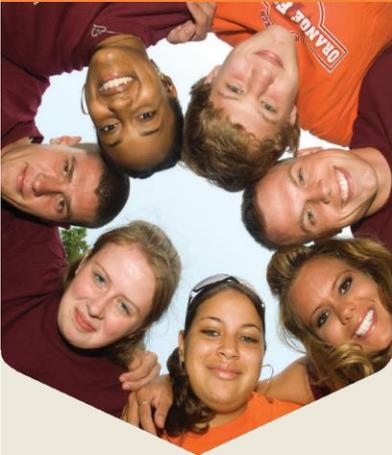


PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE – FAQs



Presidential Scholarship Initiative (PSI): a renewable, four-year award that guarantees tuition, fees, room and board will be covered by all scholarships and grants awarded for full-time enrollment during the regular academic year (Note: Architecture students may receive up to five years of the PSI award.)

How was I selected for this award?

Selection was based on a formula that takes into account the students' Federal Pell Grant eligibility, strength of academic record, first generation status, and family size.

Who should I contact if I have questions about the Presidential Scholarship Initiative? If you have questions regarding the financial aid portion of PSI, email scholarships@vt.edu or call 540-231-5179.

If you have questions regarding the academic requirements of the PSI, contact Dr. Jennifer Brown in The Student Success Center at 540-231-5499 or jmbrown1@vt.edu.

My award notice states that the PSI “guarantees that for four years (or five years for Architecture and Landscape Architecture majors), you will be awarded scholarships and grants to cover required tuition, fees, room and board.” What does this mean?

If your tuition, fees*, room and board cost \$10,000 for a fall and spring semester, all grants and scholarships you have received will be added up to determine if you need any additional funding.

Example based on \$20,000 in educational expenses to include: tuition, fees, room and board

Award Amount	Award Source
\$6,495	Pell Grant
\$5,250	Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program
\$2,000	General Scholarship
\$600	Supplemental Education Grant (SEOG)
\$5,655	PSI Scholarship Amount

University Scholarships and Financial Aid will award you \$5,655 in Presidential Scholarship Initiative funds to ensure that your tuition, fees, room and board are covered.

****Fees covered by PSI include all comprehensive fees and college, major, or lab fees. PSI does not cover charges for medical clinic, or other non-comprehensive fees.***

I live off campus. Will the PSI cover off-campus expenses?

If you live off-campus, you will be awarded scholarships and grants to cover your tuition, fees, and the average cost of on-campus housing. This typically allows Scholars to have approximately \$5,790 per semester to use toward off-campus rent and the purchase of an off-campus meal plan.

I see that I have been offered loans in my PSI package, but I will not need/want them. How do I decline loans?

Once you are able to log onto the SPA www.hokiespa.vt.edu, (after you have agreed to the terms of the award) you will choose the Hokie SPA link then select Financial Aid Information > My Award Information > Award Package by Aid Year > then select 2021-22 from the drop-down menu. Under the “Accept Award” tab, select the drop down menu box to accept, reduce, or decline your federal loan(s). Then click the “Submit Decision” button at the bottom.

Are there reasons I should consider accepting loans as part of the PSI package?

PSI will cover tuition, fees, room and board, but does not cover additional items, i.e. books, personal expenses, computer. You can accept loans to help cover those additional items.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE – FAQs

What are “academic enrichment activities” of the PSI?

All PSI Scholars are required to complete academic enrichment activities each semester. Scholars are forwarded a weekly newsletter from The Student Success Center to make them aware of academic enrichment activities. The purpose of enrichment activities is to help PSI Scholars strengthen the academic skills students need to be successful; and to facilitate students’ engagement in other activities on campus. There are various options for enrichment activities which might include, but are not limited to, informational workshops on study skills, art exhibits, and guest lectures. PSI Scholars have flexibility in picking which enrichment activities best fits their schedules and/or their interests.

Will PSI cover an Education Abroad program?

The PSI award will cover the tuition, fees, and room and board costs for a Virginia Tech-led Education Abroad program during one fall or spring semester. Students attending a summer education abroad program or a non-VT education abroad program such as a bi-lateral exchange program may still receive all financial aid they are eligible for, but we cannot guarantee that tuition, fees, room and board will be covered.

Will the PSI cover any residence hall or meal plan?

The PSI award will cover any on-campus housing or on-campus meal plan. If you are living off campus, the meal plan will come out of your room and board allowance. This will reduce the refund you would receive per term.

Do I have to pay the Virginia Tech matriculation fee as indicated in my offer letter of admission?

PSI Scholars will have their matriculation fee and orientation fee waived. When you accept the PSI award and complete the agreement in Scholarship Central, you will be accepting the offer of admission to Virginia Tech.

What happens if I switch meal plans or residence halls mid-year?

Students who live on campus and switch meal plans or residence halls mid-year will have their financial aid award adjusted within 1-2 weeks if necessary. You do not need to notify us with changes to rooms or meal plans.

Do I need to pay the housing application fee each year?

No. PSI Scholars should have their housing application fee waived each year if living on campus. If you continue to see a housing application fee on your account, please contact us at scholarships@vt.edu.

If I am awarded an outside scholarship or other funds, how does this impact the PSI award?

In general, grants and scholarships may be considered part of the financial aid that will cover tuition, fees, and room and board. This may cause the actual dollar amount of PSI award to be reduced. However, scholarships from outside organizations or from your VT college or department will be added on top of your existing PSI award until your overall financial need is met. If you have additional information from an outside scholarship organization such as a letter, please send that to us at scholarships@vt.edu.

What happens if I fail to meet the renewal criteria each year?

If you fail to meet any eligibility criteria after the academic year has ended, we will send an email notifying you that you are in danger of losing the PSI scholarship. You will receive instructions on completing an appeal form, which requires a letter explaining the failure to meet the eligibility criteria. Your appeal will be reviewed and evaluated prior to the beginning of the next academic year.

Will the PSI cover summer sessions?

The PSI award does not normally cover summer sessions. Please check with the Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid for other options for summer school.



KEY CONTACTS:

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