

# **MONEY MATTERS:** *Your Cost at VT*

**LINK TO THE MONEY MATTERS  
WEBPAGE FOR COPY OF  
PRESENTATION!**



**ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND FINANCIAL AID  
VIRGINIA TECH.**



# AGENDA

01



**What is the Cost of Attendance?**

02



**Direct vs. Indirect Costs**

03



**COA Components**  
What's Included?

04



**Your Cost at VT**

05



**Net Price Calculator**

06



**Choices & Budgeting Tips**

07



**COA Appeals**



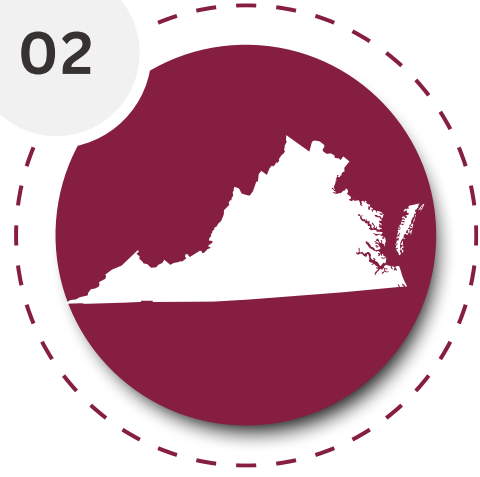
# ITEMS WE WILL NOT COVER

01



Specific Charges

02



Residency

03



Housing and  
Residence Life

04



Dining and Meal  
Plans

05



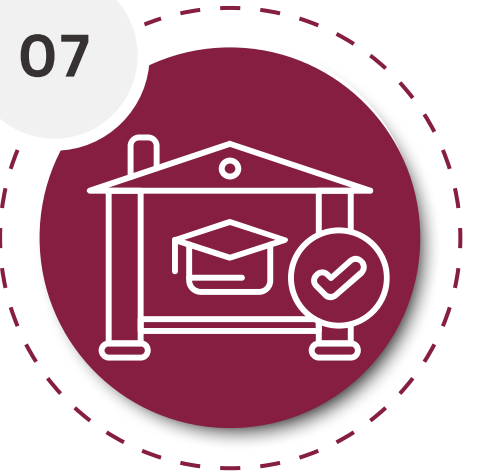
Visa and  
Immigration

06



Specific  
Scholarships

07



Admission  
Decisions

08



Parking



# MONEY MATTERS CURRICULUM

Virginia Tech's year-round financial guidance Zoom series that helps Hokies and their families understand and master the financial aid process.

## Money Matters: FAFSA First October

Breaks down the FAFSA so Hokies can apply with confidence.

## Money Matters: Your Cost at VT January-February

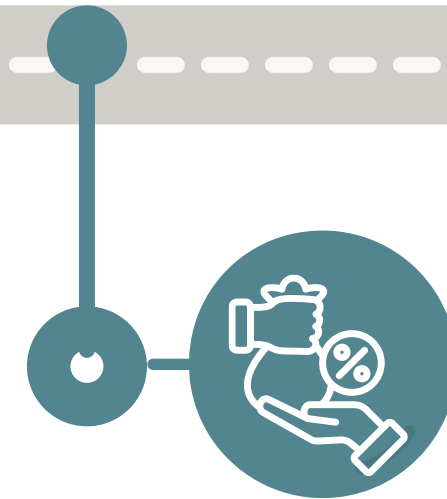
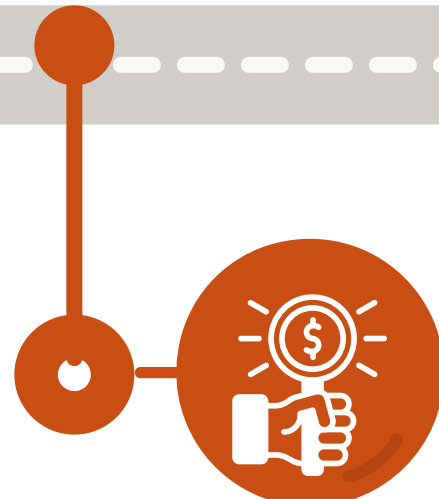
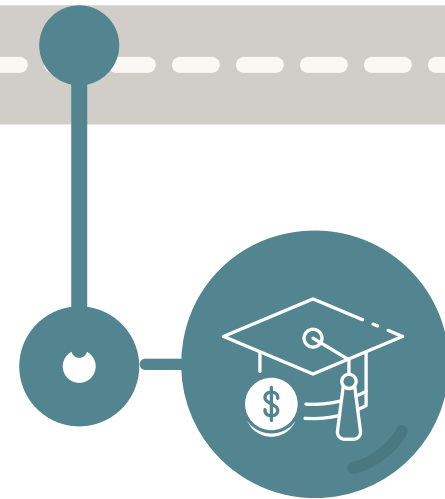
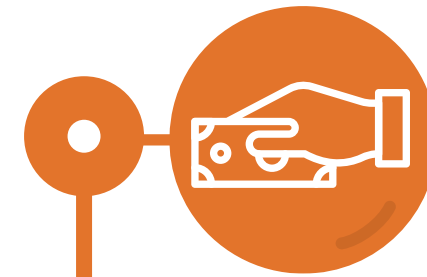
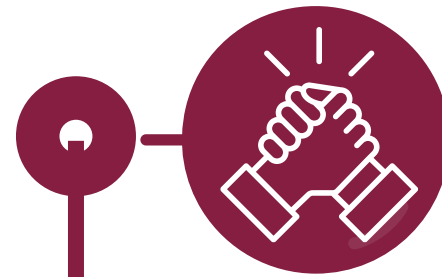
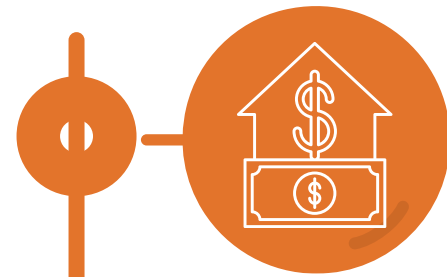
Explains Virginia Tech's cost of attendance and how financial aid impacts your net cost.

## Money Matters: Campus Partners May-July

Introduces the Bursar's Office and Hokie Passport Office, including billing statements and meal plan options.

## Money Matters: Covering the Gap July- August

Focuses on options for paying remaining costs after financial aid is applied.



## Money Matters: Scholarships at VT November- January

Helps Hokies understand how scholarships work at Virginia Tech.

## Money Matters: Understanding Your Offer February- March

Walks admitted Hokies through their financial aid offer and how to estimate net cost.

## Money Matters: Loans June

Outlines federal and private loan options, the application process, and how loan funds are applied to your bill.



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# ***COSTS THAT COME WITH COLLEGE LIFE***

**Setting up your residence hall room**

**Doing laundry  
(before running out of socks!)**

**Eating meals or  
buying groceries**

**Finding study spaces  
(with snacks!)**



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# BUDGETING FOR COLLEGE LIFE

## HOUSING CHARGE

Required in order to stay in a residence hall on your billing statement each semester



## SETTING UP YOUR ROOM

Requires additional supplies... you need bedding, shower supplies, clothes, pillows...

## MEAL PLAN

Charged on your billing statement each semester for eating to use in the dining hall



## GROCERIES

Buying groceries for a quick snack or breakfast to save some money



# COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)



## Student Budget

To help you navigate and prepare financially for your educational journey



## Estimated Expenses

The COA is an estimate of the expenses a student may have when attending school in a specific program of study.



## Costs Vary

Depending on the school a student is attending, the degree a student is seeking, and the state of residency



## Maximum Amount of Financial Aid Allowable

The COA includes all the allowable expenses that you may receive financial aid to cover.



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# COST OF ATTENDANCE CATEGORIES



## Direct Costs

Direct costs are directly charged to a student's billing statement each semester for educational related expenses.



## Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are expenses that do not appear on a student's billing statement but represent estimated costs students may have while attending.





# DIRECT COSTS



## Tuition

- In-state vs out-of-state
- Level: UG vs GR
- Domicile\*

\*If your domicile changes based on an appeal, then your COA will be reassessed upon our office being notified. This will result in a COA change. Aid may be reassessed. Varies based on student.



## Fees

- Mandatory
- Program
- Fees not included in the COA - library fees, parking fees... insurance



## Housing

- On-Campus



## Meal Plans

- On-Campus Meal Plan, if applicable



# INDIRECT COSTS



## Food

- Groceries



## Housing

- Off-campus
- Living with Parent



## Course Materials

- Books
- Supplies
- Computers - VT Required / only for first year



## Transportation

- Gas
- Car maintenance
- Car insurance
- We cannot and will not cover costs for the purchase of a vehicle.



## Personal/Miscellaneous

- Hygiene
- Cell phone
- Entertainment
- Medical and dental costs not covered by insurance

# ***OTHER INDIRECT COSTS***

## **DIRECT LOAN FEES**

- Only for students that use federal direct loans. These fees are not going toward educational expenses, so we want to account for that in your COA allowing you the opportunity to get the most aid possible.
- These are automatically added to each student's COA after classes start. If loans are not used, they are removed.





Direct Costs		Indirect Costs	
Tuition	\$13,934	Course Materials	\$1,120
Fees	\$3,188	Personal	\$3,150
Housing	\$10,190	Transportation	\$2,478
Food	\$7,518	Direct Loan Fees	\$70
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$34,830</b>	<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$6,818</b>

**!** Using a federal student loan? We will add a budget item for the loan fee. It is taken out of the loan, not paid to VT directly!

**Total Cost of Attendance (COA) \$41,648**

All VT students need a computer. If you're a freshman or new to VT, we've built a computer budget into your COA so you can use it to buy one if needed!

**Computer \$2,150**

**Total Freshman Cost of Attendance (COA) \$43,798**

# COST OF ATTENDANCE EXAMPLE:

Estimated Cost of Attendance In-State, Undergraduate, On-Campus for 2026-2027 Academic Year





Direct Costs		Indirect Costs	
Tuition	\$36,414	Course Materials	\$1,120
Fees	\$3,792	Personal	\$3,150
Housing	\$10,190	Transportation	\$3,014
Food	\$7,518	Direct Loan Fees	\$70
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$57,914</b>	<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$7,354</b>

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**Total Cost of Attendance (COA) \$65,268**

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**Total Freshman Cost of Attendance (COA) \$67,418**

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# COMPARING



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# YOUR COST



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## Official Financial Aid Offer

Coming out February 16<sup>th</sup> for Early Action admits, and February 23<sup>rd</sup> for Regular Decision admits

A personalized notice that shows:

- Cost of Attendance: How much college will cost for the year (tuition, fees, housing, meals, etc.)
- What financial help you are being offered to reduce that cost.
  - Scholarships, Grants, Work-Study, and Loans



## Net Price Calculator

The Net Price Calculator is an online tool students can use to estimate how much it will cost to attend, after financial aid is applied.

Visit [finaid.vt.edu](https://finaid.vt.edu) and search Net Price Calculator while you wait on your official offer. Will be located at the bottom of the COA webpage.

Note: Remember, this is an estimate based off of last years information.

# NET PRICE CALCULATOR

## What does it tell you?

### STICKER PRICE

The full Cost of Attendance including tuition, fees, housing, etc.

&

### NET PRICE

Estimate how much it will cost to attend, after financial aid is applied.



### Welcome!

The Virginia Tech Net Price Calculator is designed to help incoming freshmen and transfer students estimate their financial aid options for Virginia Tech. The average time to complete a full estimate is between 3-5 minutes. Please have available your Student Aid Index (SAI) or a close estimate of your family's income and assets in order to estimate your cost of attendance.

If you have any questions, please [contact us](#).

[Let's Get Started](#)

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the Net Price Calculator, please keep in mind that this estimate does not represent a final determination, or actual award, of financial assistance. It shall not be binding on the Secretary of Education, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, or the State, and may change. You must complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) in order to be eligible for, and receive, an actual financial aid award that includes Federal grant, loan, or work-study assistance under Title IV. 50% of our full-time, first-year undergraduate students received assistance through scholarships and grants in the current academic year.

# NET PRICE CALCULATOR



## Dependency Status

These questions will help us determine your (the student's) dependency status. If you are under the age of 24, unmarried with no dependents, and not a veteran or active duty military, but consider yourself to be independent, please contact the Financial Aid office.

How old are you? \*

Are you married?

Yes  No

Are you the primary source of financial support for any children?

Yes  No

Are you a U.S. veteran or active duty military?

Yes  No

Do any of the situations listed [HERE](#) apply to you?

Yes  No

## What do you enter?

- Family income and household size
- Student dependency status
- State residency
- Academic information
- Housing plans (on-campus vs. off-campus)

## What it estimates?

The calculator shows:

- Estimated grants and scholarships (free money)
- Estimated net cost for one academic year
- A breakdown of costs like tuition, fees, housing, meals, and books

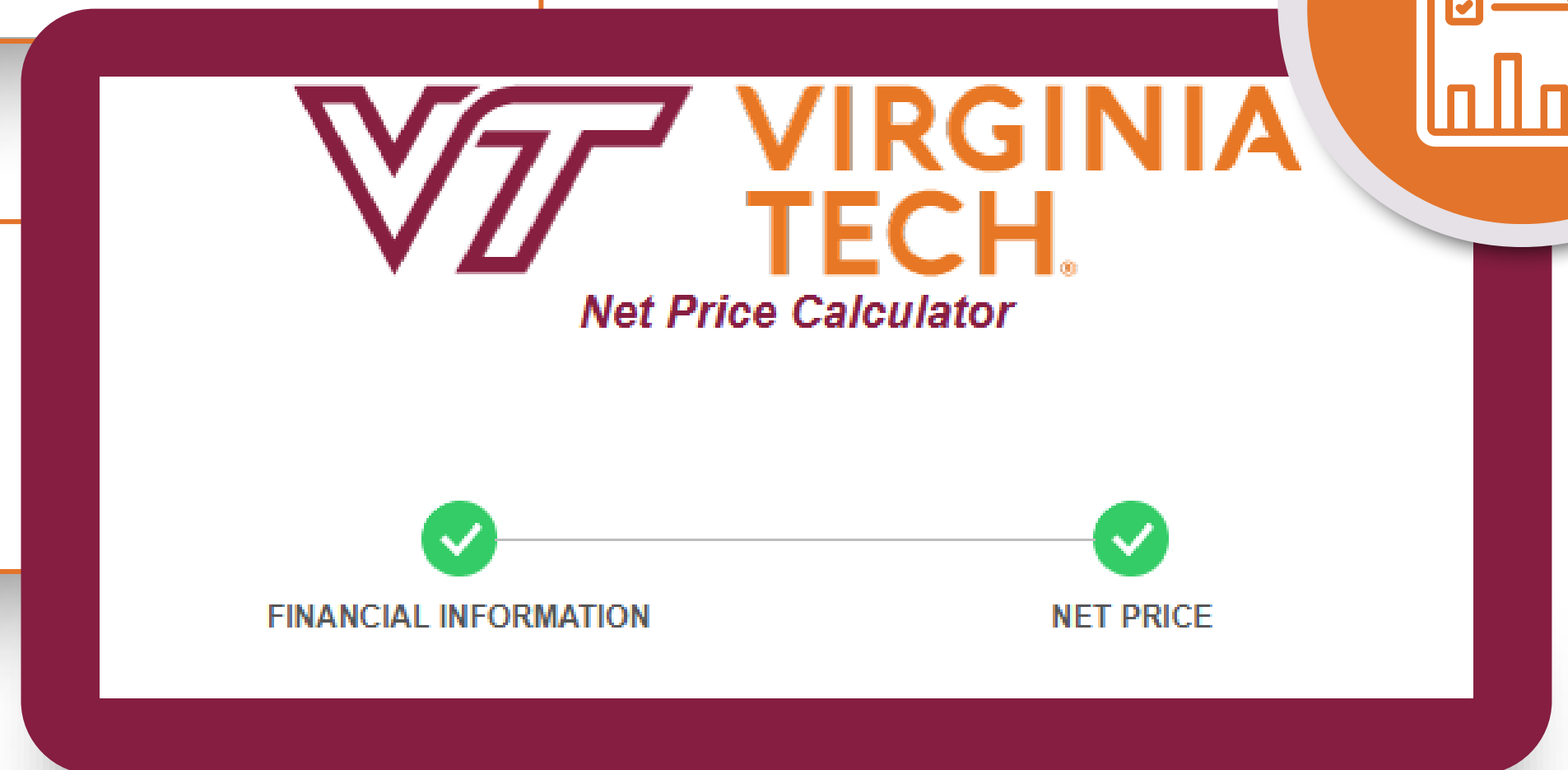
# NET PRICE CALCULATOR RESULTS

## Why does the Net Price Calculator matter?

- Helps families compare colleges realistically
- Gives an early financial picture before official offers are released
- Required by federal law for colleges that participate in federal financial aid programs

## What it is not

- Not an official financial aid offer
- Not a guarantee of aid
- Not always exact (it's an estimate)



# COMPARING NET PRICE



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## What should I do with the information the Net Price Calculator provides?

Use your Net Price Calculator results to compare the net price at different schools. The net price is the amount you are most likely to cost for one academic year after financial aid is applied.

When comparing schools, don't look only at:

- The total cost of attendance, or
- The estimated amount of financial aid

Instead, look at the whole picture, including:

- Your estimated net price
- Whether you would need loans, work-study, or family contributions
- How affordable each option would be for you over time, not just for one year

If financing will play an important role in your college decision, comparing net prices can help you better understand which schools may be more realistic and sustainable choices for you and your family.

# *LOWERING YOUR COST*



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TECH

# BUDGETING 101



## Track Your Spending

A student checks their bank app weekly and realizes they're spending \$40 a week on coffee. Seeing the pattern helps them decide where they can cut back.



## Set Clear Financial Goals

A student sets a goal to save \$300 by the end of the semester for textbooks and spring break, so they put \$25 from each paycheck into savings.



## Prioritize Needs Over Wants

Before buying concert tickets, a student makes sure rent, groceries, and their phone bill are paid for the month.



## Cut and Reduce Everyday Expenses

Instead of eating out every day, a student meal preps simple lunches and limits dining out to once a week, saving money over the semester.

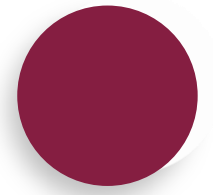
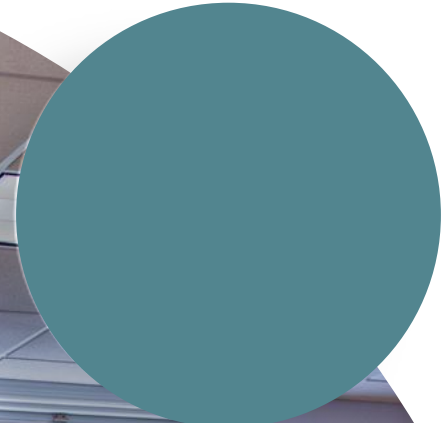


## Plan for Unexpected and One-Time Expenses

A student budgets extra money for things like club dues, printing fees, or car repairs so these costs don't derail their finances.



# ***WHAT IF YOUR COST IS HIGHER?***



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# ***COST OF ATTENDANCE APPEALS***

## **Can I increase my Cost of Attendance?**

- If your Cost of Attendance does not cover your reasonable, actual expenses you can submit a Cost of Attendance Appeal.
- Examples of scenarios that could merit an increase to the Cost of Attendance, if components already exist.
  - Books, course materials, supplies, and equipment expenses
  - Living expenses
  - Transportation expenses
- Additional COA items
  - Dependent care required for school
  - Medical expenses required for school
- No additional aid automatically given
- Documentation required
- Contact our office for assistance



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 01 Your Cost of Attendance (COA) includes both direct costs (tuition, fees, housing, meals) and indirect costs (personal, transportation, supplies).
- 02 Costs can vary based on residency, program level, and housing status.
- 03 Your official Financial Aid Offer explains your COA and the aid available to help cover it, but it won't be out until February/March depending on when you applied.
- 04 The Net Price Calculator helps estimate what you may actually pay and compare schools realistically.
- 05 Budgeting is essential. Tracking spending, prioritizing needs, and planning for unexpected expenses can help you manage costs.
- 06 If your actual expenses exceed your Cost of Attendance, a Cost of Attendance Appeal may be an option with documentation.



**COMING SOON**

**STARTS FEB 18TH!**



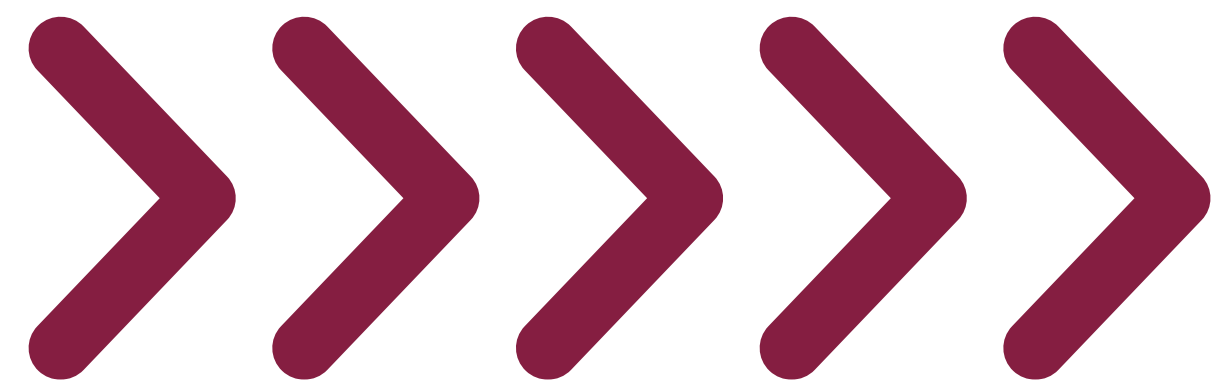
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**REGISTER HERE!**



# **MONEY MATTERS:**

*Understanding Your Offer*



# *STAY CONNECT WITH US!*



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*FINANCIAL AID CAN BE COMPLEX, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO NAVIGATE IT ALONE.*

*CONTACT US FOR GUIDANCE, EXPLANATIONS, OR NEXT STEPS.*

*CHECK YOUR EMAIL.*

*FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.*

*VISIT OUR WEBPAGES FOR RESOURCES*

 **540-231-5179**

 **FINAID@VT.EDU**

 **FINAID.VT.EDU**



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