



2025 Event Program

Saturday, March 8 | In-Person at UVM & Online via Zoom

Schedule (click on a title for that session's Zoom link)

- 2:00 - 2:15 pm [Welcome](#)
- 2:25 - 3:10 pm Workshops:
- [The College Search: Finding the Right Fit](#)
 - [Navigating the College Search for Students who Learn Differently](#)
 - [Strategies for the SAT & ACT](#)
 - [Supporting Your Teen's Career Search](#)
- 3:20 - 4:05 pm Workshops:
- [Apprenticeship Opportunities](#)
 - [Financial Aid & Managing College Costs](#)
 - [I Wish I Knew That! Programs to Pursue Before You Graduate](#)
 - [Navigating the Admissions Process](#)
- 4:15 - 5:00 pm Workshops:
- [MyFutureVT: Your Guide to Success After High School](#)
 - [Scholarships: Free Money!](#)
 - [Taking a Gap Year: How to Build an Intentional Path to Your Future](#)
 - [Writing the Admissions Essay](#)

Handouts for each workshop can be found at vsac.org/ccp by clicking on the workshop name under the 2025 Family Event Tab. Workshop recordings will be posted to vsac.org/ccp within a week following the event.

Technical Support

Tech Support # 802-598-0295



Welcome: 2:00 - 2:15 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/CfsB9WJiRkeBSGGhNB03jg>

Join us for a brief welcome and housekeeping items before heading to your first workshop.

Presenters: Sarah Hobart, UVM Senior Associate Director of Admissions & Kirstin Boehm, VSAC Senior Director of Career and Educational Outreach, Development, and Research

Session I Workshop Descriptions: 2:25 - 3:10 pm

The College Search: Finding the Right Fit

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/CfsB9WJiRkeBSGGhNB03jg>

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.

Presenter: Sara Vargo, VSAC GEAR UP Assistant Director

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

Navigating the College Search for Students who Learn Differently

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/d7i0jUWDEWFAO8nkOnF1g>

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.

Presenter: Lori Harding, Director of LC Online Partnerships, Landmark College

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

Strategies for the SAT & ACT

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/q5DGIunTMGlukva3R_urA

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.

Presenter: Matthew Shagam, Tutor

Audience: Best for 10th & 11th grade students

Supporting Your Teen’s Career Search

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/NFZ5cTIWSYW8MFCxiA4-ug>

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.

Presenter: Kathi Terami, Executive Director, Careers CLiC

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



Session II Workshop Descriptions: 3:20 - 4:05 pm

Apprenticeship Opportunities

<https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/d7i0jUWDEWFAO8nkOnF1g>

Enrolling in a registered apprenticeship program is a smart investment in your career. It provides hands-on training, mentorship, and a path to a rewarding career with long-term stability and growth opportunities. Come learn about the opportunities that exist in Vermont, and how to pursue a registered apprenticeship to take the first step toward your dream career.

Presenters: Sarah Ballou, Program Manager, VTSU Electrical and Plumbing Apprenticeship Programs & Christopher Laflam, Vermont Department of Labor - Workforce Development

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

Financial Aid & Managing College Costs

<https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/CfsB9WJiRkeBSGGhNB03jg>

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; and ways to compare college costs before you apply.

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

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

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

https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/q5DGIunTMGIuKva3R_urA

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.

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

Audience: Best for 9th-11th grade students and their parents/guardians

Navigating the Admissions Process

<https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/NFZ5cTlWSYW8MFCxiA4-ug>

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.

Presenters: Anna Dechert, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, Dartmouth College & Elga Gruner, Assistant Director of Admissions, Vermont State University

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



Session III Workshop Descriptions: 4:15 - 5:00 pm

MyFutureVT: Your Guide to Success After High School

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/q5DGIunTMGlukva3R_urA

Planning for life after high school can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be! Come explore MyFutureVT, a free resource for career exploration, education options, and financial planning. Plus, learn about the Vermont Employment Pathfinder, a new tool that will help you connect the dots between your skills/interests and education/job opportunities. Gain the confidence and tools to confidently chart your path to success!

Presenter: Tom Cheney, Executive Director, Advance Vermont

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

Scholarships: Free Money!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/CfsB9WJiRkeBSGGhNB03jg>

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

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

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

Taking a Gap Year: How to Build an Intentional Path to Your Future

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/d7i0jUWDEWFAO8nkOnF1g>

What if you could take time after high school to explore your interests, gain new skills, and not fall behind—but get ahead? Taking an intentional gap year offers a chance to build confidence, develop independence, and gain clarity about future goals. Gap year expert Julia Rogers will lead an eye-opening session showcasing how a well-planned year can help students thrive—socially, professionally and personally—no matter what post-secondary option comes next. You'll explore the range of opportunities a gap year offers, get tips on how to plan for college deferment or reapplication, strategize how to finance gap time and learn how to design a meaningful and fun gap year.

Presenter: Julia Rogers, President Emeritus, Gap Year Association

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

Writing the Admissions Essay

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/NFZ5cTlWSYW8MFCxiA4-ug>

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.

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

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

Event Evaluation

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCP25PostEvent>

We value your input on how we can continue to improve the event. Everyone who completes the evaluation by Sunday, March 16 will be entered to win a \$100 VT 529 gift card. You can find the full details at vsac.org/official-rules-ccp-drawings.

Thank you for attending this year's event!

