](#)

Navigating the Admissions Process

Overwhelmed by the college admissions process? Hear directly from college admissions counselors about the steps involved in applying, what they look for in students, and how they can support you through the process.

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students and their parents/guardians

Presenter: Sarah Hobart, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, University of Vermont & Elga Gruner, Assistant Director of Admissions, Vermont State University

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: College Admissions Checklist \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Questions for the Admissions Interview \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Speak the Language: College Admissions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Choosing Your Team \(PDF\)](#)
- [VSAC's College Admissions Toolkit \(PDF\)](#)
- [The College Application Process](#)
- [UVM Admissions](#)
- [Visit UVM](#)
- [UVM Transfer Pathways](#)
- [Vermont State University Application Checklist](#)
- [Visit Vermont State University](#)
- [Vermont State University Academic Programs](#)

Navigating the College Search for Students Who Learn Differently

This workshop will give neurodiverse students and their families the tools you need to determine fit and prepare for the transition to education after high school. We will discuss what to consider, the questions to ask, the legal landscape, and the wide range of accommodations, supports, and programs that exist in post-secondary education today. The presenter will also share some details about the specific expertise of Landmark College, which specializes in educating neurodiverse high school and college students.

Audience: Best for 9th–12th grade students and their parents/guardians

Presenter: Maribeth Resnick, Director of Online Partnerships, Landmark College (Please note that the presenter will be joining this session virtually)

Resources:

General

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Resources Handout \(PDF\)](#)
- [Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities](#) – U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.
- [K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Differences, 15th Edition](#) – Or, borrow a copy from the library.
- [Gap Year Association](#)
- [ADDitude Magazine – ADHD resource](#)
- [How to Prepare for College: Transition Tips for ADHD Students \(additudemag.com\)](#)

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Navigating the College Search for Students Who Learn Differently

Resources (cont'd):

Specific

- [Landmark College for Students with Learning Disabilities, ADHD & ASD](#)
- [Summer Programs](#) – Landmark College
- Online Programs
 - [Online Dual Enrollment](#) – LC Online (landmark.edu)
 - [Online College START](#) – LC Online (landmark.edu)
 - [Associate Degrees](#) – LC Online (landmark.edu)
- [TaC \(PG/Gap\)](#) – Landmark College
- [Bridge Experience](#) – Landmark College
- [The College Tour](#) – Award-Winning Landmark College Episode

College Options for Students with Developmental Disabilities and Autism

Learn about a number of inclusive college programs in Vermont designed for students with developmental disabilities and autism.

Audience: Best for 10th–12th grade students and their parents/guardians

Presenter: Bryan Dague, Ed.D., Director of Think College at the University of Vermont, Chris Kennedy, Regional Director, College Steps, and Marie Fietze, Accessibility Services Resource Coordinator, Community College of Vermont

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: College Compass \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Post-Secondary Education Matrix \(PDF\)](#)
- [Vermont Post-Secondary Education Options](#)
- [Think College National Coordinating Center](#)
- [Think College Vermont](#)
- [College Steps](#)
- [The SUCCEED Program](#)

Exploring Career and Education Pathways with MyFutureVT

Get the inside scoop on the variety of post-high school education and training options available to students, and learn about MyFutureVT, the free, one-stop online resource you can use to explore Vermont's most promising careers and the education and training programs to get into these jobs.

Audience: Best for 9th–12th grade students and their parents/guardians

Presenter: Tom Cheney, Executive Director, Advance Vermont

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [MyFutureVT](#)
- [MyFutureVT Career Guide](#)
- [MyFutureVT Education and Training Guide](#)

Scholarships: Free Money!

Get the inside scoop on the variety of post-high school education and training options available to students, and learn about MyFutureVT, the free, one-stop online resource you can use to explore Vermont's most promising careers and the education and training programs to get into these jobs.

Audience: Learn how to find and apply for local, state, and national scholarships.

Presenter: Matt "Beagle" Bourgault, VSAC Talent Search Director

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: Learning About Scholarships \(PDF\)](#)
- [Presenter Handout: VSAC Scholarship Book \(PDF\)](#)
- [Scholarships Tips & Timelines](#)
- [Cappex Scholarship Search](#)
- [College Board Scholarship Search](#)
- [College Board Opportunity Scholarships](#)
- [Fastweb Scholarship Search](#)
- [Tips for the VSAC Scholarship Application \(PDF\)](#)
- [Scholarships for Military Families \(PDF\)](#)

Writing the Admissions Essay

The admissions essay brings your unique voice to your college applications – this session will provide you with strategies to approach this important piece of writing and a better understanding of how it will be reviewed.

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students and their parents/guardians

Presenter: Carrie Pratt, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, University of Vermont

Resources:

- [Workshop Recording](#)
- [Presenter PowerPoint \(PDF\)](#)
- [College Application Essays](#)
- [2023-2024 Common App Essay Prompts](#)
- [How to Write a College Essay by US News](#)